



**EDMUND RICE EDUCATION  
AUSTRALIA**

# USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND OTHER PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES BY STUDENTS

Policy 10

AUGUST 2013

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Edmund Rice Education Australia ("EREA") Colleges, Entities and non-School Ministries ("Schools") aim to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our students. None of our Schools is isolated from the effects of substance abuse.

This policy operates to provide guidance, support and resources to assist in responding to incidents involving substance abuse.

## 2. PURPOSE

This document has been prepared in order to:

- express the Policy and Procedures for EREA Schools regarding any substance abuse, the use of illicit drugs and other prohibited substances, in the School context, and
- reflect the *National School Drug Education Strategy* as well as the *National Framework for Protocols for Managing the Possession, use and or Distribution of Illicit and Other Unsanctioned Drugs in Schools (June 2000)*, and the *National Safe Schools Framework (2003)*, and
- provide clear guidance in relation to legal and pastoral responsibilities in the management of illicit drug and other prohibited substance use, by students.

## 3. POLICY STATEMENT

All students in EREA Schools have the right to attend a School where their safety and welfare is positively promoted. EREA discourages all drug or prohibited substance use which is detrimental to the health and well being of students, or which is not approved by parents, medical authorities, or law.

## 4. DEFINITIONS

'Illicit Drugs' refers to all illegal drugs and pharmaceutical drugs when used for non medicinal purposes, or when taken in amounts which exceed the dose recommended for that particular drug.

An 'illegal drug' is any dangerous drug as defined in Schedules 1 and, or 2 of the Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987, as amended.

A 'prohibited substance' refers to alcohol, tobacco and any other substance deemed prohibited by the School.

An 'illicit item' refers to any piece of equipment for use in connection with the manufacture, smoking, consumption or administration of an illicit drug.

In this policy document the term 'School(s)' refers to and includes EREA Schools, Colleges, Flexible Learning Centres, Indooroopilly Montessori Children's House or any other EREA ministry within the Northern Region.

The term 'Principal' refers to and includes School Principal, Educational Ministry Leader and the Director Indooroopilly Montessori Children's House.

In this document the term 'possession means to have in your control.

## 5. EDMUND RICE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA'S POLICY

5.1 Upon enrolment, all students shall sign an agreement to comply with this policy.

- 5.2 A student at a School, in the vicinity of the School, travelling to and from School or a school event, in School uniform, or at School events, or events related to, or interpreted as being under School control, shall not:
- a) knowingly have in their possession an illicit drug, or prohibited substance; or
  - b) supply to another person, and/or administer to himself/herself, or permit another person to administer/supply to himself/herself, an illicit drug, or prohibited substance; or
  - c) have in their possession any piece of equipment for use in connection with the, manufacture, smoking, consumption or administration of an illicit drug.
- 5.3 In the event that a student breaches this prohibition, paragraphs 7 and 8 of this policy will be followed.
- 5.4 Parents/carers are responsible for adopting reasonable and reliable supervision of their children and for supporting the appropriate implementation of this policy. They must be made aware of this policy at the time of enrolment.
- 5.5 Principals will ensure that their School's Discipline and/or Student Behaviour Management policy reflects this policy and clearly states the consequences should a student be found to be in breach of this policy.

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION**

- 6.1 This policy and these procedures are designed for use in situations where there are reasonable grounds to believe that:
- a) illicit drugs or prohibited substances have been brought into the School, its immediate vicinity, or at School events; or
  - b) students at School, in the immediate vicinity, or at School events are affected by illicit drugs or prohibited substances; or
  - c) students travelling to or from School or a school event have used or had in their possession illicit drugs or prohibited substances.
- 6.2 School Events include those events directly under the control of the School as well as those events which may be interpreted as being under School control. Such events may include:
- a) travelling to and from School; or
  - b) situations where the School uniform is worn; or
  - c) any camp, excursion, competition, sporting meeting, rehearsal or other activity which has been endorsed by the School Principal as being a School activity.

## **7. WHEN MUST POLICE BE NOTIFIED**

- 7.1 In any circumstances where a student is found to be in possession of an illicit drug or illicit item referred to in paragraph 5.2(c), the illicit drug and/or illicit item must be delivered immediately into the custody of the Principal/delegate. The Police must be contacted immediately and the Principal/delegate shall give the relevant drug/item to Police. The parents should also be immediately notified unless specific advice from the police suggests that this should be delayed. The Police may then determine whether further Police action or investigation is necessary.
- 7.2 In any circumstances where an illicit drug or illicit item is found in the locker and/or bag of a student, the illicit drug and/or illicit item must be delivered immediately into the custody of the Principal/delegate. The Police must be contacted immediately and the Principal/delegate shall then give the relevant illicit drug and/or illicit item to Police. The Police may then determine whether further Police action or investigation is necessary. The Principal/delegate will also advise the parents immediately unless specific advice from the police is that this should be delayed.
- 7.3 In any circumstances where a student is found to be supplying an illicit drug or an item, the Police and parents must be contacted immediately by the Principal/delegate.

- 7.4 Upon finding an illegal drug on the school premises, in the vicinity of the school, at a school related function or in a place where the students gather, the police must be contacted immediately by the Principal/delegate.

## 8. USE OF DISCRETION

In any circumstances where **information** is received, that a student may have had in his/her possession or may have supplied or used an illicit drug and/or item, the Principal/delegate will exercise her/his discretion as to whether to report such information to Police, having regard to whether there is any substantial evidence to support the allegations.

## 9. CONSEQUENCES FOR BREACH OF POLICY

### 9.1 Disciplinary Options for Breach

9.1.1 Notwithstanding Police action which may be taken pursuant to paragraph 7 above, disciplinary action must be taken in accordance with the School's policy and procedures and the EREA Northern Region Policy on Suspension and Exclusion of Students.

9.1.2 In the event a student is excluded from the School as a result of a breach of this policy, the Principal/delegate shall make every reasonable effort to source a suitable alternative educational facility for the student.

### 9.2 Pastoral Responses

Notwithstanding any Police or disciplinary action which may be taken in relation to a student found to be in breach of this policy, pastoral support must be provided to the student where considered necessary

## 10. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

10.1 *Director Regional Support – EREA Northern Region* is responsible for the provision of:

- a) this policy to all Schools of Edmund Rice Education Australia – Northern Region.
- b) a range of consequences/disciplinary measures in relation to handling breaches in a suggested uniform manner; and
- c) review of the policy.

10.2 The *Principal* of each school shall be responsible for:

- a) making this policy available and explaining it to all staff
- b) informing students, parents, board members and staff of the existence of this policy;
- c) monitoring and ensuring compliance with this policy;
- d) keeping proper records of all reports made or disciplinary or pastoral action taken in relation to a breach of this policy;
- e) liaising where appropriate with Police.
- f) ensuring that appropriate drug education programs and learning opportunities are provided for students.

10.3 *All Employees and Voluntary Workers* have a responsibility to:

- a) promote the policy; and
- b) report any incidence of breach of the policy to the Principal.

**This Policy will be reviewed every 5 years or as required due to any changes to laws**

## ANNEXURE A INFORMATION SERVICES

### Queensland

Alcohol and Drug Information Service  
270 Roma Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000  
Services:

Telephone 07 3236 2414  
Toll Free 1800 177 833  
24 Hr Service  
Information, Counselling, Referral

Queensland Ambulance Service  
Emergency Services Complex  
Cnr Park and Kedron Park Roads  
Kedron Qld 4031

Department of Education Training and Employment  
Queensland Government  
Drug Education – Policies and Resources  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/health-safety/promotion/drug-education/>