

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs incident management procedure

This is a mandated procedure under the operational policy framework. Any edits to this procedure must follow the process outlined on the [creating, updating and deleting policy documents](#) page.

Overview

This procedure describes how to manage a *drug related incident*, including obligations to:

- Protect the health, safety and welfare of students and staff
- Treat students fairly and protect their rights
- Communicate with parents, caregivers and guardians
- Ensure timely and appropriate responses.

The procedure also covers:

- Mandatory reporting
- Managing media attention
- Communicating with the school community.

Scope

A *drug related incident* has occurred when:

- alcohol, tobacco or other drugs are suspected to be present at a school or at a location where a student is in the care of the school; or
- a student is suspected to be drug affected.

In this procedure, 'students' refers to children, young people and people over 18 years of age who are enrolled in a government school or care facility. 'Schools' refers to government schools, preschools and children's centres.

A location where a student is in the care of a school includes school camps, excursions, events (such as school formals), boarding facilities, alternative education centres, off-site learning programs and work experience.

This procedure relates to the supply, sale, possession and use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. It also applies to drug use equipment. 'Other drugs' include controlled drugs, pharmaceuticals and volatile substances (which includes inhalants such as petrol and glue).



This procedure does not apply to over-the-counter or prescription medications when used in the management of a health condition. Instead, refer to the guideline on [health support planning in education and children's services](#).

This procedure does not apply to matters of staff misconduct that does not involve students. In these instances, follow the [managing unsatisfactory performance guideline](#), seek advice from Misconduct Disciplinary Advice unit and, for serious matters, refer them to the Investigation unit.

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Detail

This procedure describes how to manage a *drug related incident*.

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs present a risk to the health and safety of students. They are incompatible with a learning environment and inappropriate in a school setting. Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are associated with risks to wellbeing, including risky behaviour, mental health issues and criminal activities. They can interrupt learning, have developmental impacts and, result in social, emotional, financial and health problems that continue into adulthood.

