

## **Drug Education**

Drug Education at Parramatta High School is delivered through a structured, sequential learning program across all years.

Students are given the opportunity to discuss drug related issues and develop decision making skills that will allow them to make the correct decisions regarding the use of legal and illicit drugs. They are taught about the harms that can arise from drug use and the effects of specific drugs on their physical, social and emotional health. We also investigate the effects of drug use on the community. They explore the concept of risk and the factors that influence risk taking, particularly in relation to drugs. They devise and describe strategies to minimize harm from drug use.

There are different focuses in each Year.

**Year 7:** Definition and classifications of drugs, reasons for drug use, misuse and use of medication, effects of tobacco

**Year 8:** Effects of alcohol and cannabis

**Year 9:** Effects of other illicit drugs eg ecstasy, cocaine, marketing and media influences associated with tobacco and alcohol use

**Year 10:** Alcohol and driving, risks associated with drug use and celebrations.

Parents are informed on the content of the program through the School Newsletter and are encouraged to provide feedback on the program.

A variety of different resources and learning materials are provided for our students to enhance their learning. Drama productions were also provided for our students in Year 10 and 11 that added to their understanding of how to make correct decisions regarding drug use.

The Crossroads program in Year 11 focused on drug issues particularly relevant to senior students. This program was conducted at a camp for the majority of our students and at school for those students unable to attend the camp. We were assisted with this by Think Twice (a brain injury prevention unit from Westmead Hospital), Inforeal presenters and also Life Education