

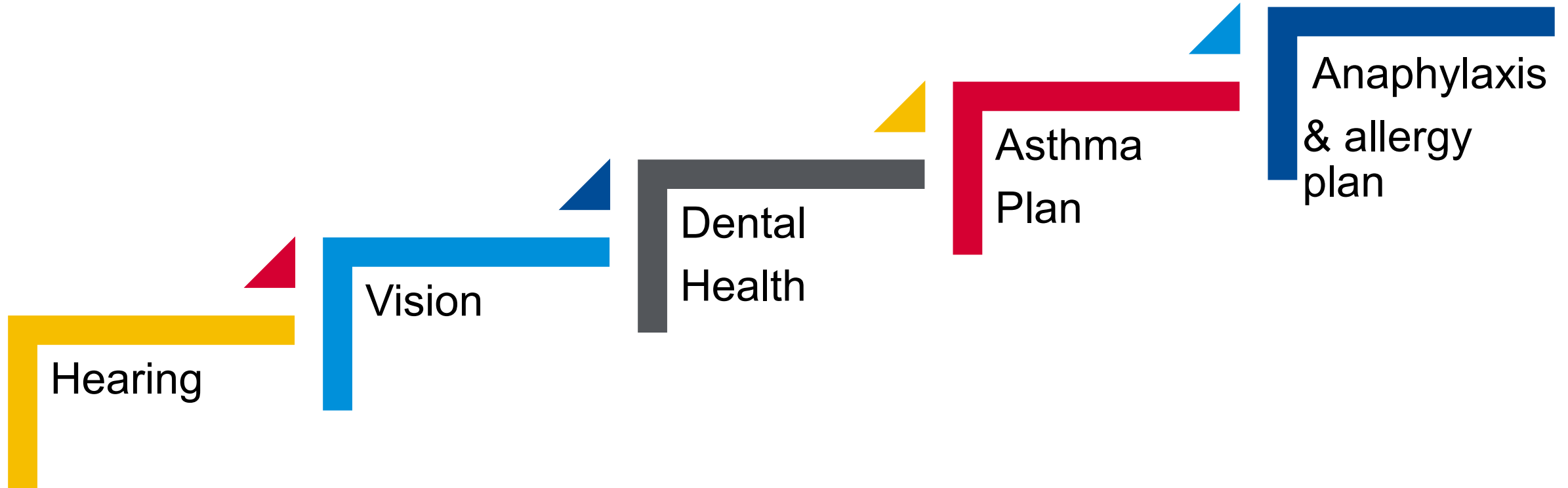
Visiting Primary School Nursing Program



The Primary School Nursing Program

- Aims to promote child health and wellbeing
- Provides an opportunity to assess your child's health and raise any concerns or challenges you may have
- Aims to support your child's learning through early identification of potential health related learning difficulties
- Registered Nurses employed by DET to visit your school annually

Getting Ready for School



Hearing

- Hearing tests are completed by an Audiologist
- Hearing is checked in Australia at birth
- Its recommended to have a hearing test if you are concerned about;
 - Speech development
 - Communication
 - Behavioural concerns
 - Educational engagement/ learning difficulties
 - Repeated ear infections or other seriously illnesses

Access:

- Some services require a GP referral, others you can contact directly
- Audiologists can be found at www.healthdirect.gov.au

Cost:

- Assessments with an Audiologist can **be bulk billed (free)** with a Medicare Card/Health Care Card, or low cost with a GP referral
- Rebates are available with private health

Vision

- Vision checks are completed by an Optometrist
- Vision can be checked at any age
- Children should have their eyes checked prior to starting school and then every two years
- 1 in 5 children have an undetected vision issue

Access:

- No referral is required for an Optometrist- just call up and make an appointment
- Optometrists can be found at www.healthdirect.gov.au

Cost:

- Assessments with an Optometrist should **be bulk billed (free)** with a Medicare Card
- Rebates are available with private health
- School age children at government schools can access a free pair of glasses

Dental Care

- Children should brush their teeth twice a day, using toothpaste containing fluoride
- Dental care is provided by dentists
- Recommended to see at 12 months old and then every 6-12 months
- Visiting a dentist regularly helps prevent, detect and manage tooth decay

