



EXTERNAL PROVIDER POLICY

GENERAL STATEMENT

Peninsula Specialist College recognises that students at the school may be receiving support outside of school hours from private therapists to assist with their day-to-day living and for their social, physical and emotional wellbeing.

The school welcomes a close partnership between both school and home/community environments.

If a student is accessing support from a private therapist and a Department funded school therapist, it is highly recommended that the parents notify and provide relevant information to the relevant therapist at Peninsula Specialist College and allow for communication between the two therapists. Collaboration will allow therapists to work as a team to provide consistent and complimentary goals and supports for the child.

All requests for external providers visits are to go through the wellbeing team for consideration and approval.

RATIONALE

State and Federal discrimination law imposes a legal obligation on schools to make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities to ensure that they are able to participate in their education on the same basis as their peers. In addition, the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 provides for free education and states that parents of students with disabilities are not required to pay for additional educational support for their children. Therefore, a clear delineation is adopted between the student's school-based educational program and the reasonable adjustments that the student requires in relation to schooling, and any additional therapies or tutoring that parents choose to pay for which are not required reasonable adjustments and which should be occurring after school and outside of school premises. Peninsula Specialist College is not a public place and our primary consideration is to ensure that the school can provide a safe environment and fulfil its duty of care obligations to students. It is also a student's right to access educational programs during school hours with minimal disruptions to the educational environment.

IMPLEMENTATION

Peninsula Specialist College does not allow private therapists to attend the school for the purposes of providing ongoing therapy interventions to a student during school hours. Visits can however be requested for the following reasons:

- For the purpose of allowing a private therapist to, on occasion, observe and or provide information that will support the students participation at school. This will be conducted in liaison with the school's relevant teaching and therapy teams.
- To observe and gather information about strategies that may be of benefit across settings.
- For the purpose of upskilling school based staff.
- To assist with the prescription, review and upkeep of assistive technology.
- To attend student wellbeing/SSG meetings.

External Providers will be expected to:

- Have a Working with Children Check and can comply with the Department and Peninsula Specialist College's Child Safe policies
- Provide a copy of any notes taken during the session in the school setting to the school.
- To ensure that any clinical case notes taken do not include any identifying information about any other students or staff.
- Liaise with the wellbeing team as to the purpose and timing of the visit.
- Provide a minimum of 2 weeks for the request to be processed.

Providing support for external purposes

The school will provide copies of any previous assessment and/or reports in the student's files, when requested by parents or guardians. These are only to be given in hard copy, directly to parents or guardians. If third parties, including private therapists, wish to have copies of student assessments or reports, the school requests that they obtain them directly from parents or guardians.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last approved by school council in September 2023 and is scheduled for review in 2024