

Welfare of Students

Creating Positive Futures Together



Welfare of Students

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Context

Margaret Jurd College (the College) is a Ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia. A registered non-government secondary special school established to support disadvantaged young people who have complex needs due to the following:

- Mental health/behavioural disorder at a level that is recognised as a disability in accordance with the Department of Education and Training criteria.
- Complex trauma history
- Autism

Margaret Jurd College is dedicated to providing students with a supportive alternative to mainstream schooling. We embrace young people who want to complete secondary schooling that live with mental health conditions that can be seen as challenging behaviours.

Purpose of the Policy

Students develop best in schools where teaching and learning occur in the context of student welfare. For this to occur, procedures need to be put in place to outline an all schools approach to the wellbeing of students as well as how a staff member can best respond to students in order to ensure all issues of wellbeing are reported to the College and a student's welfare can be best supported.

Policy

Margaret Jurd College seeks to provide quality education for all students, taking account of their age, background, ability and interests. The College will continue to support students to become self-directed, life-long learners who can create a positive future for themselves and for the wider community.

Schools need to be safe and happy places for students and their teachers. Student welfare is enhanced when all members of the school community understand their requirements.

Procedure

Wellbeing Support

All students enrolled at Margaret Jurd College are provided with targeted wellbeing support through the College wellbeing team.

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Support focuses on the individual needs and goals of students and provides opportunity for staff to identify the welfare needs of students and their families. All wellbeing staff employed at Margaret Jurd College are qualified youth workers with strong links to specialist service providers for the purpose of support, assessment and referral.

Margaret Jurd College provides welfare support in the following forms:

1. Counselling, advocacy and referral.
2. Breakfast provided daily.
3. Healthy lunch provided daily.
4. Fresh seasonal fruit provided to all students at morning tea daily.
5. Provision of uniforms.
6. Referral and support to access mental health professionals, material aid services, counselling and group work providers.
7. Support in attending necessary appointments.
8. Support in the completion of forms in accessing assistance from government and private sector agencies.
9. Providing information.

The College encourages positive change and commitment to self-improvement of students through a system of rewards and encouragement. Weekly and monthly rewards recognise both consistency and individual improvement. All students' efforts are recognised and their positive efforts are utilised as a tool for encouragement for personal growth.