DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

RATIONALE
Drug Education is a joint responsibility between school, home and the broader community. Drug Education will be provided at all levels of schooling through our Integrated Curriculum and will include effective drug education curriculum as well as resilience education, problem solving skills and appropriate coping strategies. Drug Education will be based on a Harm Minimisation approach. Effective Drug Education involves a whole school approach and a wide range of learning and teaching activities.

AIMS
- Ensure that Drug Education will focus on a prevention model.
- Provide all students with a comprehensive, age appropriate drug education curriculum, that is drug specific in relation to knowledge, skills and information.
- Ensure that drug education is embedded across all key curriculum learning areas.
- Ensure that resilience education forms a strong basis for drug education.
- Promote the personal safety of students in their social environment.

IMPLEMENTATION
- Effective drug education is based on the principles of harm minimisation and is consistent with the national Principles for School Drug Education. Schools should deliver 10 hours of drug education per year level, per year. Regional senior program officers provide assistance with planning and delivery.
- Patterson Lakes Primary School will establish a core team of teachers and community members to develop and oversee the implementation of a cross-curricula drug education program.
- A specific drug education curriculum will be provided for each year level.
- Appropriate resources will be used to enhance the curriculum eg. Get Real, Get Wise and other Australian Government resources.
- Drug Education will adopt a Harm Minimisation approach.
- Drug Education will be inclusive of resilience education and will encompass problem solving skills and appropriate coping strategies at all year levels.
- The school will develop a network base of community agencies, e.g. local councils, which may assist in the implementation of an effective drug education program.
- Professional development will be provided to ensure staff feel confident in delivering drug education.
- DEECD regional Drug Education consultants will be used as a resource.
- The school will provide information sessions for parents around drug education including such programs as Life Education, Talking Tactics Together and Creating Conversations.

REFERENCES
www.druginfo.adf.org.au

EVALUATION
This policy will be reviewed with student, parent and community input as part of the school’s 3 year Individual School Drug Education Strategy (ISDES) review process. Guidelines are updated annually and/or as per DEECD recommendations.

CERTIFICATION
This policy was ratified at the School Council Meeting held at Patterson Lakes Primary School, September 2012.

Signed………………………………………………… Signed………………………………………………
School Council President Principal

Last Updated: September 2012