Marymount College Drug Education Policy

Introduction
Marymount College strives to create an inclusive Catholic Christian community where the message, practice and values of Jesus Christ, as proclaimed in the Gospels, are given practical expression. In our community, the cooperation of each member is required in order to create the common good. Any elements of behaviour that seriously affect or endanger the wellbeing of the community need to be addressed with Christ-like compassion. This policy is informed by our Good Samaritan charisms and values found in the Gospels – compassion, hospitality and stewardship, love, justice, peace, hope, service, reconciliation.

Marymount College acknowledges that the use and abuse of drugs is an important community concern. Through this policy the College echoes the concerns of the community and identifies that it has a significant role to play in the education and prevention of the misuse of drugs within its College community.

All members of our College community are expected to uphold the spirit of this policy and to implement it for the welfare of all students of Marymount College.

Policy Statement
Our College is committed to maintaining a safe, secure and supportive environment for its community. This policy is part of our Whole School Drug Strategy that includes a range of curriculum; policies and procedures; and positive school environment initiatives. Our school takes action to prevent drug use by students and to intervene if it occurs by taking a whole school approach. The use, possession and/or distribution of illicit drugs and the unsanctioned use and distribution of drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs, on school premises, are not accepted.

Drug education is taught as part of a sequential and developmentally appropriate curriculum in the Learning Areas of Health & PE, Science and Religious Education.

Partnerships are made with parents/carers, Catholic Education Office SA and community agencies to assist our school to address drug issues.

Student resiliency and wellbeing are promoted.

1. Drug Free Zone Legislation
The “Drug Free Zone” legislation of 1991 is an amendment to the Controlled Substances Act (1984) which regulates and prohibits the manufacture, sale, supply, possession, handling or use of illegal substances. The amendment states, in part, that it is an offence:
- to sell, supply, administer or take part in the sale, supply or administration of a drug of dependence or prohibited substance to a child (a person under 18 years of age).
- to be in possession, within a school zone, of a drug of dependence or prohibited substance, for the purpose of sale, supply or administration of the drug or substance to another person.

The amendment designates the school property and an area within 500 metres from the school’s boundaries as a “school zone”.

2. Guideline for College Action
2.1 It follows from this legislation that police are to be notified if the Principal is aware that students are in possession of prohibited substances or drug related instruments.

2.2 Where Principals believe there is a need to conduct a search to investigate a suspected drug related incident, police should be contacted to do so, unless the principal is certain that if they do not conduct the search, the student or others will be put at grave and immediate risk. Where a staff member reasonably suspects that a student has a prohibited substance in her possession and that the student or others will be put at grave and immediate risk the Principal and a witness may search the student’s bag and or locker in accordance with Education Department Regulations. (Normally, the Principal and witness will request that the student
empty bag/locker/pockets in front of them.) The conduct of searches by school personnel or anyone other than police is illegal and may destroy evidence important to a legal investigation.

2.3 Where an emergency action is required through misuse of a prohibited substance, medical assistance will be sought immediately and the parents/carers informed.

Each case should be judged by those who are in possession of all the information relating to a particular incidence of misuse.

3. Unacceptable Student Behaviour

In summary, the following matters are considered as being unacceptable behaviour for students attending our school:

- The use of prohibited drugs
- The inappropriate use of prescription and/or over-the-counter medicines.
- The inappropriate use of solvents and/or other chemical agents.
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- Smoking of tobacco and other drugs.
- The possession of drug related instruments such as syringes, bongs and pipes.
- In the implementation of the school’s policy in respect of prohibited substances issues related to confidentiality will be respected.

4. Consequences

Students who choose to ignore the school regulations will be faced with a range of sanctions depending on the circumstances and previous behaviour. This Policy does not prescribe specific consequences for drug-related behaviours, because variations between incidents prevent standardised consequences, except where required by law (such as involving the police). It is important for students and parents/carers to know, however, that the possession, supply, use or sale of illegal drugs is an offence against the law and police will be notified. Suspension or termination of enrolment is liable to follow such actions. Each case will be judged independently from other such incidents at the school, and its particular circumstances will be taken into consideration. Consequences are three fold - pastoral care, education and punitive.

These CONSEQUENCES follow the Catholic Education Office’s Suspension and Expulsion Guidelines.

4.1 Should the school become aware that a student is using, or trading in, illegal drugs in her private life (outside of school), parents/carers will be informed that the school does not approve of this behaviour, and point out to them the consequences if this becomes a school matter.

4.2 If any student who uses prohibited substances at school, at a school function, or in transit to and from school, parents/carers will be informed, and the student is liable to be suspended.

4.3 Should a student continue to use prohibited substances, as in the examples above, the student is liable to have her enrolment terminated.

4.4 If any student sells or supplies prohibited substances to another student at school, at a school function, or in transit to and from school, parents/carers and police will be informed, and the student will be suspended and is also liable to have her enrolment terminated.

4.5 In all circumstances referred to above, and where it is thought appropriate, counselling will be offered to students who offend. In respect to expulsion, every endeavour will be made to relocate the student at another Catholic school, when the expulsion is the first for this reason.

4.6 The Principal of a Catholic School is entitled to take the above actions in the light of her investigations and informed judgements.

5. Parent/Carer and Student Information

This matter should be brought to the attention of parents/carers in a way that covers any action that the Principal may have to take in relation to the misuse of prohibited substances. At the
beginning of each school year, a special Newsletter is sent home, containing the above Prohibited Substances Policy and Consequent School Actions. Parents/carers are required to sign a return slip, indicating that they have read and understood it. Students are required to sign the Student Agreement at the beginning of each year. Parents/carers ratify this agreement by their signature.

