

Alcohol and other drugs education program

Education is one of the components that can create social and cultural change in attitudes to alcohol usage. It is through education that responsible behaviour and social expectations can be examined to reduce alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour and address safety issues.

Alcohol and other drugs education program

Schools are well positioned to make a difference by providing students with opportunities to learn through alcohol and other drugs education.

With this in mind, the Department of Education and Training, together with the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority developed an *Alcohol and other drugs education program* aimed at students in Years 7 to 12.

Principals in consultation with the school community make decisions about how the program is implemented. The materials for Years 7 to 10 students align with the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education and can be delivered as part of the curriculum or as part of a school's pastoral care program. Years 11 and 12 materials are designed as a stand-alone pastoral care program.

The program is based on the principles of harm minimisation – a preventative approach that encourages non-use; reduces risks associated with use; and promotes healthier, alternative behaviours.

The *Alcohol and other drugs education program* has been designed to develop students' awareness and understanding of the impacts and consequences of alcohol and other drug use and to increase students' capacity to make responsible, safe and informed decisions.

The content and approaches in the program are based on drug education research and on best practice educational approaches. The program has been developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders and experts in the field.

Approach

Teachers of Years 7 to 12 students are supported by online materials. These materials include information, teacher guidelines and resources for each year level with options for flexible delivery for approximately five hours per year level.

Students are taught about the culture, attitudes and social expectations of alcohol consumption, including the risk of binge drinking, illicit drug use, and alcohol and other drug-related violence.

The *Alcohol and other drugs education program* is informed by the Department's [Drug education and intervention](#) advice and supports the [Learning and Wellbeing Framework](#).

The program is available to all Queensland schools. The teaching resources are available online to state schools via the Learning Place and for non-state schools via Scootle, the National Digital Learning Resources Network managed by Education Services Australia.

Parents and caregivers

Importantly, the *Alcohol and other drugs education program* is not intended to replace the discussions students will have with their parents or caregivers.

The program has been designed recognising that schools are well-placed to provide information and education on this subject. There are many opportunities within the program for teachers to encourage discussion between students and their parents or caregivers.

Resources have also been developed to inform parents of the learning their child is undertaking as part of the program. These resources will support parents to reinforce this learning at home.

Release dates

Teacher guidelines and resources to support alcohol and other drugs education in schools for each year level from Year 7 to 12 are currently available.

More information about the Alcohol and other drugs education program is available on the Department's [website](#).