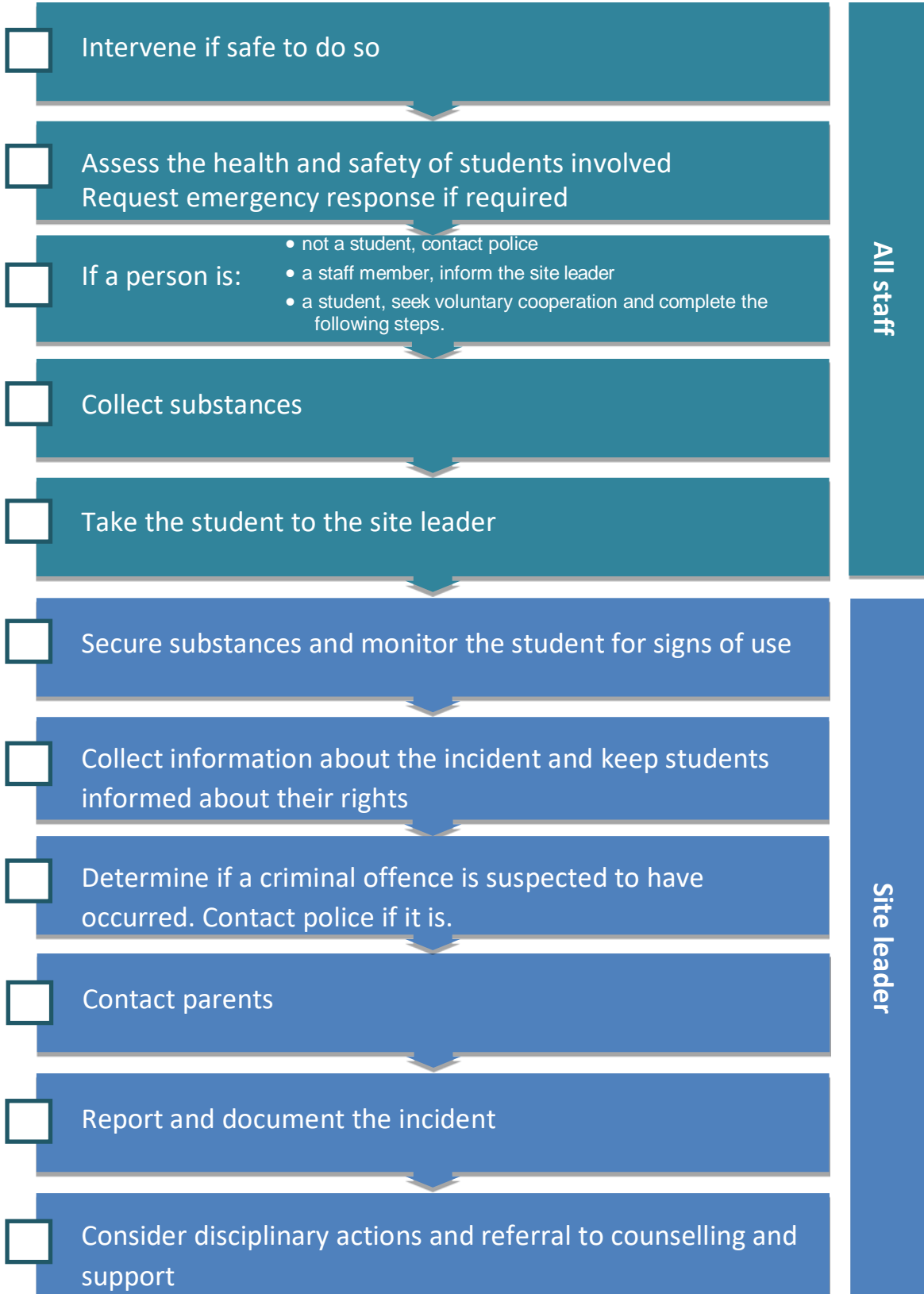
All staff have responsibilities to manage any drug-related incident they become aware of. This includes intervening, protecting their own health and safety, checking the health and safety of others, and calling for emergency assistance if required.

Site leaders have additional responsibilities to protect students' rights to natural justice, contact police if they decide a criminal offence may have occurred, undertake disciplinary actions, and ensure that students are referred to health and wellbeing services.

This procedure fulfils action 34 of the 'South Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2017 to 2021' (the Strategy). The Strategy provides evidence-based responses and a framework for a coordinated whole of government response to reduce the harms caused by alcohol and other drug problems.

The overarching approach of the Strategy is *harm minimisation* (see [Supporting information for managing a drug related incident – Harm minimisation](#) for more information). Harm minimisation is a coordinated strategy to reduce demand, supply and harm of alcohol and other drug use. For schools, this means that responses to a drug related incident should aim to prevent or delay uptake, inhibit access, and address risky behaviours. Disciplinary consequences are appropriate, but should be coordinated with health and counselling services.

If it is suspected that a drug related incident has occurred, then...



Managing a drug related incident

Procedures for all staff

If it is suspected that a drug related incident has occurred then:

Intervene if safe to do so

1. Calmly but firmly intervene.
2. Consider calling on additional staff. If you are not a teacher, a teacher should be called to the scene.
3. Protect your own health and safety, as well as that of students and others, using [Work Health and Safety principles](#) in caring for yourself. Avoid dangerous or threatening situations. If you are concerned about your safety or the safety of another person, remove yourself from the setting, inform the site leader, and contact police immediately by calling 000 for an emergency response.

Assess the health and safety of the students involved

4. Assess the health and safety of all students involved. Provide First Aid as needed. Call 000 for an ambulance if required (for example, if a student is unconscious, struggling to breathe or delirious). Police attendance is only automatic for a drug-related ambulance call if there has been a fatal overdose or if the ambulance officers are threatened with violence.
5. If a student appears drug affected and an emergency response is not required, immediately implement school procedures for managing unwell students and work with the site leader to follow Step 23.4 of this procedure.

