Drug Education and Response

Rationale

The use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs is a source of concern and debate in general Australian society and within the school community. The use of drugs in school is usually a result of a combination of influences that this policy will address with an emphasis on education and harm minimisation. This policy provides a framework to address alcohol, tobacco and other drug related problems in a caring and consistent manner within the Yeronga State High School community. The policy and the procedures contained within it conform to legislative requirements and have been developed in consultation with staff and students and are endorsed by the Parents and Citizens Association. This policy is binding on all students while they are on school premises or at a school function, camp or excursion where they are under the care of school staff or their nominees. The policy also applies to visitors to the school and school organised activities whether on the school premises or at an outside venue.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Promote and maintain a health-promoting school environment in which the health, welfare and safety of all school community members are paramount.
- Outline the role of Yeronga State High School in the prevention of drug related problems
- Document the school’s position on, and procedures for, dealing with drug related incidents and problems

Prevention of Unlawful and Unsafe Drug Use

Yeronga State High School will ensure that the following preventative measures are implemented:

1 Health and Drug Education is to be taught as part of both the subject based curriculum and Lifeskills and Forum program. Over the five year period from Year 8 to Year 12 students are to be provided with the knowledge and skills (appropriate to their age and maturity) that will enable them to safeguard their health in relation to drugs and alcohol and the lifestyle issues associated with them.
2 To ensure that teachers have currency with the knowledge and skills associated with Drug and Alcohol Education, all staff involved will attend professional development opportunities as required. Sufficient funds will be made available through the school budget to allow this to happen.
3 Yeronga State High School will be involved in student, parent and community health education programs wherever practicable. This includes the provision of parent awareness programs and ongoing interaction with community groups.
4 This policy will comply with relevant state laws with regard to drug and alcohol use and the school will co-operate with other government and non-government bodies to ensure its effectiveness. This would include such bodies as Queensland Health and the Queensland Police Service.
This policy is consistent with the State Government’s policy framework with regard to drug use.

This policy is to be reviewed annually to ensure it addresses the current needs of the school. This review is to be undertaken as part of the school’s Workplace Health and Safety Program audit.

This policy is to be made available to all stakeholders in the school community so that they are aware of the school’s policies towards drug use, the preventative measures taken to prevent it and the consequences of drug and alcohol use in a school context.

Policy: Drug and Alcohol Use at School

Yeronga State High School forbids students (of whatever age) whilst on school premises, at any school function, excursion or camp to:

- Smoke and/or possess tobacco products
- Consume and/or possess alcohol or to be under the influence of alcohol
- Deliberately inhale volatile substances (solvents) or be affected by such substances
- Possess and/or use pharmaceutical drugs for non-medical purposes or be affected by such use
- Possess and/or use illegal drugs or be under the influence of such drugs
- Possess and/or use drug related equipment such as syringes bongs or pipes (except in the case of lawful medical use)
- Possess materials that promote the gratuitous use of drugs.

School staff should administer prescribed medication where there is an agreement between staff, caregivers and the Principal and where written instructions for the dispensing of the drug have been provided. If a student is required to carry and self-administer prescribed medicine while at school, the caregiver must advise the Principal of all relevant details. For short term conditions where analgesics are administered by the student, notification of self-medication by the student is not required.

All school premises are non-smoking areas in accordance with Education Queensland’s Administrative Circular No. 214 and the revised Smoking Policy of 1997.

Intervention

The following intervention procedures are designed to address incidents of tobacco, alcohol and drug use at all school activities and are designed to ensure the health and well being of all parties. All interventions are to comply with legal requirements.

The procedures outlined below have been developed with the welfare of students and staff as the prime consideration and are to be followed as closely as possible.

If an incident of drug or alcohol use is detected or suspected the following procedures are to be followed.

- Ensure the student’s immediate safety. Apply or organise the application of first aid where necessary. (Follow the school’s normal emergency procedures for a medical problem)
- If practical, accompany the student and take any substances involved to the school administration. It is important that the student is not sent to the office unaccompanied by an adult. If in a class, send a student or a colleague to request a member of the administration to attend the scene. As soon as possible document the incident in written form and provide this documentation to the administration
The school administration is to identify an individual to manage the incident, to be referred to as the Incident Manager. He or she may request the assistance of support people such as the Guidance Officer, HOSES or School Nurse in managing the incident and subsequent follow up actions. This person or persons should take into account issues such as ethnicity, language, culture, background and the gender of the student. The Incident Manager may elect to form a small group of people to assist with the management of the incident.

