

## Primary School Nurse Health Readiness Program

# Vision screening

## Information for school staff



The Primary School Nurse Health Readiness Program (PSNHRP) is a Queensland Government initiative program which aims to optimise the health and wellbeing of Queensland children during their first year of school, with a key focus on free vision screening for prep students.

### Why is this important?

- In 2018, 68 per cent of children who were referred by the PSNHRP were found to have a visual abnormality.
- Vision loss can result in poor learning outcomes, behavioural issues and difficulty with concentration. The vision screening program provides the opportunity for visual abnormalities to be detected early to minimise the long-term impacts on a child's learning.

### How does the program work?

- PSNHRP registered nurses will attend your school to complete screening on an agreed date and will work flexibly around class routines, specialist lessons and break times.
- The program utilises two non-invasive screening tools which screen for common visual conditions that may impact a child's vision. Screening takes approximately five minutes per child.
- The parent/guardian of every child that is vision screened will be notified of the results in writing. If a vision concern is found, they will also receive a phone call from the nurse to discuss referral to an eye health professional for further assessment.
- There is a licence agreement in place between the Department of Education and the PSNHRP outlining the mutual responsibilities for delivery of this program. This information has been forwarded to your principal.

### What do classroom teachers need to know?

- The school will receive a screening pack for each prep child. This contains parent information and a consent form to be signed by a parent or legal guardian and returned to the school in a sealed envelope for processing by the PSNHRP staff.

- Children cannot be screened without parent/legal guardian consent, however late consent forms will be accepted on the day of screening.
- Parents are advised that they can be present for their child's screening and to contact the school to make arrangements for this to occur.
- On the day of screening the registered nurse will:
  - Identify each child by asking them their full name, date of birth and parent/guardian name. Your assistance in preparing the children for these questions in the leadup to screening would be greatly appreciated.
  - Set up the screening room, and provide a simple explanation of the screening process to your class.
  - Require teacher aide assistance to support supervision of the children and ensure accurate identification of each child.
  - Require children who already wear glasses to bring them at the time of screening.
- Once screening is complete, the school will receive sealed results letters to be distributed to the parents. The principal will be informed of which children will require further assessment by an eye health professional.

Should you wish to provide feedback or have any questions about the program, please see contact details below. An online survey will be sent to the school principal following completion of screening.

### Contact us

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