Suicide Ideation and Self Injury

Related Merici Policies

It is the Colleges responsibility to maintain currency in mental health issues which effect young people.

Rationale/Purpose

To ensure that all parents and students are aware of the importance of their involvement in the management of, and response to, any mention or action by a student of Suicide Ideation and/or self-injury.

Definitions

Nil

Policy

Merici College encourages parents, guardians and families to be involved in the management of any critical incident involving a young person and suicide ideation and/or self-injury. It is the policy of the college to work with parents, students and outside providers to assist in the management of the affected student or students. This may require utilising the services of the Police, Care and Protection, DOCS, the Mental Health Crisis Team, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Procedures

If a student expresses suicidal thoughts or intent to self-injure to a Merici staff member or fellow student, the following action must be taken without any delay:

The staff member, with support from the House Coordinator or the Executive, must ensure the immediate safety of the student including, if possible, a short-term guarantee from the student that they will not attempt suicide. If necessary a First Aid Officer must treat obvious injury.

If this is a LIFE THREATENING situation 000 must be called without delay.

1. A House Coordinator or member of the Executive must be immediately informed and one member of this team will liaise with appropriate support agencies. They will contact the young person’s Parents/Carers immediately to inform them of the situation and gain further information to assist with treatment.

2. Once this information is obtained, there may be need to contact one or more of the following agencies to facilitate further support for the student:
• The Police and/or ambulance via 131444 (Police) or 000 (Ambulance)
• Care and Protection Services (CPS)/DOCS to make a mandatory or voluntary report about the welfare of the young person (CPS – 1300 556 729, DOCS – 132 111)
• The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) or Adult Crisis Line depending on the age of the student. (Northside: 6205 1050, Southside: 6205 1469)
• The School Counsellors for further support and advice. Arrangements must be made for professional counselling and further specialist treatment for the student either through the College Counsellors or an outside agency.
• The student will not be allowed to return to school after a significant event or hospitalisation, until parents/carers schedule a re-entry interview with the Principal or delegate and a treatment and risk management plan is devised and agreed on by all parties.
• Following the re-entry interview, clear plans for the continued monitoring, support and care for the student will be put in place for regular review.

References


Forms

Nil

Approved by: Merici College

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Merici Contact Officer: Assistant Principal – Student Welfare