

HEADLICE MANAGEMENT POLICY

RATIONALE

While children are at school, many families will have contact with head lice. It is acknowledged that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time. Although parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of head lice infections.

PURPOSE

- To maintain a well informed community, confident in their ability to manage head lice
- To provide sensitive and confidential support for parents and students
- To establish an accurate, consistent approach to the management of head lice infections

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- A resource/support staff member will be nominated whom parents can contact at the school at designated times
- The resource/support staff member will distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of each year and more frequently if required.

- **INSPECTIONS**

The following protocols will apply to an inspection program:

- Inspections will be conducted in response to parent/teacher requests
- They will be conducted by outside personnel, preferably for the City of Yarra
- In accordance with Health Regulations, when head lice are detected 'a child must be excluded from school until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.' **This means a child with head lice can be treated one evening and return to school the next day, even if there are some eggs present.**
- To reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality, a letter will be given to **all students in the relevant school units**, not just those children found to have head lice ie. Either a generic letter advising that an inspection has been conducted, or a letter informing of the presence of head lice and the need for treatment.

REVIEW

To be updated annually if necessary.