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## Do wellbeing nurses keep health information confidential?

Unless there is a safety concern, wellbeing nurses will get permission from the student's parent, carer or guardian, or the young person aged 14 years and older before passing on the information.

If a wellbeing nurse is concerned about the safety, welfare or wellbeing of a student or the student's family, they may need to share the details about the concern with other services. This is required by law. The wellbeing nurse may also need to discuss the concern about the student with the school principal.

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## Further information

Visit

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/whinprogram](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/whinprogram)



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The Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurse Coordinator program is a partnership between NSW Health and the NSW Department of Education.

NSW Health



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# Wellbeing Nurse



## What are wellbeing nurses?

Wellbeing nurses are highly skilled and experienced nurses. They are employed by NSW Health to work in selected schools as part of the joint NSW Health and Department of Education Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurse Coordinator program.

Wellbeing nurses work closely with school learning support and wellbeing teams and local health and community services to support students and their families with a wide range of health and wellbeing concerns.

## How do wellbeing nurses support students and their family members?

Wellbeing nurses help students and their families to:

- identify their health and wellbeing needs
- connect to appropriate health and community services
- understand and use information about their health needs and healthcare options.

Wellbeing nurses do not administer medications, provide first aid medical interventions such as tube feeding or diabetes management.

## Who can get support from a wellbeing nurse?

Any student enrolled at a school with a wellbeing nurse and their family.

## How to get support from a wellbeing nurse?

Parents, carers or guardians can contact the school and ask to speak to the wellbeing nurse if they have concerns about their child's health and wellbeing and need information or support.

School learning support and wellbeing teams and school staff can refer students and their family to the wellbeing nurse.

Students aged 14 years and older can approach the wellbeing nurse directly to talk confidentially about their health and wellbeing concerns.

A wellbeing nurse is not at a school every day. Parents, carers, guardians and students may need to make an appointment.

## Do wellbeing nurses need parental consent to see a student?

### Primary school students

Wellbeing nurses will seek permission from a parent, carer or guardian if their child is referred to them or comes to them with health and wellbeing concerns.

Parents, carers or guardians can give their permission either verbally or by completing and signing a consent form given to them by the wellbeing nurse or school.

### High school students

Wellbeing nurses will seek permission from a parent, carer or guardian if their child under 14 years is referred to them or comes to them with health and wellbeing concerns.

High school students aged 14 years and older can speak to a wellbeing nurse confidentially if the wellbeing nurse assesses a student mature enough to fully understand their health problems being discussed, and the support being offered.

If a wellbeing nurse assesses the student as not mature enough to understand their health problems and needs, the wellbeing nurse will seek permission from the student's parent, carer or guardian.

Wellbeing nurses always encourage and offer to support students to talk to their parent, carers or guardian about their health and wellbeing concerns.

