

# EAST PARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PROCEDURES : DEALING WITH SUSPECTED HEAD LICE AT SCHOOL

---

1. If a student is suspected of having an infestation of headlice

Procedure: The student's parents are contacted to advise them. Head lice notes are sent home to the class that the student is a member of.

2. If the school receives advice that headlice has been detected in a class

Procedure: The class receives headlice notes on the day of notification to be sent home that day if possible.

### Head lice notes :

Alert parents that headlice have been detected in their child's class.

Ask that parents check their child's hair and ask that treatment be carried out if detected.

Ask that all eggs be removed.

Asking that treatment be followed up in 7 days.

Ask that hair be continually checked for the next 2 weeks.

### HEADLICE INFORMATION

Brochures received from the department on prevention and treatment are regularly sent out to all families. At least twice a year.

For more information about treating and controlling head lice see:

Head lice: prevention and treatment  – SA Health

Healthy heads  – Department of Health and the Department for Education and Child Development. on the following website

<http://www.sa.gov.au/subject/Education%2C+skills+and+learning/Health%2C+wellbeing+and+special+needs/Health+conditions/Headlice>

## ADDENDUM TO ABOVE POLICY

EMAIL RECEIVED FEBRUARY 2013 FROM HEATHER ASHMEADE, POLICY ADVISOR  
WELLBEING:PHYSICAL HEALTH STUDENTS, ABORIGINAL AND FAMILY SERVICES (SAFS)DECD

---

**DECD's current policy on head lice management:** Contact the parent/emergency contact person to arrange for the child to be checked and treated as soon as possible. Parents are not required to collect their children if they are infested with (suspected) live lice before the end of the school day. The child should not be isolated but be able to participate in the class activities...it is advised that these children are not involved in activities that include hair to hair / head to head contact. It is desirable to meet the parent/guardian when they pick the child up to offer advice and explain the requirement to treat the child before he/she returns to school. Notify parents of other children in the class/school that there is a suspected case(s) of head lice in the community.

DECD staff are not expected to do mass head lice checks: if sites choose to, the following points need consideration: the privacy and dignity of each child...e.g. how will staff ensure that students who have been identified as possibly being infested with head lice are not identified by peers / privacy when being checked, particularly older children / the risk of cross infestation during check e.g. if heads are being touched gloves should be changed between checks even if head lice aren't detected as eggs can be overlooked...head lice/eggs can be easily transferred from head to head by fingers/rulers during checks / informed parental consent is required as well as verbal consent of the child. The success of mass head lice checks relies on families following up with treatment.

The Department of Health has 2 information sheets for families on <http://www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/branches/headlice/headlice-index.htm> Printed copies may be available.

Information on DECD policy re management of head lice is available on

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/speced2/pages/health/infestationHeadLice/>

Heather Ashmeade

Policy Advisor Wellbeing: Physical Health

Student, Aboriginal & Family Services (SAFS) DECD

Ph: 08 82260974

[heather.ashmeade@sa.gov.au](mailto:heather.ashmeade@sa.gov.au)