Access:

- Contact IPC, Cohealth or Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne
- Dentists can be found at www.healthdirect.gov

Cost:

- Dentists can be **bulk billed (free)** with a Medicare Card/Health Care Card, or low cost ~\$35
- Rebates are available with private health
- Rebates available under Medicare's Childhood Dental Benefit Scheme

Asthma and Allergy Action Plans

Asthma

- Asthma is a common disease of the airways
- Diagnosis before 5yrs old can be difficult
- **Schools require an Asthma Action Plan**
- If your child requires Ventolin or other medications, they will need an Asthma Action Plan
- Talk to your GP or Asthma Victoria/Australia for information on asthma

Allergies/Anaphylaxis

- Allergies happen when the immune system reacts to an allergen
- Symptoms vary
- A severe reaction is called anaphylaxis
- You need to talk to your GP if you think your child has an allergy
- **Schools require an Allergy/Anaphylaxis Action Plan**

Speech Pathologists

- Speech Pathologists study, diagnose and treat communication disorders
- About 1 in 6 children will have delayed speech
- There are extensive waiting times to see a Speech Pathologist- get in early if you or the teachers have concerns

Access:

- Contact a Speech Pathologist directly to make an appointment
- Speech Pathologists can be found at www.healthdirect.gov or www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

Cost:

- Rebates are available from your GP or NDIS
- Rebates are available with private health

Mental Health

- Good mental health is a vital factor for healthy development
- If your worried- ask your child how they feel, listen and show you understand
 - Worries box
 - Books about emotions
- If concerns are ongoing, seek professional help

Access:

- Contact your GP and ask for a double appointment
- Contact a mental health service
- Talk to the school

CAREinMIND™

HEAD TO HEALTH



The Royal **Children's**
Hospital Melbourne



Other health concerns

- Toileting during the day – **Action Plan Available**
- Bed wetting
- Concentration & attention
- Writing skills
- Sleep
- Behaviour-tantrums, shyness, anxiety
- Generalized anxiety about school and /or leaving Parents /Carers

Concerns

1

- Teacher
- GP
- NDIS

2

- Paediatrician
- Specialists
- NDIS

3

- Allied health support
- NDIS

Rebates/funding

GP

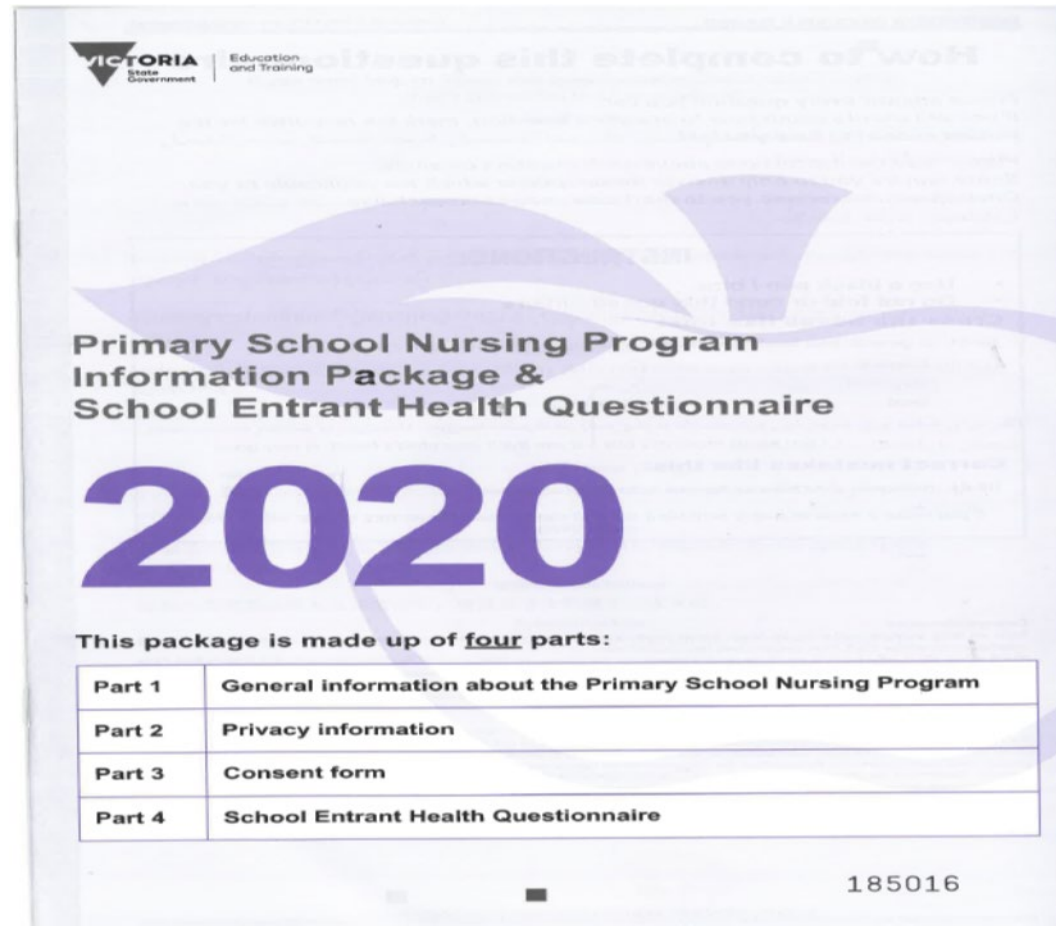
- GP Management Plan/Team Care Arrangement
 - 5 subsidised sessions with allied health (OT, Speech Pathologist, Dietician etc)
- Mental Health Treatment Plan
 - 20 subsidised sessions with mental health professionals

