

Health Education Interface:

The Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN), Health Education Interface (HEI) provides specialist disability health staff to support teachers of students with disability and complex emotional health needs.

It is a statewide service and is inclusive of both government and non-government schools. The focus of the service is in provision of support and advice around significant behavioural and emotional concerns for children in school. The HEI service aims to support ongoing school engagement or reconnect the student in an educational pathway.

HEI provides an assessment for under recognised physical health issues and complex and challenging needs, mental health, and possible overlap in all of these areas. The outcome of these assessments is to interpret the emotional and developmental health needs into the school environment.

Referral to HEI:

Referral to HEI is from the school site and is required to be signed by the Principal/ Director and the Child's Parent/ Caregiver.

What will happen next:

Once the referral has been received, a health professional from Health Education Interface will contact teachers, parents/caregivers about behavioural concerns, health needs, disability information and class room engagement.

From there, with the appropriate consents, HEI may contact other allied health/medical/and behavioural professionals who work with the child. HEI also offer school visits, home visits and meetings with service providers may also be required.

HEI does not replace existing health services, such as psychiatry, psychology, allied health and the general practitioner but we will work together in supporting the student/teachers.

HEI will assess the physical, developmental and educational aspects to work towards understanding the child's unique presentation. To achieve this, a, medical consultant, mental health nurse, disability psychiatrist or other HEI staff may be involved.

Sharing information with care providers:

Parental/guardian consent is necessary to allow us to share information with the key professionals that provide support to the child.

This is important as it makes for the best outcomes. This will be explained in detail with you at the time of first contact with HEI.

How HEI works with you:

Recommendations from HEI will be shared with schools and parents to support both the student and teachers in the education setting.

Our service goals:

HEI will support teachers and education sites to better understand the emotional support needs of students in the context of having a developmental disability.

HEI will work with schools to interpret behavioural responses in the light of the developmental disability profile within the classroom so that the student can continue to learn.

We will liaise with school staff and parents/caregivers to maximise the time spent at school and to help minimise any disability related behaviours that may inhibit learning or attending school.

For more information

**Health Education Interface
Disability Services
PO Box 2068
Hilton Plaza
HILTON SA 5033
Telephone: (08) 8159 9400**

www.wch.sa.gov.au/services/az/other/allied/disability/

Non-English speaking: for information in languages other than English, call the interpreting and Translating Centre and ask them to call The Department of Health. This service is available at no cost to you, contact (08) 8226 1990.



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Health Education Interface

Providing Behavioural
Health Support in
Education for students with
disability and complex
needs

Information for parents
caregivers and schools