

## Student Support & Wellbeing Policy

### Policy Statement

The Distance Education Centre Victoria (DECV) is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for all students. Students reach their full educational potential only when they are healthy, secure and resilient, and when there is a positive school culture to engage and support them in their learning. DECV acknowledges that student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are inextricably linked. Our structures, policies and programs support the development of the whole person; academically, socially and personally, within a unique and flexible learning environment.

### Aims

- To ensure that Student Wellbeing policy and practices both reflect and embody the principles and values of DECV Student Engagement Policy and DEECD Guidelines.
- To recognise and support the diversity of individual needs and abilities of students learning through the DECV.
- To identify issues and concerns confronting DECV students and respond by providing a range of appropriate supports and services.
- To provide all students with a supportive environment that enables them to become confident and resilient learners.
- To provide a positive environment where all members of the DECV community assume responsibility for student wellbeing.
- To ensure all staff are confident, skilled and proactive in the management of student wellbeing issues.

### Implementation

- Student Wellbeing support structures and programs focus on primary prevention and early intervention in line with the *Framework for Student Support Services in Government Schools*. Primary prevention refers to general population-based programs, strategies and approaches developed to assist students by encouraging coping skills and reducing vulnerabilities. Early intervention strategies are targeted at individual students displaying general disorganisation in coping skills, depressive symptoms and other personal and social vulnerabilities that place them 'at risk'.
- Intervention and postvention will be addressed where required. Intervention refers to the provision of crisis support for individuals. Postvention refers to responding to critical incidents.
- The DECV Student Wellbeing Team is responsible for the implementation of the aims of this policy. This structure enables DECV staff to identify and

assess the wellbeing needs of individual students (and the wellbeing of relevant significant others involved in their progress).

- Information about medical conditions experienced by students and the management of the condition will be obtained either through the enrolment or student support process. The information will be stored on the Student Database.
- As part of primary prevention, each student is allocated a Student Support Teacher. Student Support is an integral element in supporting students in their teaching and learning.
- Each student's work submissions, academic progress and behaviour is monitored and documented as part of the Student Management Action Plan. This allows for the implementation of early intervention strategies as any concerns which become evident from this process are promptly addressed in order to maximise the student's learning opportunities.
- Targeted Professional Development activities are developed and delivered to staff to enable them to be effective in their roles as Student Support Teachers.
- The Wellbeing Team cooperates, collaborates and develops relevant partnerships with external agencies including government and community agencies and resources.
- The Wellbeing Team responds to new and emerging departmental policies and guidelines related to Student Wellbeing.

### Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

### Reference to other Policies and Documentation

- [DEECD Wellbeing Strategies for the Whole School](#)
- [Framework for Student Support Services in Government Schools – Teacher Resource](#)
- [DECV Student Inclusion Policy](#)
- [DECV Student Engagement Policy](#)
- [DECV Mandatory Reporting Policy](#)
- Psychological First Aid and Skills for Psychological Recovery online professional learning modules <http://elearn.com.au/deecd/wellbeing/>
- Guidelines to assist in responding to attempted suicide or suicide by a student  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/studenthealth.aspx>
- [DECV Bullying and Harassment Prevention Policy](#)
- [DEECD Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse](#)
- [Drugs, Legal Issues and Schools – A Guide For Principals of Government Schools](#)
- [MindMatters](#)

<b>Date Implemented</b>	August 2014
<b>Author/s</b>	Jo Miller, Simon Fazio, Voula Kengos, Donna Axton
<b>Review Date</b>	August 2015