ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL
TWEED HEADS

ILlicit drug policy
2014

Date issued: March 2014
Date to be reviewed: 2018

rationale
At some times in their lives, all of our students will be exposed to legal and illicit drugs. Our aim is to work as a community to foster resilience in our students so that they can make informed and responsible decisions about drugs. All activities in this school are conducted in the light of Gospel Values and a commitment to the ethos of the Catholic School.

We have identified key factors in the development of resilience:

social competence
➢ Responsiveness
➢ Empathy
➢ Caring Attitudes
➢ Communication Skills
➢ Sense of Humour

problem solving skills
➢ Abstract Thinking
➢ Reflective Thinking
➢ Flexible Thinking
AUTONOMY

- Internal Locus of Control
- Strong Sense of Independence
- Sense of Power
- Self Esteem
- Self Discipline, Self Control

A SENSE OF PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE

- Coherence
- Goal Direction
- Motivation to Achieve
- Persistence
- Anticipation of a Bright Future

Current research suggests that the most successful Drug Education programs simultaneously focus on:

- Explicit teaching about illicit and legal drugs and their effects
- Developing Social and Emotional Skills
- Developing Parenting Skills
- Building relationships in the school community
- Support students at key transitional stages such as Kindergarten and Year 6 – 7

In light of this we employ a holistic approach to Drug Education.

PROGRAM

The elements of our Drug Education Program are:

- Social Skills, Personal Development and Child Protection Education. (Religious Education Units, PDHPE Syllabus, Child Protection support units)
- Drug Education. (PDHPE Syllabus, Life Education Van)
- Parent Education. (Parent Information evenings, “How to Drug Proof Your Kids” facilitated by trained parents in our community, “Positive Parenting” facilitated by trained staff members, courses offered by outside agencies)
- Screening and Remediation Programs (Additional Needs Teacher, Integration funding, School Counsellor)
- Staff Professional Development (Inservicing of staff on an annual basis on current Drug Education trends)
- In Class Activities (all teachers in this school strive to hold positive expectations and foster active participation in all students. Classrooms are focused on co-operative and democratic processes and the building of relationships between all classroom members. Additionally, all teachers in our school continuously monitor the social and emotional well-being of all students in consultation with pastoral care and special needs teachers, and the school principal).