
Condom Provision Policy (2024 - 2026)



<i>Date implemented</i>	17 June 2024
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<i>Date to be reviewed</i>	June 2027
<i>To be reviewed by</i>	Principal
<i>References</i>	Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide
<i>Approved by</i>	School Council
<i>Date</i>	17 June 2024

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Blaise'.

Purpose

To recognise the importance of ensuring students develop into sexually healthy adults and engage in safe sex practices, Castlemaine Secondary College supports the delivery of comprehensive sexual health education programs, which may include the provision of condoms from nominated staff of the Wellbeing Team. Castlemaine Secondary College recognises that while it is unable to regulate or control the sexual activities of its students, it has a role to play in the education and promotion of safer sex practices.

Objective

To explain to Castlemaine Secondary College parents, carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students to develop into sexually healthy adults and engage in safe practices.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers
- all students at Castlemaine Secondary College

Policy

Castlemaine Secondary College understands the important role our school plays in providing comprehensive sexual health education programs and ensuring students engage in safe sex practices. This policy should be read with the following Castlemaine Secondary College's policies: Mandatory Reporting

- Child Safe Standards
- Duty of Care
- Mature Minor

- School Nursing Guidelines

Age of Consent

In Victoria, the age of consent is 16. Consent to a sexual activity with a person who is between the ages of 12 – 15 can be a defense to sexual crimes if both people are 12 or over, and the difference in age is less than 2 years.

A person who is under the age of 12 can never consent to sexual activity.

C-Card Program

The C-Card Program is a program developed and implemented by Mount Alexander Shire Council Youth Services, Dhelkaya Community Health, Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH) and Castlemaine Secondary College. A C-Card is a card provided to young people in the Mount Alexander Shire Region who have undergone an education session with a C-Card Provider so that they can access free condoms.

Young people wanting a C-card must attend an education session with either the Community Health Nurse or a member of the CSC Student Wellbeing Team. This education session will establish if the young person is a mature minor and will cover:

- Consent and healthy relationships.
- STI identification and prevention, including where and how to access support.
- Safer sex, including a demonstration on safe condom usage, disposal and what to do if you encounter problems.

At the end of this session the young person can be provided with a C-Card. They can then access C-Packs which contain condoms, lubricant and information from a range of locations in the Shire for free.

PROCEDURES FOR TEACHERS AND OTHER SCHOOL STAFF

Castlemaine Secondary College teachers and other school staff must direct students requesting access to condoms to the nominated staff of the Wellbeing Team. In instances where access to a nominated staff member of the Wellbeing Team is unavailable, staff must direct students to the most appropriate resource for information and condoms. In Castlemaine this service is called Dhelkaya Health (formerly CHIRP).

Dhelkaya Health (formerly CHIRP):

Spencely House,
Castlemaine Health,
142 Cornish Street,
Castlemaine VIC 3450
5479 1000

PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NURSE

As per the Victorian school nursing guidelines, the school nurse may provide individual students with a confidential health assessment, referral and support, including condom provision, based on the students individual needs.

For students who indicate an interest in the c-card program, the school nurse will direct students to a nominated wellbeing staff member

PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATED WELLBEING STAFF

If a student requests access to condoms, the student will be required to meet with a nominated member of the Wellbeing Team who has been trained in sexual health education. Alternatively they could be referred to the School Nurse or Community Health Nurse, where the Wellbeing Team member is unable to provide an appointment due to time or case load constraints.

The student must then participate in an education session with the nominated member of the Wellbeing Team. This education session would establish whether the student is a [mature minor](#) for the purpose of engaging in a sexual health education session and then discuss the following topics:

- Consent and healthy relationships.
- STI identification and prevention, including where and how to access support.
- Safe sex including a demonstration on safe condom usage, disposal and what to do. At the end of the session, the student would be provided with their first C-Pack (containing condoms, lubricant, info etc) and a C-Card. Students can access subsequent packs from a number of service providers within the community including Mount Alexander Shire Youth Services, Dhelkaya Health, and CSC Wellbeing Team.

For students below the age of 16 years

Each time they access a C-Pack, a hole is punched in their C-Card by the service provider, to indicate the number of times the student has accessed a C-Pack. After 5 C-Packs have been provided to the student, they will need to meet again with a C-Card provider (i.e. Sexual Health Nurse in the Community) and participate in a review session.

C-Card Review Session

The C-Card Review Session allows for follow up conversations with sexual health practitioners to check in with the young persons sexual health and wellbeing and link them in with support where needed. At this stage the student can be given another C-Pack and a new C-card.

For young people aged 16 years and over:

They can continue to access free condoms without the need for a follow up session with a sexual health practitioner.

Process for students who are deemed not to be of Mature Minor status

Where a nominated staff member is unable to establish that a young person is of [Mature Minor](#) status, staff are required to:

1. Seek a secondary consultation from another member of the Wellbeing Team, the School Nurse or Community Health Nurse regarding their concerns;
2. Explain the reason for their decision to not provide access to condoms to the young person;
3. Refer them to other services where they can access sexual health information and resources, such as the Community Health Nurse at Dhelkaya Health;
4. Provide them with information on how they can access condoms outside of the school community;
5. At all times, follow the 'Reporting Child Sexual Harm flowchart (Mandatory Reporting Flowchart) and if appropriate, make a mandatory report.

IMPORTANT GUIDANCE FOR NOMINATED WELLBEING STAFF PROVIDING CONDOMS

If a student approaches a nominated officer for a condom, the nominated Wellbeing Team staff member must adhere to the following procedures:

- Always inform the student that their request for a condom is kept confidential (unless a report is being made to relevant authorities due to concern of harm or exploitation).
- Where appropriate, encourage the student to talk to their parents about their relationship and sexual activity.
- Ensure the student has knowledge of the responsibilities and risks associated with sexual behavior e.g. unwanted pregnancy, STIs.
- Provide only a single C-Pack to the student.
- For students under 16 years of age, always ensure a hole is punched in the C-Card to indicate receipt of a C-Pack.
- If a student is under the age of 16 and the student discloses, or it is found that the sexual partner is greater than 24 months older or 24 months younger than the student, a mandatory report must be made, regardless of whether or not the sexual activity is consensual.
- At all times, follow the 'Reporting Child Sexual Harm flowchart (Mandatory Reporting Flowchart) and if appropriate, make a mandatory report.

C-PACK CONTENTS:

- an instruction leaflet and list of resources / service providers where they can obtain free condoms and sexual health checks
- 5 - 10 Condoms and/or dental dams as required
- Water based lubricant

COST OF PROGRAM

The Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH) provides free condoms, lubricant and other resources as required, at no cost to the school.

Further Information and Resources

School Policy and Advisory Guide:

Review Cycle

This policy was last updated 29 November 2023 and is scheduled for review in October 2025.