

Risks associated with climbing or hanging from structures

Fall Hazard

Serious injuries can and have resulted from students accessing/swinging and falling from structures such as covered walkways, supporting beams or stair enclosures.

It is recognised that these structures are not designed for climbing or accessing however strategies to manage foreseen misuse must be implemented.



Who has a responsibility for managing the risk of falls?

There is a joint responsibility for managing the risk of falls:

- The Department is responsible for maintaining a safe and healthy work environment
- The Principal or their delegate, in consultation with health and safety representatives and employees is responsible for identifying, assessing and controlling risks
- Employees must take reasonable care for their own health and safety and the safety of others.

What are schools to do?

- Identify and report hazards in MyHR Workplace Health and Safety.
- Assess the risk and implement reasonably practicable controls which may include:
 - Advising students that these structures are not to be accessed.
 - Providing consistent and ongoing reminders to reinforce appropriate behavior through school based resources e.g. newsletters, Student Code of Conduct
 - Ensuring adequate supervision supports and enforces appropriate behaviour.
- Discuss ongoing risks and their controls at HSW Committee meetings or forums to ensure they are working as planned.

Further information

- When a WHS hazard has been identified and local mitigations do not resolve a potential risk, redesign of relevant school facilities may be possible to minimise intentional and foreseen misuse. Contact your local [Organisational Safety and Wellbeing Consultant](#) or the [Regional Infrastructure Services](#) team should you wish to discuss available options.