



## College Psychologist/Counsellor

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### Position Description

Brigidine College inspires girls to value learning, to be true to themselves and to honour their spiritual heritage. It challenges young women to act in the world with strength and gentleness.

The College recognises the integral role played by the College Psychologist/Counsellor in the life of the school. The College Psychologist/Counsellor will have responsibility for the wellbeing of students and assist staff and parents in their care. Staff at Brigidine College have professional and personal attributes that enable them to share their knowledge with others with a view to improve their practice. They successfully involve themselves in initiatives that make a positive contribution to the quality of teaching and learning, student wellbeing and cocurricular involvement in their school.

**Reports to:** Director Student Wellbeing

### Mission

The College Psychologist/Counsellor will demonstrate commitment to the Catholic ethos and spiritual life of the College by:

- supporting the religious rites, practices and ethos of the Catholic faith
- supporting the Brigidine tradition and heritage in the daily life of the College

### Position Purpose

The College Psychologist/Counsellor provides individual student counselling and family and group counselling when required at the College. With a clear understanding of health issues facing young women, they work with empathy to build a strong connection with the young people in their care. They work as key members of the Pastoral team within the framework of an Independent Catholic Girl's College and are knowledgeable of the legislation that impacts on their meetings and discussion with the students and their families.

### Key Responsibilities

- Conduct meetings with students and parents to assist in issues relating to:
  - student wellbeing and adolescent development
  - ongoing health issues
  - referral to appropriate external agencies and private practitioners
  - psychological assessment and student behaviour management within the College

- conflict resolution skills, assertiveness, problem solving, stress management and relaxation skills
- Assist in providing a safe and supportive environment for student development in a College climate of positive education and a focus on student wellbeing to support their learning
- Organise counselling sessions that are responsive to the daily and ongoing needs of students ensuring the requirements of privacy legislation are met where possible and also working within Child Protection Guidelines
- Hold regular discussions and meetings with other members of the Pastoral Team to transfer information and follow up on students and meet regularly with the Director Student Wellbeing to discuss significant student matters and students at risk within the College
- As appropriate discuss strategies with the Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning that can positively support learning
- Encourage positive relationships with parents, teachers, peers and other important people in the student's life
- Encourage a belief in the student's uniqueness and her personal strengths
- Provide support for teachers in the management of student health concerns assisting in building the capacity of pastoral staff to support student wellbeing

#### **Relationships**

- Director Student Wellbeing
- Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning
- Year Coordinators
- Teaching Staff
- Mentors
- Students
- Parents
- Principal and College Leadership Team.

#### **Experience and Qualification Requirements**

- Relevant qualifications and registration with a professional body is essential - the Psychologist must be registered as a Psychologist with AHPRA and be eligible for membership of the Australian Psychological Society or as a Counsellor with an equivalent professional body
- Practical experience working with adolescents and their families, with experience in a school context as advantage
- Knowledge of key issues in managing mental health within a secondary school environment
- Effective skills in empathy, listening, and supporting people in times of difficulty and emotional stress
- Effective communication with the College community with excellent written and oral communication skills