



Supporting our students' health and wellbeing through the
GPs in Schools Pilot



For Students

Helping you get the health care you need

Starting from 7th Feb, 2022 our school will have a GP clinic at school, one day per week, especially for students

All secondary students will be able to visit the GP clinic. Our GP will provide you with health information, advice and treatment. You can go to the GP for any physical or mental health concerns, including about your sexual and reproductive health.

Dr Chris Briggs a General Practitioner (GP) and his Nurse will be joining us from their clinic, where they work on the other days of the week.

How can I make an appointment for the GP?

Our school's GP clinic will be open every Monday during school terms between 8:30am and 3:30pm.

Booking an appointment to see the school GP is easy – just email

GP@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au

Do I see the GP by myself?

It's up to you. You can see Dr Chris Briggs by yourself, or you can choose to go with a parent/carer

Can I consent (agree) to my own medical treatment?

Yes, if the GP thinks you understand what the treatment means, how it will help you and what the risks are, you will be considered a 'mature minor' and be able to make your own decision about treatment. In making their decision, the GP will consider:

- your age and maturity;
- your independence – whether you live at home with a parent/carer, or support yourself;
- how serious the treatment is; and

- if you understand why the treatment is needed, what it involves, and things that might go wrong (like side effects from medication, or other complications).

If the GP doesn't consider you to be a 'mature minor', then they can still give you support, but will need to get permission from your parent/carer first.

How much will it cost to see the GP?

Seeing the GP at school is free. You will need to remember to bring your Medicare card (or your Medicare number) with you to your appointment.

What is a Medicare card and how do I get my own?

A Medicare card allows people to get medical services and medicines at low cost or for free.

Usually young people are named on their parents'/carers' Medicare card. If you are 15 years or older, you can get your own Medicare card by completing a simple application with [Medicare Australia](#). The GP can help you with this process.

What if I can't get a Medicare card (or number)?

No worries. We'll be able to help you. Let Dr Chris Briggs know when you go to your appointment.

Will my parent/carer know that I went to the GP?

If the GP thinks you can see them by yourself and make your own decisions about treatment, they will not share information with your parents/carers, unless you say they can, there is an immediate risk to your or other's safety and wellbeing, or they are required or permitted by law. This is called confidentiality.

However, if you are under 15 years of age and are still on your parents' Medicare card, your parents will generally have access to information about your appointment via their Medicare account. This means they will be able to see the date of your appointments and the name of the GP you have seen. If you are worried about this, talk to the GP.

Will the school GP tell anyone at school about my appointment?

Your conversation with the GP will be confidential and not shared with anyone else, unless you agree, there is an immediate risk to your or other's safety and wellbeing, or the GP is permitted or required by law to tell someone.

In some situations, the GP may think your parents/carers (or teachers) should know about your visit and treatment. The GP will tell you why this is and will help you to talk with them if needed.

For more information about the school's GP service, please see the Guidance Officer.