
ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

St Catherine's College is committed to the provision of a safe, healthy and productive environment. The College has a strong focus on the prevention of harm from alcohol and other drugs by having clear rules in place regarding use and possession. This policy sets out the principles that guide the College's management of alcohol and other drugs by residents, staff, contractors and visitors.

The health and well-being of the College residents is our major concern and all alcohol, drugs and substances (both legal and illegal) are considered to be potentially harmful.

The College facilitates a healthy and safe residence and workplace in relation to alcohol and other drugs as follows:

- By fostering a safe and inclusive community that promotes event management to minimise harm and protect personal safety and security
- By ensuring an inclusive environment for residents and staff who choose not to consume alcohol
- By providing alternative events to on-campus parties and events where alcohol is available
- By providing training and a range of education and confidential support services for residents and staff with respect to the prevention and management of the negative effects of alcohol and other drugs
- By encouraging residents to take responsibility for the safety of one another
- By taking appropriate action if alcohol or drug use adversely affects the health, safety or wellbeing of an individual or group within the College or brings the College into disrepute.

RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE USE OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

St Catherine's College promotes moderation in the use of alcohol and a responsible attitude towards it in the College community. Any staff member or resident who experiences alcohol related problems will be provided with appropriate support and referral mechanisms.

The College works on the basic principle that the residents are adults and makes the responsibility for drug abuse and management the concern of the resident.

Residents who are over the age of 18 and who have chosen to consume alcohol are encouraged to drink responsibly and in moderation.

The College accepts legal alcohol, legal drug and legal substance use in moderation and provides information to residents on the levels of alcohol considered safe practice.

All alcohol, drugs and illegal substances are potentially dangerous if abused. Residents are encouraged to maintain their own safety and wellbeing as well as that of their friends. In the event of injury or risk of injury residents are encouraged to seek help from the College regardless of the circumstances.

Use of illegal drugs may offend other members of the College community. Those offended are entitled to make their complaints heard and such complaints will bring action from the College and will require changes of behaviour by the offender if they wish to remain in the College.

It is the obligation of the organiser of any function or entertainment to be held on the College property to uphold this policy.

ALCOHOL

The unlawful possession, use, purchase, or distribution of alcohol on College property or as part of any College activity is prohibited.

For any function conducted on College premises where alcohol is provided appropriately trained bar attendants are employed to ensure that:

- alcohol is not provided to anyone under the age of 18 years; and that
- alcohol is not provided to anyone who is, or appears to be intoxicated. If a person becomes abusive, College disciplinary procedures will apply.

Substantial food is to be provided at all functions where alcohol is served, and water and non-alcoholic beverages are to be made available.

In addition:

Functions which include any activities which encourage the excessive consumption of alcohol (a drinking contest, for example) are prohibited.

Advertisements for functions should not over-emphasise the availability of alcohol, refer to the amount of alcohol available or encourage in any way the excessive consumption of alcohol. In advertising, equal reference should be made to the availability of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Attendance at any function or entertainment should not be induced or encouraged by the offer of free alcoholic drinks or drinks at reduced prices.

It is the responsibility of the organiser of a function to ensure that, where security staff are employed, the security staff are not permitted to consume alcohol or to join in the social activities of the function. This includes functions where the Resident Advisors are assisting College staff in the provision of a safe event.

All common areas other than the M.E. Wood Room (Bridie's) are strictly alcohol-free zones.

Residents may drink in their rooms provided they are respectful of their neighbours.

DRUGS

“Drugs” are defined as including any substance that may result in physical, psychological or behavioural changes that may cause impaired performance and cover both licit medication (prescribed and non-prescribed) and illicit substances. Illegal Drugs or Controlled

Substances include all forms of narcotics, hallucinogens, depressants, sedatives, stimulants and other drugs whose possession, use or transfer is restricted or prohibited by law.

The College follows Federal and State laws pertaining to the use of legal and illegal substances. The College does not condone illegal drug use, nor will it protect users from the law. Drug abuse is considered to be a personal management and decision issue, but the College will provide information on safe use and reduction of harm, on the grounds that treatment for abuse and control of drug use are areas outside the College's resources and competence. Where use of illegal drugs is observed or trafficking is suspected, the College may rely on police or other appropriate resources to resolve the various problems identified.

Drugs ranging from over the counter headache remedies, herbal medicines, prescription drugs, cigarettes to alcohol and other substances are used widely in our community. The society in which we live defines legality and illegality and until the rules are changed the College must abide by the current laws. Residents identify their own priorities and recognise that the use of illegal drugs can result in permanent harm to one's reputation and career prospects. Any activity that detracts from the academic achievements of residents is contrary to the aims of the College. In addition:

The College does not condone the use of any prescribed drugs for purposes / by individuals other than those specified by a medical practitioner.

The unlawful possession, use, purchase, or distribution of illicit drugs, controlled substances (including stimulants, depressants, narcotics, or hallucinogenic drugs), or paraphernalia—or the misuse of prescription drugs, including sharing, procuring, buying, or using in a manner different from the prescribed use, or by someone other than the person for whom it was prescribed—is prohibited on College property or as part of any College activity.

All matters relating to drug use will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. While the College will always remain consistent with Australian law, its priority is the health and safety of residents. It will, when possible, facilitate members' access to services required to minimise harm and enable rehabilitation.

The College has a duty to protect the safety of all residents and will impose sanctions when necessary.

Visitors to College found to be using, selling or dealing illegal substances on site will be asked to leave and may be banned.

Trafficking or participating in trafficking in illegal drugs will result in the resident/s or staff being required to leave the College. The standard used will be less than that required for a criminal conviction and expulsion will be based on reasonable evidence that harm is being actively done to other members of the College community.

Any transgression of this policy may lead, but not be limited, to all or any of the following consequences:

- Being reported to the police
- Informing and consulting with sponsors/agents/others (e.g. parents of residents under 18)
- Suspension from College/providing service
- Expulsion from the College

SMOKING

The College is a completely smoke free environment. Smoking is not permitted on the premises, other than in the designated smoking area located on the corner of Winthrop Ave and Stirling Hwy. It is not permitted in any other outside areas, within any room of the building, including common rooms, foyers and guest accommodation rooms, or within the corridors or on balconies.

Residents caught violating smoking regulations will be fined and a breach notice issued.

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

- UWA alcohol and other drugs resources: <http://www.student.uwa.edu.au/experience/health/fit/tap>
- UWA Employee Assistance Program: <http://www.safety.uwa.edu.au/health-wellbeing/health/eap>
- Curtin alcohol and other drugs resources: <http://campaign.curtin.edu.au/thrive/alcohol-and-other-drugs/>
- Edith Cowan University Student Health and Support: <http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/student/support/student-health/self-help-resources/alcohol-smoking-and-other-drugs>
- Murdoch University Health Services: <http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Counselling/Where-else-to-get-help/>
- University of Notre Dame resources: <https://ucc.nd.edu/self-help/alcohol-addiction/>
- Alcohol Consumption guidelines: <https://drinkwise.org.au/>
- Online alcohol assessment: <https://www.thrivehealth.org.au/>
- The Alcohol and Drug Support Line: <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/alcoholanddrugsupportline>
- Support via phone, email and live chat: [Drug Aware](#)
- <https://adf.org.au/>
- Health information, advice and support: <https://alcoholthinkagain.com.au/>

AUTHORISATION

Head of College

Date

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