

Morwell (Tobruk Street) Primary School HEADLICE POLICY

Responsibility: School Council

Reviewed:

Background:

Head Lice is a problem which continues to cause concern and frustration for parents, teachers, children and members of the school community.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy document is to;

- Detail the minimum steps required by all school community members to effectively manage head lice;
- Detail the responsibilities of the whole school community and expectations of the school community in dealing with head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner;
- To provide a clear and consistent head lice procedure for the school community to follow; and
- Clearly communicate to all members of the school community that compliance with this policy is **not optional**.

Responsibility of all members of the school community:

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist families to manage head lice effectively.

In order to work in a cooperative and collaborative manner all members of the school community will;

- Exercise tolerance and understanding to avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures;
- Behave in a responsible manner, maintaining respect for all parties when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice; and
- Agree to follow this school's head lice procedure.

Responsibility of Parents and Carers:

- Check the hair of students and children attending this school at home for head lice on a weekly basis, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method;
- Ensure your child does not attend school with untreated head lice, in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001;
- Notify the school if your child is found to have live lice and when the appropriate treatment has commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001);
- Check the hair of all household members at regular intervals and treat if necessary;
- Urge your children with long hair (defined as shoulder length or longer) to attend school with their hair tied back;

- Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice as detailed in fact sheet;
- Notify the parents or carers of your child's friends so they have an opportunity to detect head lice quickly and treat their children if necessary; and
- Agree to be bound by the head lice policy of this school as part of your child's enrolment.

Responsibility of Morwell (Tobruk Street) Primary School:

- Provide a school-based community run head lice program based on information sourced from parents and staff.
- Ensure that all families attending this school sign onto an 'agreement' accepting their requirement to be bound by the school's head lice policy;
- Obtain written consent each school year from families for head lice inspections and only inspect the heads of children whose parents or carers have given consent;
- Respect the wishes of parents or families who choose not to participate in the school head lice program whilst ensuring adequate controls remain in place;
- Provide a letter to all children involved when class inspections are conducted to assist in maintaining the confidentiality of students and families;
- Only exclude children from school who have live insects;
- Accept the notification from parents that appropriate treatment has commenced;
- Ensure that any person engaged in the head lice program adhere to this policy and Department of Human Services information and Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001;
- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff as it becomes available;
- Make information available about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families or staff attending the school;
- Educate children about head lice in order to prevent any stigma or 'bullying' associated with the issue;
- Include annual head lice updates for staff in-service programs; and
- Work with families who are experiencing real difficulties in order to obtain additional support where needed or escalate the matter further;

Further Information:

This document draws on information obtained from the Information Pamphlet and Management Guidelines 'Scratching for Answers?'

Periodical Review:

This policy will be reviewed every two years and endorsed by School Council.

Morwell (Tobruk Street) Primary School
Head Lice Program
PARENT NOTIFICATION

Today your child was screened at Morwell (Tobruk Street) Primary School as part of the head lice program and was found to have the following:

- Live Lice
- Dead Lice
- Louse eggs
- No evidence of lice or eggs found

Please return the slip below after treatment has commenced if your child was found to have live lice or eggs.

Under the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, children found with **live lice cannot be readmitted** to school until appropriate treatment for lice has commenced.

Noelle Burdekin
Acting Principal

Morwell (Tobruk Street) Primary School
Head Lice Program
Notification of Treatment

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

My child was screened on ___/___/20__ by the school based community run head lice program and was found to have live lice and/or eggs.

I have treated my child with _____ and he/she will be returning to school on ___/___/20__.

Parent's Name (Please print) _____
Parent's Signature _____
Date