

STUDENT PROTECTION ITEMS

Principals' Meeting

Highfields – 16 October, 2008

1. CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2008:

Thank you for your efforts to make Child Protection Week (CPW) a success in your school community this year. To assist us with planning for 2009, please complete the attached CPW Survey and return to your Senior Education Officer today.

ACTION: Complete CPW Survey and return to Senior Education Officer today. (Survey attached)

2. 2009 ALL STAFF STUDENT PROTECTION IN-SERVICE:

Confirmation of agendas, presenters and venues in each location will be finalized before the end of Term 4. Thank you to those who have sent in feedback and suggestions since the last Principals' Meeting in Roma.

ACTION: Ensure dates for 2009 In-service (distributed in Roma) are in your school calendar for 2009.

3. STUDENT PROTECTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT KIT:

By early next year, the current Student Protection and Risk Management Kit will be split into two folders:

Folder 1 – Student Protection Policy and Procedure

Folder 2 – Student Protection Risk Management Strategy

This will streamline processes and cover compliance under Child Protection legislation (Folder 1) and Commission for Children, Your People and Child Guardian legislation (Folder 2).

ACTION: For Your Information – no immediate action required

4. STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT:

Thank you for your feedback and suggestions on the draft Staff Code of Conduct distributed at Roma. The document is being finalised and will be presented to Principals during Term 1,2 009 and to all Staff at the Student Protection In-services next year.

ACTION: For Your Information – no immediate action required

5. LEGAL UPDATE – PRE AND POST FORMAL PARTIES:

A Special Update on Pre and Post Formal Parties from Suzanne Brookes is attached for your information. As it is getting close to the end of the year, Update 10 Parties and Student Safety from 2007 is also attached for your reference

ACTION: Share with Student Protection School Contacts, staff and school community as appropriate. (Updates attached).

6. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON STUDENTS:

From time to time, individual staff or schools have received requests for information on students from outside agencies eg Department of Child Safety; solicitors operating on behalf of parents; etc. Please remind staff that any approaches for release of school information on students should be sent, by the outside agency, to the Director as the responsible authority of the release of information. Information is normally only released by the Director as a result of a court order or a subpoena for specific details. Staff who operate outside these guidelines may be exposing themselves to legal liabilities such as defamation or failing to follow the directions of their employer. Principals should contact their Senior Education Office immediately if any requests for release of information on students are received by the school or individual staff. The above information does not apply to normal school reporting processes.

ACTION: Inform staff of procedures. Include in Staff Handbook.

7. MANAGING POLICE INTERVIEWS:

Policies and procedures for managing requests for interview of students by Department of Child Safety Officers and/or police in relation to Child Protection matters are being finalized by the QCEC Student Protection Working Party.

The attached pages from the School Principals Legal Guide on Managing Police Interviews are provided as background information on the powers of the police and duties of schools if a request is made by police to interview a student at school over any matter.

Sometimes police approach the school requesting interviews with students over matters not related to child protection.

ACTION: Inform staff of rights and responsibilities. Contact Senior Education Officer if further information is needed (See attachment).