



FACTSHEET FOR STUDENTS

GPs In Schools Pilot

Helping you get the health care you need

Starting from 20 July 2022, our College will have a GP clinic based here at school, one day per week on a Wednesday, especially for students.

All students will be able to visit the clinic where our GP will provide you with health information, advice and treatment. You can go to the GP for any physical or mental health concerns, including about your sexual and reproductive health.

Dr Megan, a General Practitioner (GP) and Nurses Anthea and Kerri will be joining us from Townsville & Suburban Medical Practice, where they work on the other days of the week.

How can I make an appointment for the GP?

Our school's GP clinic will be open every Wednesday during school terms between 9.00am and 3.00pm. Booking an appointment is easy! **During break times only**, you can choose from these options:

- Send an email directly to Lisa at qi@tsmp.net
- Call 4726 8333 or drop by the Student Services Counter and see Ms Kath
- Go directly to our GP Clinic room upstairs in C Block and speak to reception (**from 20 July**)

An online booking system is currently in development stage and appointments will be able to be made via this once it's up and running.

Do I see the GP by myself?

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

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

Yes, if the GP 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 GP will consider:

- your age and maturity; (Dr Megan may seek parental consent prior to your appointment)
- 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 GP 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 to see the GP?

Seeing the GP 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 GP 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 Lisa at qi@tsmp.net know when you make your appointment, or let Dr Megan know when you attend your appointment.

Will my parent/carer know that I went to the GP?

If the GP 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 GP you have seen. If you are worried about this, talk to the GP.

Will the school GP tell anyone at school about my appointment?

Your conversation with the GP 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 GP is permitted or required by law to tell someone.

In some situations, the GP may think your parents/carers (or teachers) should know about your visit and treatment. The GP will tell you why this is and will help you to talk with them if needed.

For more information about the school's GP service, please see: Ms Irving at Administration.

