



Supporting our students' health and wellbeing through the

GP's in Schools Pilot



A GP clinic at school, information for parents.

Helping students access the health care they need

Ravenshoe State School students have access to a free GP clinic at the secondary school campus. Our school clinic is staffed by Dr Bec and Dr Clare, General Practitioner's (GP's) from Ravenshoe Medical Centre.

What services will the GP be providing?

Our Doctor's will provide students with the majority of the same services that GPs in the community do, including management of physical health, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health issues. Appointments can be for health and wellbeing including hearing and eye tests, nutrition, wound care, sports injury, prescriptions, skin checks, etc

How can my child make an appointment with the GP?

Our school GP clinic is open:

**TUESDAY – 9:00am to 12:00pm and THURSDAY – 10:30am to 1:00pm
at the High School Library E block.**

Appointments can be made by:

- 1. Phoning the high school - 40975333**
- 2. Emailing: gp@ravenshoess.eq.edu.au**
- 3. Calling in to see Mara at the Clinic on Tuesday or Thursday**

How much will it cost for my child to see the GP at school?

All visits with the school GP will be provided at no cost to students or their families. The GP will bulk-bill all appointments through Medicare, so it is important that your child brings their Medicare card or number with them to their appointment.

If students are ineligible to access Medicare, please talk to Mara at the GP Clinic.

Can I come to the appointment with my child?

Yes, if your child would like you to. Parent/carer involvement is encouraged. We recognise that parents and carers can be an important source of support and information for young people in managing their health and wellbeing. Primary students **MUST** be accompanied by a parent/carer. If your child is not a mature minor, then it is up to you as the parent/carer whether you wish to accompany your child to their GP appointment.



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When can a young person get their own Medicare card?

Young people can apply for their own Medicare card when they turn 15 years of age. They will need to complete an application process through [Services Australia](#). The GP can help your child with this process.

Where will my child's medical records be kept?

The medical records will belong to the GP's base clinic Ravenshoe Medical Centre, where they will be securely stored. The school will not be able to access your child's medical records.

Can my child consent (agree) to their own medical treatment?

Any student at Ravenshoe State School P-12 who wants to make an appointment with the school GP can do so. We encourage students to talk to their family and Primary School students will need to have a parent or carer accompany them. Just like any GP clinic in the community, the Doctor will decide on whether a student is mature enough to give consent for treatment.

Can my child consent (agree) to their own medical treatment?

In Queensland, young people under the age of 18 can consent to their own medical treatment if they are determined to be a mature minor. Young people who are not deemed to be a mature minor cannot give consent to their own medical treatment and consent will be sought from parents/carers.

What does "mature minor" mean?

Mature minors are young people under the age of 18 years who are determined by a medical professional to be capable of providing informed consent for treatment of a particular health issue without having the permission of a parent or carer.

How will the school GP decide whether a young person is a mature minor?

To decide whether a young person is a mature minor and can consent to their own medical treatment, the GP will consider a range of factors, including:

- the young person's age;
- maturity in other areas of the young person's life;
- independence – whether they live at home with a parent or carer, or support themselves;



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- how serious the treatment is; and
- if the young person understands what their health issue is, why treatment is needed, what the treatment involves, what other options they have, things that might go wrong (like side effects from drugs, or other complications), and what happens if there is no treatment.

What if my child already has a GP?

If your child already has a GP but would like to see the GP at school, your child's medical records can be transferred. This is what happens in GP clinics in the community. This sharing of records is important and encouraged so that all health providers your child sees have up-to-date information.

Will the GP involve me?

There will be many circumstances in which it will be helpful or necessary for you to be involved.

If your child is not a mature minor, the GP will always seek to involve you. If your child is deemed to be a mature minor by the GP, the GP may see them alone if that is what your child wants. However, the GP will often encourage your child to involve you in their care.

Can the GP refer (send) my child to other health services if needed?

Yes. In most instances, Dr Bec and Dr Clare will encourage your child to include you in these referrals.

What if I don't want my child to see a GP?

You should talk about this with your child, and with the school. Generally, all secondary students will be considered mature enough to decide to see the GP on their own. The GP will then determine if your child is a mature minor for the reason they are visiting the clinic. This approach is the same for GP clinics in the community.

Would I ever find out about my child's GP visit?

If the GP decides that your child is a mature minor, their health information cannot be discussed with you or anyone else unless your child says it is OK to share, or the sharing of the information is permitted or required by law. This is called confidentiality.

The following are examples of when the sharing of health information is permitted or required by law:



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- Your child consents to sharing the information.
- Sharing information is necessary to prevent a serious threat to public health, safety or welfare – e.g. your child has an illness that must be notified to the Department of Health.
- Sharing information is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious and imminent threat to any person's health, safety or welfare.

If your child is a mature minor, to maintain confidentiality, school staff are not able to tell you when your child has seen the GP unless your child agrees, or the sharing of information is permitted or required by law.

For more information about the school's GP clinic please contact the Principal: **Natasha Lyndon**.