



HEAD LICE

RATIONALE

While parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of head lice outbreaks and in providing support for parents/guardians and students. We acknowledge that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.

AIM

- To minimize the spread of head lice among students

IMPLEMENTATION

- Foster open and confidential dialogue with parents to encourage the reporting of lice detection and treatment
- To distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians and staff at the beginning of every year and more frequently if required (available from website <<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/headlice>>)
- The nomination of a head lice resource/support person (parent/guardian or staff member) who parents/guardians can contact through the school.
- Train staff to conduct head lice inspections of individuals on demand or as a whole school.
- Employ a staged approach
 1. Notify parents in affected class (text or note)
 2. Notify all parents through newsletter
 3. Access Shire or Primary School Nurse support
- A requirement that parents/carers refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. It should be noted that students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day and that the presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion. Parents/guardians need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live lice the school may again exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.
- Clear protocols for any inspection program that the school wishes to implement, including a pro forma for obtaining written parental permission for all inspections including those by local government personnel.
- A commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections.

EVALUATION

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.