



S^tPATRICK'S
Technical College



SACE ■ TRAINING ■ APPRENTICESHIPS

Policies & Procedures 5.6

Drugs

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INTRODUCTION

By our actions we live out our values and ethos, which seek to bring peace, joy, justice and hope to our community. It is in this light that the St Patrick's Technical College is committed to maintaining a safe, secure and supportive environment for its community.

Adapted from:

- *Duty of Care Policy, CEO Adelaide, 2004*
- *Drug Strategy Intervention Matters, DECS, 2004*
- *National Framework for Protocols for Managing the Possession, Use and/or Distribution of Illicit and Other Unsanctioned Drug in Schools, Australian Commonwealth Government, 2000*

PRINCIPLES AND BELIEFS

- This drug policy is part of a holistic strategy that includes a range of program initiatives, policies and procedures within a vocational education and training context.
- The focus of our strategy is education, within a vocational context and the development of resilience in our students. The program initiatives will build upon students' knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to help students to make informed and responsible decisions about drugs.
- The possession, use and/or distribution of illicit and unsanctioned drugs will not be accepted at St Patrick's Technical College.
- The principle of Harm Minimisation entails a range of strategies and approaches that contribute to the prevention and reduction of the harmful consequences of drug use for the individual, the workplace and society.
- Drug-related incidents will be managed and responded to in ways that are both firm and fair and that ensure the well-being, educational futures and the provision of ongoing support for the students involved

GUIDELINES

Incident Management

Drug related incidents will be managed using a range of responses that take into account the nature of the incident, the circumstances of the student(s) involved, including age, cultural and social considerations, and the needs and safety of others in the College, in training organisations and in the workplace.

The operation of the College is one in which staff and students are exposed to work of a technical nature in an environment in which Work, Health and Safety (WHS) issues are of critical importance. Drug related problems will not be tolerated.

St Patrick's Technical College is to be contacted and involved in the management of any drug related incident should this occur when the student is located with an RTO or an Employer.



Illicit (or illegal) drugs are substances that are prohibited by law, for example cannabis. Unsanctioned drugs are substances that are prohibited at College, for example, the use of alcohol and tobacco and the inappropriate use of prescription and non-prescription medicines.

In the event of a suspected drug related incident:

- The safety and well-being of students will be considered paramount: they may need to be treated as unwell in accordance with the College's Work, Health and Safety procedures.
- Parents will be contacted in instances of possession, use or distribution of illicit drug or the use and/or illegal distribution of unsanctioned drugs.
- Police will be informed in instances of possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and/or the illegal distribution of unsanctioned drugs.
- Consequences may vary and will depend on the nature of the situation, its potential for harm and the circumstances of the individual students involved.

**Management of a suspected drug related incident
(All steps in the process are to be documented)**

1. Initial procedure

(Attending staff member / trainer / employer)

- Inform student(s) of suspicion and seek their co-operation.
- Make a first aid assessment and if required, call ambulance.
- Note details of the incident.

2. Initial interview

(Conducted by Principal or delegate of trainer/employer)

- Continue to monitor student safety.
- Initial assessment made of the incident.
- Inform student of the form of proceedings.
- Contact St Patrick's Technical College Principal and/or delegate / parents / caregivers.
- Interview student (may involve an advocate and St Patrick's Technical College staff).

3. Assessment and Following Actions

- Principal or delegate will decide on the nature of consequences having determined the seriousness of the incident.
- These consequences may include some or all of the following:
 - Immediate exclusion from practical-based workshop activities involving the use of power tools and/or machinery;
 - Following a meeting with parents / caregivers, student must provide results from a drug test to determine a "negative" result for the presence of a prohibited substance. Results must be checked by a member of the College Leadership Team before recommencement of practical activities, including participation in the Work Experience program;



- Drawing up a contract between the student, caregiver and College outlining the penalty resulting from continued drug related incidents;
- Detention;
- Suspension (internal or external);
- Referral to relevant professionals and agencies as required;
- Negotiated school transfer;
- Cancellation of training contract;
- Police involvement

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

Wherever possible, students should be supported to learn responsibility for their own health and personal care needs in non-emergency situations.

Senior secondary students can take responsibility for their own health care, in line with their age and capabilities.

Self-management of prescription and non-prescription medications should follow an agreement by the student and their family, the College, Training Organisations and Employers and treating health professionals.

RELATED POLICIES

- *1.1 - Ethos and Charter*
- *1.4 - Staff Code of Conduct*
- *3.11 - Disciplinary Procedures*
- *5.4 - Duty of Care / Health, Safety and Welfare*
- *5.11 - Student Code of Conduct*
- *Work Health & Safety**
- *First Aid**

* *Catholic Safety Health and Welfare (CSH&W) policy*