If a person is not a student or staff member, contact police

6. If a person that is not a student or staff member is involved in the incident:
 - 6.1 ask them for their name and relationship to students or the school
 - 6.2 avoid confrontation
 - 6.3 inform the site leader and contact police. If you believe the person to be a physical threat to students or staff, immediately call 000 for an emergency response.

If a person is a staff member, inform the site leader

7. If a person involved in the incident is a staff member, inform the site leader of your concern.
 - 7.1 This procedure does not apply to matters of staff misconduct that do not involve students. In these instances, the site leader will follow the [managing unsatisfactory performance guideline](#), seek advice from Misconduct Disciplinary Advice unit and, for serious matters, refer them to the Investigation Unit.

If a person is a student, seek voluntary cooperation

8. If a student is involved in a drug-related incident, inform them about your concerns and seek voluntary cooperation.

Collect substances

9. Ask students to identify any unknown substances and who may be involved.
10. Collect any tobacco, alcohol and other drugs or equipment that are visible or offered by the student. Handle items carefully and do not make skin contact with any substance. If it is suspected that the items are controlled substances or equipment, ensure that handling is observed by another staff member.
11. Follow the procedure on [search and seizure](#). **Do not conduct a search of clothing, bags or lockers.** Contact police if a search is required. The search should only be undertaken by police or by a site leader in rare circumstances where there is serious risk of injury or harm.
12. Record details of the incident throughout the process, including who, what, when and where.

Take the student to the site leader

13. Escort the student to the site leader. Hand over with details of the incident and anything collected.
14. Attend to any other students involved.

Procedures for site leader

Secure substances and monitor the student for signs of use

15. Continually monitor the student for signs of drug use, or other risks to health or safety.
16. Anything taken from the scene must be stored safely and securely. If it is suspected that the items are controlled substances or equipment, then storage and handling should be observed by another staff member. These items should be ready for collection by police.
17. Drugs or drug paraphernalia suspected to be in a bag or locker must be left in place for collection by police. **Do not conduct a search of clothing, bags or lockers.** Do not take anything from a bag or locker. Make sure that the area that the bag or locker is in is secured. If necessary, ask a staff member to monitor the area until police arrive.

Collect information about the incident and keep students informed about their rights

18. Describe to the student the procedure that will follow. Keep students informed of their rights. Ensure that procedural fairness is followed and the student's right to natural justice is protected, this should include the student:
 - being informed of and understanding the circumstances and nature of the allegations
 - being informed of the process unfolding

- being informed that if police attend, they have a right to be represented by a solicitor and have a support person aged over 18 present
- If police are **not** going to be involved, being informed that they will have an opportunity to be heard by the school and allowed to question any evidence.

Refer to [supporting information for managing a drug-related incident – procedural fairness and natural justice](#) for more information on procedural fairness and natural justice.

19. Collect and document information about the incident. Avoid blame or negative labelling. Focus on the facts required to make a decision about how the incident should be managed.
20. Consider if an interpreter is required (see [supporting information for managing a drug-related incident – Aboriginal students and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds](#) for more information).
21. Advise the student not to engage with social media.
22. Students must have access to youth justice supports and legal advice in order to make sure legal rights are protected.

If a student or staff member requires legal advice, refer them to the Legal Services Commission of South Australia's Legal Help Line on 1300 366 424.

More information about legal rights is available on the Legal Services Commission website, lsc.sa.gov.au.

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement also provides legal advice and assistance to people of Aboriginal descent and can be contacted on 1800 643 222.

Determine if a criminal offence is suspected to have occurred

23. The site leader must consider the circumstances of the incident and determine if a suspected criminal offence or other breach of policy or school rules may have occurred. This decision will determine the next step for the site leader.

The site leader should decide which of the following circumstances applies, follow those instructions and then proceed to Step 24.

