

School Based Youth Health Nursing service: investing in youth

Service History

Established in 1999 and delivered in partnership with Queensland Health and the Department of Education, the School-Based Youth Health Nursing (SBYHN) Service has a rich history of supporting state secondary school students across Queensland. Since its inception, SBYHNs have worked tirelessly with a preventative and health promotion focus, providing a point of contact for students seeking health related information and support.

Service Delivery Model

Hospital & Health Services (HHS) deliver the health service to students in state secondary schools. The HHS partners with the Department of Education to engage secondary schools.

Our team of SBYHNs visit public high schools across Qld, offering individual appointments, small groups, classroom education and whole school health promotion. We address a range of contemporary youth health issues, including sexual health, mental health, and substance use.

What the students are saying:

I felt comfortable and safe to share my problems and anything that has been bothering me.

I felt that my concerns were addressed and that I was given useful advice and tactics.

They've always been able to help me and talk things through with me. I love how I can get this support.

Key Objectives

The objectives of the Service are to:

1. Promote positive health outcomes for the state secondary school students through the delivery of accessible, appropriate and culturally respectful primary health care services;
2. Provide the opportunity for students, their parents and members of the school community to access a Registered Nurse in schools for matters relating to the health and wellbeing of students; and;
3. Support school communities to adopt a whole of school approach to address contemporary health and social issues facing students and their families to help students make a safe and healthy transition into adulthood.

Access to Health Services

The SBYH service is provided onsite at state secondary schools during school hours. Young people are seen by appointment and may self-refer, or alternatively school staff, parents or other health professionals may refer young people to the SBYHN. The service is voluntary and the SBYHN will assess the capacity of the young person to engage in the service. Additionally, the SBYHN refers young people to relevant health services for formalized assessment and treatment, while the SBYHN continues to support the young person with brief intervention to build health literacy and encourage help-seeking behaviours.

Dreaming Big...Where to from here?

- Elevate the voices of young people through co-design processes, advocacy efforts and recognition of young people as a unique population necessitating specialist health care.
- Enhance the utilisation of technology to optimize accessibility and improve the care experience for young people attending school in metropolitan, regional, and remote areas.
- Undertake a comprehensive statewide evaluation to showcase the efficacy of the SBYHN service in enhancing educational achievements, promoting school attendance, fostering youth engagement, and mitigating harm related to substance use and mental health.

Where are SBYHN's based in Qld?

