

DEALING WITH ILLICIT AND UNSANCTIONED SUBSTANCES IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Scope: This policy applies to all Catholic schools, colleges, conducted by Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as Catholic Education in the document).

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Catholic schools and colleges (hereafter referred to as Catholic schools) in the Diocese of Rockhampton will implement appropriate drug education programs. They will also implement prevention and intervention strategies with regard to the use and possession of illicit and unsanctioned substances by staff and students of their school communities. Catholic schools will adopt the Catholic Education management procedures.

2. DESCRIPTION

Catholic schools in the Diocese are guided by gospel values in addition to operating within legislative requirements. All in our Catholic school communities have the right to have their safety and welfare protected.

Catholic schools play significant roles in preparing students for living in society. Catholic schools can contribute to reducing problems relating to the use and possession of illicit and unsanctioned substances by educating staff, by making information available to parents and students, by providing positive role models, by promoting health and by responding to the students' welfare needs.

3. DEFINITIONS

ILLICIT SUBSTANCES

This term should be taken to cover any substance or item whose possession is prohibited under the Drugs Misuse Act 1986.

UNSANCTIONED SUBSTANCES

This term should be taken to cover any substance whose possession, while not illegal, is in contravention to school rules (eg tobacco products, alcohol and certain medicines).



4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. While maintaining the integrity of the Procedure for Incidents Involving Illicit and Unsanctioned Substances and the Student Drug Testing Procedures the Principal will ensure that the procedures adopted are relevant to the local school context.
2. Each Catholic school is responsible for the development and implementation of any necessary procedures and guidelines to assist those responsible for the management of incidents and the determination of appropriate responses on a case by case basis.
3. Each Catholic school shall take appropriate steps to inform staff, parents and students of the nature and purpose of this policy and procedures.

5. REFLECTION MATERIAL

CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton *Guidelines Health and Safety*
- Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton [Code of Conduct for Staff in Catholic Schools](#)
- Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton [Principles for Employment in Catholic Education](#)
- Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (2015) Procedure for Incidents Involving Illicit and Unsanctioned Substances
- Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (2017) *Student Drug Testing Procedures*
- Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton *Student Code of Conduct*

LEGISLATION

- [Queensland Government Drug Misuse Act 1986](#)
- [Queensland Government Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011](#)

RESOURCES

- [Safe School Hub](#)
- [Australia Drug Foundation](#)