Additional information on the regulation of alcohol and other drugs and identifying a criminal offence, is available at [supporting information for managing a drug-related incident](#).

23.1 If the site leader suspects:

- use, sale, supply or possession of a [controlled substance](#) or equipment
- use or possession of alcohol by a minor
- sale or supply of alcohol or tobacco to a minor
- sale or supply of a volatile substance for inhalation
- A criminal offence may have occurred. Immediately report the matter to police, by calling 131 444.
- Contact your education director.

23.2 If the site leader suspects use or possession of a tobacco product by a minor

- Use or possession of tobacco by a minor is not a criminal offence and reporting to police is not required. However, it is a breach of the department's [smoke-free policy](#).
- Confiscate the tobacco product.
- Destroy the tobacco product as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- Inform parents, caregivers or guardians and recommend to the family that the Quitline be contacted for support on 131 848.

23.3 If the site leader suspects use or possession of a volatile substance

- Possession of a substance for inhalation is not an offence. However, police should be contacted if it is suspected that the substance is dangerous or prohibited.
- Manage volatile substances as a dangerous substance. Refer to supplier's material safety data sheets, or the label if available, for safe storage, handling or disposal. Material safety data sheets can be found in the Chemwatch database. A link to this database and other information about hazardous substances is available on the department's [hazardous chemicals](#) page.
- Inhalation of a volatile substance is not an offence and reporting to police is not required. It should be managed as behaviour with serious risks to health and safety. [Alcohol and Drug Information Service \(ADIS\)](#) may also be contacted on 1300 13 1340 for advice on managing the student's wellbeing.
- However, it is an offence pursuant to section 19(1) of the *Controlled Substances Act 1984* to sell or supply a volatile solvent to another person if you suspect or have reasonable grounds to suspect that the person intends to inhale the solvent; or intends to give or sell the solvent to a further person for inhalation by that further person.

23.4 If the site leader believes that unusual student behaviour suggests drug use, but there is no possession, admission or witness

- Treat the student as unwell and follow the school's process for managing unwell students.
- Contact parents, caregivers or guardians to collect the unwell student.
- Continue to monitor the student, provide first aid if necessary, and, if they do not appear to be recovering, call 000 for an emergency response.
- Other health conditions may appear as if a student is drug affected. These can include serious conditions, such as low blood sugar associated with diabetes, a mental health episode or brain trauma. Do not assume a student is drug affected or rule out other causes.
- For advice on managing the student's wellbeing or referral to treatment services, contact the [Alcohol and Drug Information Service \(ADIS\)](#) on 1300 13 1340.

23.5 If the site leader suspects other breaches of policies or school rules

- A drug-related incident that is not a criminal offence may still be a breach of department policy or school rules.
- Possession, supply or use of common unregulated drugs, such as caffeine or over-the-counter analgesics (pain relievers), is not prohibited by law, but may breach school rules.

- Possession or use of tobacco or alcohol by a student over 18 years of age, is not prohibited by law, but may breach school rules or the department's [smoke-free policy](#).
- A drug-related incident involving a staff member may be professional misconduct under the Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector, even if a criminal offence has not occurred.
- Use of tobacco or alcohol by staff is managed by the department's [smoke-free policy](#), [Work Health and Safety Act 2012](#) and other employment policies and conditions. Inappropriate use should be treated as a matter of professional misconduct.

Contact parents

24. Subject to any direction from police, the site leader should contact parents, caregivers or guardians of a student involved in a drug-related incident as early as possible.
- 24.1 Parents, caregivers or guardians should attend with police, unless police give other directions.
- 24.2 The best place for police to speak with a student is usually at their home, rather than at the school.
- 24.3 The Legal Services Commission advises that police should take all reasonable steps to ensure that student's under the age of 18 are only interviewed in the presence of a parent or guardian or, if not available, an adult person nominated by the student (and who has a close association with the student) or a person from the Department for Child Protection.
- 24.4 There are circumstances where police may request that parents, caregivers and guardians be not initially contacted. This may be to protect the safety of the student, or the integrity of a police investigation. Schools must cooperate with any direction from police.
- 24.5 Students over 18 years of age may choose not to have their parents, caregivers or guardians informed. Advise them that an advocate is recommended and facilitate an advocate if requested.

