

HEAD LICE POLICY

(HEALTH & SAFETY)



MARCH 2004

SCOPE

This policy applies to members of school staff, students and the school council at Warragul Regional College. This policy will be made available on request.

BACKGROUND

The Health Regulations Act 2001 removed the power to inspect students for head lice without written permission from parents. Consequently, parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice. Warragul Regional College has role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support to parents and their students. The detection of head lice can be a stressful situation and so Warragul Regional College endeavours to exercise sensitivity towards this issue and to avoid any stigmatisation by maintaining student confidentiality.

DEFINITIONS

Parent in this policy in relation to a child, includes step parent, an adoptive parent, a foster parent, guardian, or a person who has custody or daily care and control of the child.

Staff in this policy is defined as someone who carries out a duty on behalf of the school, paid or unpaid, or who is contracted to, or directly employed by the school or the Department of Education and Training (DE&T). Information provided to a school through job applications is also considered staff information.

Student in this policy is defined as someone who is enrolled in a course of study at Warragul Regional College.

POLICY CONTEXT

Warragul Regional College has a duty of care towards its staff and students. To meet this duty of care it is necessary to ensure that as far as is practicable students who have head lice do not return to school until the head lice have been treated.

The detection of head lice eggs is not a reason to keep a student away from school; only the detection of live head lice.

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IMPLEMENTATION

- Warragul Regional College will distribute up to date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of each year and more frequently if required.
- Kerry Morrell (school nurse) is nominated as head lice resource / support person who parents can contact at the college.
- Parents refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice.
- Warragul Regional College will provide comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place student's health at risk.
- Warragul Regional College commits to help reduce the stigma and maintain confidentiality following the detection of head lice.
- Advise parents to inspect their children regularly for head lice and then treat them as required with appropriate materials upon detection.
- Request that parents notify the college of head lice detection and advise the college when treatment has commenced and finished.

REFERENCES

DE&T Circular 010/2003
The Health Regulations Act 2001