**DISTANCE EDUCATION**

**Information for students with medical conditions**

|  |
| --- |
| The following information is provided to assist parents in deciding whether enrolment at a school of distance education is the most appropriate form of education to meet the needs of their child.  **Supervision and support**  The physical separation of teacher and student in distance education can be challenging for students and their families, particularly for new enrolments. In order for this form of learning to be rewarding and successful for the student, it is important that a strong partnership exists between the school and the home.  It is essential that an appropriate level of support and supervision is available at home. This supervision is to be provided by the home tutor, usually a parent. The home tutor must be able to:   * participate in induction programs and ongoing home tutor support activities * establish and maintain regular contact with the teacher(s) and the school, and advise of any changes to the student’s condition or other family circumstance which may impact on the student’s learning or ability to return school work on time * provide active on-site support and supervision of the student, ensuring that the student attends scheduled telephone or online lessons (unless the condition precludes this) and that work is completed in the allocated time * ensure the student has ready access to all necessary learning materials and resources, including an appropriate work area.   Distance education will be quite different to other forms of schooling in which the student may have participated. It is essential that the student is able to:   * establish and maintain contact with the teacher(s) * return completed work to the teacher(s) regularly * participate in field/extension services and extracurricular activities related to the student's course or year level, where these are conducted in or near where the student resides and are not precluded by the student’s condition.   **Services provided by the school of distance education**  The following services are provided by the school of distance education to students who cannot attend a mainstream school due to their medical condition/s:   * induction for the home tutor * school communication through a variety of channels including face-to-face, prospectus, handbook, course outline, newsletters and web pages * provision of print and digital course materials * assessment and reporting on returned work * scheduled telephone and, where appropriate and available, online lessons, plus as-required support by telephone, fax or email to meet educational needs * access to library and resource centre services, providing resources in hard copy, on disk, or by internet * guidance and special needs support * access to a range of field services appropriate to the course of study, as determined by the school in consultation with the school community * subsidies to assist families with the cost associated with providing computer technology for the home classroom.   Individual schools of distance education may also provide additional services based on resourcing capacity and in line with the needs of the school community.  **Fee exemption** Students who cannot attend a mainstream state school for more than 80 consecutive school days due to health reasons may apply for an exemption from the distance education fee when they submit a medical certificate (dated within the last 12 months) stating this fact. The medical certificate must be signed by a medical practitioner or a person registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law to practise in the psychology profession, other than as a student. |