Report and document the incident

25. Consider mandatory reporting obligations under the *Children and Young People's (Safety) Act 2017*. Follow the procedures on [notifiable incident reporting](#) and [extreme severity and serious critical incident reporting process](#).
26. Report the incident to your education director who will follow incidents of extreme severity procedure, if:
- it is suspected that a criminal offence has occurred
 - Police or ambulance have been in attendance
 - the safety of students or the school community may be compromised
 - there may be media attention.
- 26.1 In these circumstances, if the matter is serious, it may be appropriate to inform parents and the school community about the incident. Discuss this with your education director.
- 26.2 Any public communication must protect the rights to privacy on health matters and presumption of innocence on criminal matters.

26.3 Do not provide any information that identifies the people involved in the incident.

26.4 The education director should seek advice from the Media unit or Legal Services directorate, as required.

27. Report the matter through the Incident and Response Management System (IRMS).

28. In matters where it is suspected that staff misconduct has occurred, reporting through the Incident and Response Management System will also trigger investigation by the department's Investigations unit.

Consider disciplinary actions and referral to counselling and support

29. For incidents involving students, determine follow-up and disciplinary actions. Protect the student's right to natural justice and privacy. Ensure that any school information gathering does not interfere with an ongoing police investigation.

30. When determining consequences and follow-up actions, apply the principles of *harm minimisation* (see [supporting information for managing a drug related incident – Harm minimisation](#) for more information). Disciplinary action should be combined with referrals to health and counselling services when appropriate. Prioritise the health and wellbeing of the students involved and the school community. Make this the aim of any actions taken.

31. Suspension or exclusion is not mandatory for a drug related incident. Follow the department's [behaviour support policy](#) and refer to the [Procedure for Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion of Students from Attendance at School](#) to decide on consequences for students. Consequences and disciplinary actions should be assessed on a case-by-case basis and should reflect the facts and circumstances of each matter.

32. Where required, implement student development plans. This may include:

- counselling
- referral to services
- ongoing educational support
- re-entry planning if the student has been suspended or excluded.

Consider if the incident suggests additional alcohol and other drug education is required at the school.

Insert sub-section text if needed.

Definitions

Drug related incident - A drug related incident has occurred when alcohol, tobacco or other drugs are suspected to be present at a school or at a location where a student is in the care of the school; or a student is suspected to be drug affected.

Site leader - The person designated by the Chief Executive of the department to be the head teacher of the department site (ie the principal, preschool director, manager, or their delegate).

Student - Child, young person, or a person over 18 years of age, enrolled in a government school or care facility.

School - Government school, preschool or children's centre.

Location where a student is in the care of a school - Includes, but is not limited to, school camps, excursions, events (such as school formals), boarding facilities, alternative education centres, off-site learning programs and work experience.

Harm minimisation - Overarching approach to reducing the impact of alcohol and other drug problems, as described in the National Drug Strategy. Harm minimisation involves a coordinated, whole-of-government approach addressing three pillars: demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction. Demand reduction strategies are those that prevent uptake, delay onset of use or reduce consumption. Supply reduction strategies reduce access and availability. Harm reduction strategies reduce health and social impacts.

Drug - A drug is any substance which, when taken into the body, alters its function physically and/or psychologically (World Health Organisation, 1981).

Controlled drug- Substances listed as controlled drugs in the *Controlled Substances (Controlled Drugs, Precursors and Plants) Regulations 2014*. Possession, use, sale or supply of a controlled drug is an offence under the *Controlled Substances Act 1984*. These are the drugs commonly referred to as illegal or illicit.