6. Incident Management

The school will respond to all suspected drug-related incidents with the health of students as the prime concern and utilising principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. The procedural framework in use at Marymount College is consistent with the procedures outlined in Intervention Matters.

7. Harm Minimisation

A harm minimisation response to living in a drug using community requires a flexible and skilled approach to:

- Prevention through education and school culture building and
- Intervention as incident management and support for students with drug issues.

Consequently harm minimisation in incident management does not mean responding to a drug related incident; it means responding well to the incident. Student welfare remains paramount; principles of natural justice are adhered to; OHS&W issues and principles are constantly considered; and partnerships with young people’s parents/carers and the police are utilised.

8. Links to other school initiatives

This Policy has links to a number of other policies and documents:

- OHSW
- Development of Personal Responsibility
- Critical Incident Management
- Medication Management
- Curriculum
- Safe Schools
- SACCS Vision statement

**Review Cycle**

To ensure continuous improvement, school procedures will be reviewed after every drug related incident, whilst the policy will be reviewed at least every two years.
## Appendix A

To Marymount College Drug Education Policy, Dated: 18 October 2007

### Drug Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance and ways of taking</th>
<th>Legal status</th>
<th>School sanctioning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caffeine</strong></td>
<td>Oral, Legal</td>
<td>Sanctioned although schools may choose to limit or prohibit sales in a school's canteen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tobacco</strong></td>
<td>Smoked, Illegal for any person to supply a cigarette to a person under 18 years.</td>
<td>Use not sanctioned by any person on school grounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alcohol</strong></td>
<td>Oral, Supply or sale of alcohol to a person under 18 years in a public place such as school or hotel, is illegal. Use for young people in a school is illegal.</td>
<td>Use not sanctioned by students at school functions. Use not sanctioned by staff, even out of hours, whilst holding duty of care responsibilities. School staff must utilise harm minimisation principles as an OHS&amp;W obligation if consuming alcohol whilst students are not present eg staff Friday night drinks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Over the counter/analgesics</strong></td>
<td>Oral, Legal, but not to be supplied to students by other students.</td>
<td>Sanctioned in accordance with DECS Health support planing guidelines. School staff should store and supervise only that medication which has been prescribed by a doctor for a student for a specified period of time and is used according to agreed plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescribed medication</strong></td>
<td>Injection, Oral, Legal if prescribed by a doctor. Illegal for any person to supply/distribute/sell prescription medication which has not been prescribed for that person. Police need to be advised.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Volatile Substances</strong></td>
<td>Oral, Inhalation, Controlled Substances Act states it is illegal for a person to sell or supply a volatile substance if they suspect it will be inhaled or supplied to someone else who will inhale it.</td>
<td>Sanctioned only if used appropriately and within the law. Must be securely and appropriately stored.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illicit drugs – police must be advised. Unsanctioned by schools</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cannabis</strong></td>
<td>Oral/Smoking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hallucinogens</strong></td>
<td>Oral/Smoking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amphetamines</strong></td>
<td>Speed, Ecstacy, Snorting/Injecting, Oral/Annally</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heroin</strong></td>
<td>Oral, Smoking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cocaine</strong></td>
<td>Snorting, Injectable, Oral/Annally</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drug paraphernalia</strong></td>
<td>Legal status</td>
<td>School sanctioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Smoking paraphernalia</strong></td>
<td>Not illegal to have an unused pipe. Illegal to have an instrument which has been used or with intent to use for smoking cannabis. Police need to be advised.</td>
<td>Unsanctioned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Needles/syringes</strong></td>
<td>A syringes or needle is not illegal.</td>
<td>Sanctioned only for medical use under agreed medication management plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown substance</td>
<td>Possibly illegal. Needs to be referred to police for identification.</td>
<td>Possibly unsanctioned.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Glossary of Terms**

*Drug:* ‘A drug is any substance which, when taken into the body, alters its function physically and/or psychologically’ (World Health Organisation, 1981)

This includes:

*Illicit Drugs:* those drugs for which the production, sale, possession or use is prohibited.

*Legal Drugs:* those drugs which are sanctioned by law. They may be readily available (like caffeine and petrol); restricted by age (like tobacco and alcohol); or prescribed for some by medical practitioners (like many pharmaceuticals).

*Unsanctioned Drugs:* those drugs whose use is restricted by law, school authorities and/or school/policies/guidelines. They include illicit, social and prescription drugs when missed. (DEYTA, 2000)

*Harm minimisation:* the harm minimisation approach assists schools and communities to go beyond punitive measures to drugs issues and to develop integrated approaches that focus on policies and procedures to prevent and reduce drug-related harm. The harm minimisation approach is endorsed by state and federal governments. It does not mean not responding to suspected drug-related incidents; it means responding well.

**Appendix B**

**Support Services**

Police .................................................................................. ph 13 14 44

Poison Information Centre ................................................. ph 13 11 26

Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS).................. ph 1300 131 340
*free call 24 hour confidential telephone counselling,*
*information and referral service*

Drug and Alcohol Services Council (DASC)......................... ph 1300 131 340
*Initial enquiries to DASC should be made through ADIS*

Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (SA) inc (ADAC).......... ph 8362 0395

Quit SA .................................................................................. ph 8231 2959

Centacare (general enquiries)................................................. ph 8210 8200

Education Drug Diversion Intervention Team (EDDIT)........ ph 8241 7022
*This is an early intervention service supporting* 
*families/young people where there are issues relating* 
to or a risk of youth drug use.