Health Support Planning

Do Schools need to comply?

Yes, if there is a student in your school who may have a significant health issue you need to develop a Health Support Plan. Significant health issues include Epilepsy, Diabetes, Acquired Brain Injury, Heart Conditions, Cancer, Asthma, Anaphylaxis and Mental Health Problems.

Conditions of compliance:

Principals should specifically ask whether a child or student has any individual emergency or routine health and personal care support needs, for example:

- Predictable emergency first aid
- Routine supervision for health and safety, such as supervision of medication
- Personal care, including assistance with personal hygiene, continence care, eating and drinking, transfers and positioning, and use of health-related equipment.

If you have to comply, what do you have to do?

If there is an indication that individual health care may be needed:

- The parent, guardian or adult student should be asked to provide a Health Care Plan, written by a relevant health professional, usually a doctor. The care plan should document recommended emergency and routine health and personal care support for the child or student.
- From the information on the Health Care Plan, the school is advised to develop a Health Support Plan (HSP) in consultation with the family and student, if appropriate.
- The HSP should document the health support required during the school day and on camps and excursions. Where appropriate, the staff responsible should be nominated and their role clearly outlined.
- All HSPs should be monitored and reviewed, annually unless there are changes in the student’s support needs.
- Regular training and updates for school staff in recognising and responding to the student’s health needs should be provided.

A communication plan should be developed to raise staff, student and community awareness about the Health Condition, Emergency Planning and issues of confidentiality and privacy.

What are the consequences if you don’t comply?

You may be putting the health of students at risk, or be in breach of duty of care, Disability Discrimination or Equal Opportunity Legislation. There is also the possibility of litigation in the event of a serious incident.

Useful links:
Child Health Education Support Services (CHESS)