

### Purpose of this policy

To enable students needing continence care to attend school.

### Prerequisite policy

- [Personal Care Support](#).

### Policy

Schools must support students requiring continence care.

(Note: This policy does not cover young children for whom continence care is routine related to their age and level of development.)

**Incontinence definition:** Incontinence is the lack of control over bowel or bladder functions and can be caused by:

- medical conditions such as:
  - gastroenteritis, causing short term incontinence
  - lack of bowel nerve function, causing long term incontinence
- medical intervention, such as a side effect of medication
- development delay or physical and intellectual disability
- life experience such as behaviour associated with a history of abuse
- lack of learning opportunity.

### Actions

This information below describes how schools should assist students who need continence care.

<b>Action</b>	Schools should request the student's medical/health practitioner completes a Personal Care Medical Advice Form – Continence including recommendations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the nature and extent of predictable routine or regular support required</li></ul>
<b>Request advice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• management of unplanned events</li><li>• catheter management, if required.</li></ul>

**Action**

Schools should

See:

- [Department resources](#)
- Health Support Planning Forms within [Related policies](#)
- develop a Student Health Support Plan which details family and school staff roles and responsibilities

See: Health Care Needs within [Related policies](#)

**Plan**

- where appropriate use a Toileting Care and Learning Plan to involve students in step-by step toileting processes to:
  - self-manage toileting tasks, if possible
  - acknowledge learnings that occur

See:

- [Department resources](#)
- Health Support Planning Forms within [Related policies](#)

**Provide equipment**

- provide equipment to support continence care, if required, such as hoists and slings.

See: Facilities within [Related policies](#)

**Related policies**

- [Health Care Needs](#)
- [Health Support Planning Forms](#)
- [Facilities](#)
- [Personal Care Support](#)