NDIS

- Early Childhood Approaches Funding
 - If concerns re: development, communication, behaviour, regulation and learning
- Agency in area =Brotherhood of St Laurance
- Need to apply before a child is **6 years old**

School Nursing Program

The Questionnaire may be sent home with your child OR the school will let you know how it can be completed.



School Nursing Program

Consent

It's your choice.

Please tick the

Yes or No box AND sign.

Return form to school in sealed envelope

Do not write comments in this area

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & TRAINING CONFIDENTIAL

Part 3 - Your Consent

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Name of student | | School Name | |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|--|

I confirm the following:

- I have read Parts 1 and 2 of this Primary School Nursing Program Information Package.
- I understand how my child's personal information and health information will be collected, used and disclosed within DET.
- I understand that I may withdraw my consent for my child to participate in the Primary School Nursing Program at any time.

Please select one of the following options:

Yes I CONSENT to the School Nurse conducting a health assessment of my child, if required (this may include checking my child's vision, hearing, speech and teeth).

No I DO NOT consent to the School Nurse conducting a health assessment of my child.

| | | | |
|------------------|--|---|--|
| Signature | | Relationship to child (Parent/Legal Guardian/ Carer) | |
| Name | | Date | |

Who may sign this SEHQ Consent Form on behalf of a child?
One of the following people can sign this form:

- a person with parental responsibility for "major long term issues" as defined in the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth)
- a person appointed as "guardian" under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic).

If neither of the above people are available, an informal carer may sign this form. An informal carer is a relative or other responsible adult with whom the child lives, and who has day to day care of the child. Informal carers should sign an 'Informal Carer' statutory declaration, which is available at www.education.vic.gov.au (under Decision Making Responsibilities For Students).

Withdrawing consent
You may withdraw consent to your child receiving services under the Primary School Nursing Program at any time, by writing to your child's Primary School Nurse Manager. Before withdrawing consent, we recommend discussing this first with school staff or the Primary School Nurse Manager for your region. Withdrawing consent means that services under the Primary School Nursing Program will cease from the time the Primary School Nurse receives the withdrawal. Where there are safety concerns or risks, other activities may occur.

For more information please contact the Primary School Nurse Manager at your local DET office listed on page 20 of the attached School Entrant Health Questionnaire.

SCHOOL ENTRANT HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE 2020 - Page 5

School Entrant Health Questionnaire Process

- Your nurse will look at your responses in the SEHQ
- Everyone who has given consent will get a letter
- Some parents/carers will receive a phone call to discuss the SEHQ
- Some children will be seen by the nurse to assess vision, hearing or speech

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