Prescription drugs - Prescription drugs are drugs that must only be used by a person with a valid prescription. Under the *Controlled Substances Act 1984*, it is an offence to sell or supply a prescription drug (except by a pharmacist or registered health practitioner). It is also an offence to possess or use a prescription drug without a prescription.

Volatile substances (inhalants) - Volatile substances are household or workplace chemicals misused to become intoxicated. They include solvents (glues, petrol), aerosols (spray paints, deodorant, hair spray), gases (butane, propane, nitrous oxide) and nitrites (amyl and butyl).

Equipment - Any equipment or device for use of a controlled drug, other than a needle or syringe. Possession of this equipment is an offence under the *Controlled Substances Act 1984*. It is also an offence to sell or supply drug paraphernalia under the *Summary Offences Act 1953*.

Natural justice - Natural justice is the right to:

- be informed of the form of the proceedings
- be represented by an advocate of their choice
- know what is alleged
- be heard and to question evidence.

Supporting information

Supporting information for managing a drug related incident

Managing the media

A *drug related incident* may attract media attention and all enquiries should be handled in line with the department's [news media procedure](#).

The department's Media unit will support sites in their response to any media enquiries and can be contacted on 8226 7990 or at education.mediaunit@sa.gov.au.

Identifying when a criminal offence may have occurred

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs vary significantly in their harms and how they are regulated. Understanding the differences is important in responding appropriately to an incident. Items can be grouped as:

- controlled drugs
- equipment
- prescription drugs
- alcohol
- tobacco
- volatile substances.

Controlled drugs

Possession, use, sale or supply of a controlled drug is an offence under the *Controlled Substances Act 1984*, pursuant to schedule 1 and 2 of the Controlled Substances (Controlled Drugs, Precursors and Plants) Regulations 2014. These are the drugs commonly referred to as illegal or illicit. They include:

- cannabis
- MDMA (known as ecstasy)
- LSD and other hallucinogens
- methamphetamine (known as ice or speed)
- cocaine
- heroin and other opioids.

Police must be contacted if it is suspected that a controlled drug is present at a school or at a location where a student is in the care of the school.

It is not necessary to identify the drug. Suspicion that a substance is a controlled drug is sufficient.

Equipment

Possession of equipment for use of a controlled drug, other than a needle or syringe, is an offence under the *Controlled Substances Act 1984*. It is also an offence to sell or supply drug paraphernalia under the *Summary Offences Act 1953*.

Police must be contacted if it is suspected that this equipment is present at a school or at a location where a student is in the care of the school.

The legislation exempts needles and syringes from this definition. This is to allow operation of the clean needle program, to reduce the incidence of blood-borne diseases. There are also legitimate uses for needles and syringes, such as the management of diabetes.

Syringes found without a legitimate reason should be treated as a dangerous item. If they are not empty, follow the procedure for discovery of a controlled substance (see Step 23.1).

If a used or empty syringe is found, do not handle it and do not try to break off, bend or cover the sharp end. If you do not feel confident to safely dispose of the syringe, call the Needle Clean Up Hotline on 1300 13 1340.

If a used syringe presents an imminent risk to staff and students **and** you feel confident to dispose of it:

1. find a hard-walled, puncture-proof container with a wide top and a secure lid (use a sharps container if available)
2. bring the container to the syringe so you do not have to carry the syringe
3. place the container on the ground next to the syringe
4. use protective gloves or tongs and carefully pick up the syringe, avoiding the sharp end. Do not recap the needle if the cap has been removed
5. place the syringe in the container, sharp end first
6. if available, secure the lid of the container
7. wash hands with running water and soap
8. place the container in a sharps disposal bin – call the Needle Clean Up Hotline on 1300 13 1340 to find your nearest disposal location.

Prescription drugs

Under the *Controlled Substances Act 1984*, it is an offence to sell or supply a prescription drug (except by a pharmacist or registered health practitioner). It is also an offence to possess or use a prescription drug without a prescription.

