

Information for Students

This form provides you with information about the Mental Health Practitioner (MHP) service in your school. The following information will help you decide if you agree to the support of the MHP. Your parent/carer is required to provide consent before you can access the MHP service (unless you are over 18 years of age or considered a mature minor).

Please speak to the MHP or a trusted adult if you have any questions or need help understanding any of the information on this form.

What you need to know

- Your school's MHP is a suitably qualified school-based mental health professional. They provide direct counselling support and other early intervention and health promotion services for students, as well as coordinating support for students with complex needs.
- This service provides an opportunity for you to talk about your concerns in a safe and confidential setting. It is time-limited, free and voluntary.
- In counselling sessions, the MHP supports you directly, offering feedback, strategies and tools to help you manage your concerns. The MHP also supports you by providing feedback, strategies and tools to relevant school staff to improve your learning and development.
- The MHP may also invite you to participate in small group activities with other students experiencing the same concerns (they will discuss this with you first).
- In any instance of remote schooling, the MHP can provide services by phone, but only during term time, during usual school operating hours.

How information about you is managed

The MHP collects personal and health information to assess your needs, manage and respond to any issues of concern and determine the best way to support you.

The information collected and recorded by MHPs is stored in a secure location. Your school will ensure the confidentiality of these files. Health notes are accessible to MHPs and may also be accessed by school leadership on occasions where there may be a risk to safety or in the event you transfer to another government school. Summary information and suggested actions may be provided to relevant school staff, where appropriate.

Non-identifiable health information is collected by MHPs to help them, your school and the Department of Education (the Department) to identify and respond to key trends and commonly occurring student issues.

Your privacy and information sharing

Your privacy is protected by laws that set requirements about how your personal and health information is used, collected and handled. The Department's Privacy Policy and School's Privacy Policy set out the rules for handling personal and health information.

The MHP will seek your consent to share your personal or health information with others outside the school. However, if the MHP believes there is a serious risk to your safety or the safety of others, they may disclose this information without consent to lessen or prevent the risk. MHPs may be required by law to share confidential information to promote your wellbeing or safety or to assess or manage family violence risk.