

# **Yarrabah School**

## **ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT**

### **POLICY**

#### **Rationale:**

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication.

The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens), and prevention of exposure to these triggers. Partnerships between schools and parents are important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school.

Adrenaline given through an EpiPen auto injector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

#### **Aims:**

- To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling.
- To raise awareness about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis policy in the school community.
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for the student.
- To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about allergies, anaphylaxis and the school's policy and procedures in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

#### **Implementation:**

- School staff will ensure that an individual anaphylaxis plan will be developed, in consultation with the student's parents, for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis. Appropriate anaphylaxis management plan proformas are available at <http://www.allergy.org.au> and DET guidelines is DET Anaphylaxis Guidelines.
- The individual management plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls.
- Anaphylaxis/allergy plans will be attached to the student's records for reference.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate anaphylaxis medication (including an EpiPen) with them at school at all times. Parents/guardians will be responsible for checking EpiPen expiry dates.
- The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents/carers; annually and as applicable, if the student's condition changes or immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to; provide the emergency procedure plan (ASCIA Action Plan), inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan), provide an adequate supply of appropriate anaphylaxis medication (including an EpiPen) at school at all times. Parents/guardians will be responsible for checking EpiPen expiry dates.
- All school staff who conduct classes which students at risk of anaphylaxis attend will be trained in an approved anaphylaxis management training course.
- The Principal will ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management course when the student is under the care or supervision of the school,

including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days.

- The Principal and OH&S representative will identify the school staff to be trained based on a risk assessment.
- Training will be provided to these staff as soon as practicable after the student enrolls; where possible, training will take place before the student's first day at school; where this is not possible, an interim plan will be developed in consultation with the parents.
- The school's first aid procedures and students emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan) will be followed in responding to an anaphylactic reaction.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

April 2018