Prescription drugs include:

- oxycontin, codeine and other opioids
- dexamphetamine
- steroids.

Police must be contacted if it is suspected that a prescription drug is present without a prescription, at a school or at a location where a student is in the care of the school.

For the management of prescription drugs for the treatment of a health condition, see the guideline on [health support planning: medication management in education care](#).

Alcohol

Use or possession of alcohol by a minor is an offence under the [Liquor Licencing Act 1997](#). Sale or supply of alcohol to a minor is also an offence. This includes sale or supply of alcohol by a minor to another minor.

Police must be contacted if it is suspected that a minor has been sold, supplied, used or is in possession of alcohol at a school or at a location where a student is in the care of the school.

If it is suspected that a retailer is selling alcohol to minors, contact Consumer and Business Services on 131 882.

Tobacco

Supply of tobacco to a minor is an offence under the [Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products Act 1997](#). Police must be contacted if it is suspected that a minor has been sold or supplied tobacco at a school or at a location where a student is in the care of the school. This includes sale or supply of tobacco by a minor to another minor.

If it is suspected that a retailer is selling tobacco to minors, contact SA Health's Health Protection Operations on (08) 8226 7100.

Use or possession of tobacco by a minor is not an offence and reporting to police is not required. However, smoking is a breach of the department's [smoke-free policy](#) and disciplinary action is appropriate.

Under the *Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products Act 1997*, teachers have the power to confiscate a tobacco product from children that attend their school. The tobacco product must be destroyed as soon as is reasonably practicable. No compensation is payable for the confiscated products.

A tobacco product includes:

- cigarettes
- cigars
- loose leaf tobacco
- chewing or sucking tobacco
- e-cigarettes
- tobacco papers.

The liquid used in an e-cigarette may be hazardous and should be handled as a dangerous substance.

Lighters and matches are not tobacco products. They should be treated as dangerous items, confiscated and disposed of safely.

Volatile substances

Volatile substances are household or workplace chemicals misused to become intoxicated. They include:

- solvents (glues, petrol)
- aerosols (spray paints, deodorant, hair spray)
- gases (butane, propane, nitrous oxide)
- nitrites (amyl and butyl).

Police must be contacted if it is suspected that a volatile substance has been sold or supplied to a person for inhalation at a school or at a location where a student is in the care of the school.

Inhalation of a volatile substance is not an offence and reporting to police is not required. It should be managed as behaviour with serious risks to health and safety.

Possession of a substance for inhalation is not an offence. However, police should be contacted if it is suspected that the substance is dangerous or prohibited.

Manage volatile substances as a dangerous substance. Refer to the supplier's material [safety data sheets](#), or the containers label if available, for safe storage, handling or disposal.

Aboriginal students and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

For an incident that involves working with students from Aboriginal families, schools may engage their *Aboriginal Education Officer* for additional support.

For incidents that involve students from culturally and linguistically diverse families, support is also available through English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) Programs, which includes interpreting services and access to Community liaison officers.

Procedural fairness and natural justice

A drug-related incident is a serious matter, which may have criminal consequences. When a student is interviewed by either police or the school about a drug-related incident, the weight of adult authority is indisputable. Procedural fairness must be followed and natural justice must be observed.

Natural justice includes the right to:

- be informed of the form of the proceedings
- be represented by an advocate of their choice aged over 18 years
- know and understand the circumstances of the allegations
- be heard and to be allowed to question any evidence.

Students should be informed of any decision made by the school and have the right to appeal.

If a student or staff member requires legal advice, refer them to the Legal Services Commission of South Australia's Legal Help Line on 1300 366 424.

Additional information about legal rights is available from the Legal Services Commission website, lsc.sa.gov.au.

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement also provides legal advice and assistance to people of Aboriginal descent and can be contacted on 1800 643 222.

The department's [Legal Services directorate](#) can provide schools with advice, as required. To make an enquiry, call 8226 1555.

