

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Referral Information for Educators

Please note: If the young person is at acute risk of harming themselves or others, please contact emergency services on 000. If the student has left the school site and you have concerns about their welfare call the police on 131 444.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is a community-based tertiary mental health service as part of the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN) across South Australia. We provide care to mothers in the perinatal period, infants, children, and young people up to the age of 16 (up to 18 in some regions) and their families, with severe and complex emotional, behavioural, or mental health difficulties.

If you are concerned that a student is experiencing mental health difficulties, please encourage the young person and/or their carer to seek advice from their General Practitioner or current mental health service provider. They are best placed to provide a mental health assessment and support in the first instance. Referrals are not generally accepted directly from parents or carers; however, if they do contact our teams, their concerns will be heard and assessed. Where possible and appropriate, referral enquiries will be respectfully redirected to their GP or primary health care provider.

CAMHS also recognises that access to GPs and mental health support in some areas of South Australia is limited, so referral pathways remain flexible. This means that educators and school counsellors can contact CAMHS, preferably with the consent of the Young Person or Legal Guardian (if under the age of 16). Your local school and departmental leadership teams will also be able to provide further advice and support.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to call our referral and intake service, CAMHS Connect, but may also wish to contact an Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Worker directly via their local CAMHS Community team. We also continue to work with local Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and Aboriginal Community Groups to strengthen the existing culturally sensitive ways to detect consumers with serious mental health concerns.

For more information in relation to our service, please refer to our website <https://www.wchn.sa.gov.au/our-network/camhs>.

For referral enquiries please contact the CAMHS CONNECT Referral and Intake Service on 1300 222 647 or via fax (08) 84296184.

The Women's and Children's Health Network acknowledges Aboriginal People as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of Country throughout South Australia. We acknowledge and respect their ongoing and deep spiritual connection and relationship to land, air, sea, water, community, and country. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

