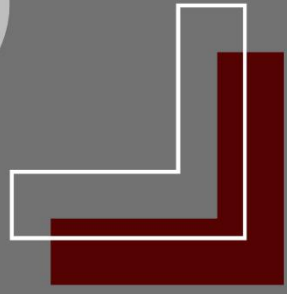




GPs
in Schools Pilot

**North
Rockhampton
State High
School**

**Information for
Students**



Helping you get the health care you need

Starting from June 21, 2023 our school will have a GP Clinic at school, one day per week, especially for students. All secondary students will be able to visit the GP Clinic which will provide you with health information, advice and treatment. You can go to the GP Clinic for any physical or mental health concerns, including about your sexual and reproductive health. Our school's clinic is presently staffed by Nurse Practitioner Kerinda Burton and Administration Officer, Ms Emma Collins.

What is a Nurse Practitioner?

Nurse Practitioners are nurses that have undergone additional studies so that they can operate more independently and provide more clinical services than regular nurses. Nurse Practitioners can assess, diagnose and manage your health concerns and are able to provide referrals, prescriptions and diagnostic tests such as X-rays.

How can I make an appointment to access the GP Clinic?

Our school's GP Clinic will be open every Wednesday during school terms between 8:30am – 3:00pm. You can make an appointment before school, and during class times, as well as at break times. Booking an appointment to access the GP Clinic – just visit the Student Services Centre (A Block) student counter or you can telephone 49247888.

Do I see the Nurse Practitioner by myself?

It's up to you. You can see Kerinda Burton by yourself, or you can choose to go with a parent/carer.

Can I consent (agree) to my own medical treatment?

Yes, if the Nurse Practitioner thinks you understand what the treatment means, how it will help you and what the risks are, you will be considered a 'mature minor' and be able to make your own decision about treatment. In making their decision, the Nurse Practitioner will consider:

- your age and maturity;
- your independence – whether you live at home with a parent/carer, or support yourself;
- how serious the treatment is; and
- if you understand why the treatment is needed, what it involves, and things that might go wrong (like side effects from medication, or other complications).

If the Nurse Practitioner doesn't consider you to be a 'mature minor', then they can still give you support, but will need to get permission from your parent/carer first.

How much will it cost?

Seeing the Nurse Practitioner at school is free. You will need to remember to bring your Medicare card (or your Medicare number) with you to your appointment.

What is a Medicare card and how do I get my own?

A Medicare card allows people to get medical services and medicines at low cost or for free. Usually young people are named on their parents'/carers' Medicare card. If you are 15 years or older, you can get your own Medicare card by completing a simple application with Medicare Australia. The Nurse Practitioner, Kerinda Burton and/or Administration officer, Emma Collins can help you with this process.

What if I can't get a Medicare card (or number)?

No worries. We'll be able to help you. Let the Administration Officer, Emma Collins know when you make your appointment, or let Nurse Practitioner, Kerinda Burton know when you go to your appointment.

Will my parent/carer know that I used the GP Clinic to see the Nurse Practitioner?

If the Nurse Practitioner thinks you can see them by yourself and make your own decisions about treatment, they will not share information with your parents/carers, unless you say they can, there is an immediate risk to your or other's safety and wellbeing, or they are required or permitted by law. This is called confidentiality. However, if you are under 15 years of age and are still on your parents' Medicare card, your parents will generally have access to information about your appointment via their Medicare account. This means they will be able to see the date of your appointments and the name of the Nurse Practitioner you have seen. If you are worried about this, talk to the Nurse Practitioner.

Will the school Nurse Practitioner tell anyone at school about my appointment?

Your conversation with the Nurse Practitioner will be confidential and not shared with anyone else, unless you agree, there is an immediate risk to your or other's safety and wellbeing, or the Nurse Practitioner is permitted or required by law to tell someone. In some situations, the Nurse Practitioner may think your parents/carers (or teachers) should know about your visit and treatment. The Nurse Practitioner will tell you why this is and will help you to talk with them if needed.

For more information about the school's GP Clinic, Nurse Practitioner service, please see: Ms Pearce, Deputy Principal Senior Schooling.