

Disclosure Statement to Students

Counselling at Mater Christi College – Things You Should Know

The College provides counselling services for its students as part of its pastoral care program. These are provided through Psychologists employed by the College.

Students are encouraged to make use of these services if they need assistance. There are however a number of things that students and their parents should know before accessing the counselling service.

1. Records will be made of counselling sessions and because the counsellor is an employee, those records belong to the College, not the counsellor. Psychologists are required to keep health records of any students who attend the counselling centre. These records are kept in a locked filing cabinet, and will remain at the college until the student reaches the age of 25 years, after which time they are destroyed. College Psychologists are the only staff members who are legally entitled to access the counselling files, unless they are required by a court.
2. The College is very conscious of the need for confidentiality between Psychologist and student. However at times it may be necessary for the Psychologist to divulge the contents of discussions or records to the Principal, if the Principal or the Psychologist considers it necessary for the student's safety, in order to discharge the College's duty of care to the student.
3. Where a disclosure is made it would be limited to those who need to know, unless the student explicitly consents to some wider information sharing. Where possible, the student will be kept informed about what information is shared and to whom, if a disclosure is deemed necessary
4. The fact that a student has attended counselling (but not the reason why) will also be known by the Wellbeing Team, along with the classroom teacher for attendance purposes.

We emphasise that disclosures (if any) would be very limited. However if a student is not prepared to use the counselling services on the basis set out above the student will need to obtain counselling services from outside the College.