The Incident Manager is to establish the factual basis of the incident by interviewing those involved and, if appropriate, requesting them to submit a written statement. He or she should document the substance involved, who was involved, where and when the incident took place and any other relevant information including the names of witnesses.

The Incident Manager should report the outcomes of the investigation to the Principal and may recommend a subsequent course of action. Once the Principal has decided on a course of action, all those involved, Incident Manager, student/s, caregivers and staff should be informed of the decision that has been made, in some cases this notification should be in written form. A record of the incident and its outcomes (if the case was substantiated) should be recorded in the students’ anecdotal records on SMS. If the drug use has involved an illicit substance the police must be informed at the earliest possible opportunity and any substances stored securely until the first opportunity they can be handed to police.

Consequences of Drug Use for Students

Once it has been established that a drug related incident has occurred, the school must decide on a course of action. This may vary depending on the details of the incident, including the substance involved, the behavioural history of the student/s involved and the impact of the incident on other students.

The following suggested consequences should be considered in the context of the student’s age, life and family situation, mental and emotional health, intellectual ability and the degree to which they have been in control of their actions and decisions. Consideration must also be taken of their past behavioural record and their response to earlier intervention strategies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Consequence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of drug-related activities at school not communicated to teachers or administration.</td>
<td>· Counselling by administration&lt;br&gt;· Caregivers notified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requesting supply of an illicit substance (including tobacco) from another student on school premises. Request not fulfilled.</td>
<td>· Counselling by administration&lt;br&gt;· Caregivers notified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement via proximity to an activity involving illicit substances (including tobacco or being in the presence of others using or supplying illicit substances (including tobacco).</td>
<td>· Counselling by administration&lt;br&gt;· Caregivers notified&lt;br&gt;· Detention&lt;br&gt;· Possible withdrawal from non-class activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking tobacco or possessing tobacco on school premises, at a school function or while in school uniform. (First occasion)</td>
<td>· Counselling by administration and Health Nurse&lt;br&gt;· Caregivers notified&lt;br&gt;· Health warning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yeronga State High School Drug and Alcohol Policy

| Smoking tobacco or possessing tobacco on school premises, at a school function or while in school uniform. (Second occasion) | · Five lunchtime detentions  
· Possible withdrawal from non-class activities |
| · Quit program with Health Nurse  
· Caregivers notified  
· Five lunchtime detentions  
· Withdrawal from non-class activities |
| Smoking tobacco or possessing tobacco on school premises, at a school function or while in school uniform. (Third and subsequent occasions) | · Caregivers notified  
· Suspension  
· Withdrawal from non-class activities |
| Using alcohol on school premises or at a school function or coming intoxicated onto school premises or to a school function | · Health and illegality warnings  
· Caregivers notified  
· Five day suspension  
· Withdrawal from non-class activities |
| Supplying alcohol on school premises or at a school function. | · Health and illegality warnings  
· Caregivers notified  
· Five day suspension  
· Withdrawal from non-class activities |
| Possession or use of an illicit substance on school premises or at a school function. | · Health and illegality warnings  
· Caregivers notified  
· Police notified  
· Suspension or exclusion  
· Withdrawal from non-class activities |
| Sale or supply of illicit substances on school premises or at a school function | · Health and illegality warnings  
· Caregivers notified  
· Police notified  
· Exclusion |

Appendix A: Police involvement in drug incidents

Requirement for police involvement in drug incidents
(Advice provided by Queensland Police Service, Alcohol and Drug Coordination Unit)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of drug related incident at school</th>
<th>Must inform police?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A substance believed to be an illicit drug is found</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student admits to drug use at school but no substance is found</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is reason to believe (reliable witness) that a student has an illicit drug in their possession or in their bag or locker</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A student is seen flushing what is thought (or a student or teacher thinks) to be a drug down a toilet, no substance is obtained</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bong is found, no student and no substance</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A student admits to using marijuana on a Saturday night at an activity unrelated to the school</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A student is reported to be using a drug by another student but no evidence is presented</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasonable evidence is presented that a student is selling drugs to other students</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Responses indicated above are in line with police procedures and comply with relevant laws. They are only a guide and each situation needs to be assessed on a case by case basis.

In the case of the bong (Point 5) teaching staff do not have powers under the Drugs Misuse Act 1986-1993 to deal with it in any way, including destroying it. It should be placed in a secure place with details of when and where it was found until police can collect it. Local police may provide advice to the school related to this issue. Even when not mandatory it may be desirable to involve police, for example a Juvenile Aid Bureau officer, in a counselling situation with the student/s and caregivers.