Drug testing

Any form of school-initiated drug testing is not endorsed and prohibited by the department. A school cannot insist on drug testing as a condition of re-entry following a suspension or exclusion.

Police Drug Diversion Initiative

The [Police Drug Diversion Initiative](#) diverts people detected for 'simple possession' drug offences to a health intervention, rather than process them through the criminal justice system. Any person over 18 years of age detected for a 'simple possession offence' under the *Controlled Substances Act 1984* is diverted to the [Police Drug Diversion Initiative](#). Police also have discretion to issue a Cannabis Expiation Notice for a 'simple cannabis offence'.

For a young person 10 to 17 years of age, enforcement of a 'simple possession offence' (including a 'simple cannabis offence') is taken under the *Young Offenders Act 1993*. The young person's individual circumstances will be considered by the apprehending police officer and a youth diversion sergeant, who will develop a youth justice system response and appropriate diversion.

Dependent on any prior possession offences, this may result in a formal police caution or a family conference, with undertakings to connect the young person with a health intervention or other support. This approach provides an opportunity to resolve the matter without the formalities of the criminal justice system and provides an early and brief intervention to address drug use. It also aims to address causation factors for drug use for the individual and provides enhanced involvement of parents and carers.

Supply offences (often called dealing) are not part of the Police Drug Diversion Initiative. For adults 18 years and over, police will prosecute these matters and the person will not be referred to a health intervention. For young people 10 to 17 years of age, a wider range of enforcement actions is available to police through the youth justice system, under the *Young Offenders Act 1993*.

Alcohol and Drug Information Service

The [Alcohol and Drug Information Service](#) (ADIS) is a confidential telephone counselling, information and referral service for the general public, concerned family and friends, students and health professionals. The service is run by SA Health's Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia.

ADIS can provide telephone counselling and refer a student to treatment or counselling, including referral to culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal students and their family. ADIS can also provide advice to schools on managing a drug-affected student.

ADIS can be contacted on 1300 13 1340 any day between 8:30am and 10:00pm.

Harm minimisation

Harm minimisation, as described in the [National Drug Strategy](#), is the South Australian Government's overarching approach to reducing the impact of alcohol and other drug problems. This approach is informed by a significant body of evidence and has been widely commended internationally.

Harm minimisation involves a coordinated, whole-of-government approach addressing three pillars of demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction. Demand reduction strategies are those that prevent uptake, delay onset of use or reduce consumption. Supply reduction strategies reduce access. Harm reduction strategies reduce health and social impacts.

A harm minimisation approach should be taken when responding to a drug-related incident. Responses should aim to reduce availability and accessibility of drugs, prevent uptake and delay first use, and reduce risky behaviours.

Related legislation

Controlled Substances Act 1984

Controlled Substances (Controlled Drugs, Precursors and Plants) Regulations 2014

Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products Act 1997

Liquor Licensing Act 1997

Summary Offences Act 1953

Work Health and Safety Act 2012

Children and Young People's (Safety) Act 2017 *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017*

Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016

Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016

Education Act 1972

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) Act 1986 (Commonwealth)

Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)

Related policy documents

[Wellbeing for Learning and Life Framework](#)

[Search and seizure procedure](#)

[Extreme severity and serious critical incident reporting process](#)

[Reporting Critical Incidents procedure](#)

[Suspension, exclusion and expulsion of students from attendance at schools procedure](#)

[Health support planning: medication management in education are care](#)

[Smoke-free policy](#)

[Behaviour support policy](#)

[Duty of care policy](#)

[Work health and safety policy](#)

[South Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2017 to 2021](#)

[South Australian Tobacco Control Strategy 2017-2020](#)

[National Drug Strategy 2017 to 2026](#)

[Health and Physical Education Australian Curriculum](#)

[Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum–2026](#)

[Protective practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people](#)

[Child protection in schools, early childhood education and care](#)

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