

## P32 STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

Overseer: PBC Dean of Students  
 Approval Authority: PBC Board of Management  
 Review Schedule: 3 yearly                      Next Review Due: Jul 2020

Review Table			
Date	Review Type <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled</li> <li>• Policy amendment</li> <li>• Admin update</li> </ul>	Summary of Changes	Review person/group
03/07/2014	Initial Issue		Adam Niven Gillian Dixon PBC BoM
28/07/17	Scheduled		Teaching & Learning Committee

### Preamble

PBC supports the wellbeing of students and staff members and provides support for members of the PBC community with mental health difficulties and mental illness in relation to academic endeavours. PBC recognises that there is an increase in those affected by mental health conditions, the diverse nature of mental health conditions and the varying impact they may have on different people. PBC supports students through providing equitable access to all its courses and programs. PBC will take all reasonable steps to provide accommodation for any mental health conditions to the extent that:

- the student continues to meet enrolment requirements
- the academic standing of the college is maintained;
- a safe college community is maintained.

PBC is committed to protecting the rights of students and staff with mental health conditions and this policy is designed to enable PBC:

- To provide appropriate support to individuals who require services
- To provide support to students/staff/peers
- To ensure the ongoing safety of the college community and campus grounds.

Students and staff are encouraged to disclose any condition that may impact their involvement in study and community life at PBC. PBC will welcome assessments and guidance from medical and other experts in providing reasonable accommodations to enable equitable access.

Those who choose to disclose personal information are assured that:

- it will only be used for the purpose it has been disclosed
- other persons will only be informed with the full knowledge and consent of the student.

PBC has no obligation to accommodate any mental health condition not disclosed on application to the College. PBC has no obligation to accommodate relating to a time prior to disclosure should a student chose to disclose at a later point.

## **1. Fitness for Study**

- 1.1. PBC recognises that individuals suffering from a mental health condition may exhibit behaviours which can potentially create an unsafe environment or impact negatively on the activities of themselves or others.
- 1.2. An individual whose behaviour/s may indicate that they are experiencing a mental health condition are to be referred to the College Chaplain for review.
- 1.3. PBC reserves the right, in these circumstances, and at the approval of the College Chaplain to request that the individual provide the College with a medical assessment of their current mental health condition to demonstrate their ongoing fitness for study.
- 1.4. Any assessment would need to include:
  - 1.4.1. A professional opinion indicating that the student is/is not currently able to continue with studies
  - 1.4.2. Any support measures that may be required to enable a student to manage their condition whilst undertaking studies
  - 1.4.3. A period for review and re-evaluation.
- 1.5. All reports would be kept within the confidential personal student file of the student.
- 1.6. All further actions and accommodations would be made in line with the medical assessment, support requirements and review period.
- 1.7. All measures to provide appropriate care and support would be recorded in a mental health care plan for the student. This plan would be monitored and reviewed by the College Chaplain. This plan would outline the responsibilities of the College and the student.

- 1.8. PBC may review the behaviours against the Student Code of Conduct and apply any appropriate penalties as per the policy under the following circumstances:
- a student is requested to provide an assessment of their current mental health and refuses to either undergo an assessment or provide this information;
  - the results are not provided within a reasonable agreed timeframe and contact with the student has not been possible for a period of 5 working days;
  - the student has failed to meet their responsibilities of the agreed mental health care plan and contact with the student has not been possible for a period of 5 working days;
  - The student refuses to continue to meet their responsibilities of the agreed mental health care plan.

## 2. Crisis Situations

- 2.1. A mental health crisis situation may be any of the following types of situations:
- 2.1.1. Someone is threatening to harm themselves or others
  - 2.1.2. Someone is acting in a highly distressed or agitated manner
  - 2.1.3. Someone is suicidal
  - 2.1.4. Someone is acting in a significantly abnormal manner, or appears "out of touch with reality"
- 2.2. In such circumstances, the following procedure should be followed:
- 2.2.1. Ensuring your own safety/the safety of others as a priority
  - 2.2.2. If anyone is in immediate danger, emergency services (000) should be contacted.
  - 2.2.3. If there no one in danger, but immediate external assistance is required, either of the following should be contacted:
    - Mental Health Emergency Services: 1300 555 788 (24 hours): emergency mental health assessments and support.
    - Crisis Care: 9233 1111 (24 hours): crisis support and counselling
  - 2.2.4. If there is no one in danger, and immediate external assistance is not required, during business hours the College office should be contacted (request College Chaplain) 9243 2000.
  - 2.2.5. After the incident, all mental health crisis situations should be reported to the College Chaplain. The College Chaplain will be able to provide assistance in debriefing and sourcing an appropriate counselling service if required.