

Healthcare Access at School (HAAS) – *Information for families*

About HAAS

HAAS supports children who have a complex or invasive health care need to attend school through the provision of nurse-led care during school time. The nurse's role provides a link between parents and the school and ensures carers at the school have appropriate instruction and ongoing support.

What is complex and/or invasive care?

This generally refers to healthcare that involves a health procedure and use of equipment. This may include but is not limited to:

- Care of tracheostomy
- Provision of nutrition and/or medication via gastrostomy
- Catheterization at regular times during the day
- Oxygen therapy

How does HAAS work?

When a referral is received, the registered nurse, in partnership with the child's family and other health professionals, such as the doctor or diabetic educator, will assess the healthcare needs and develop a healthcare support plan. Using this plan, the nurse will provide instruction to the nominated school staff and ensure they have the required skills to provide your child's care. The nurse will provide regular follow up support and will liaise with the family and school staff as needed.

How do I access HAAS?

Referrals to the program are usually received from the school when the initial enrolment interview identifies a need. We encourage you to contact your school early if your child has a complex healthcare need.

Does the nurse provide first aid?

No. Nurses are not on site at the school at all times. Your child's school will have a first aid process that will be followed in the event first aid is required. If your child has a known health issue that requires first aid, a first aid plan will be developed by the school.

What if my child's healthcare need is not complex or invasive?

Many healthcare needs such as giving routine medication, or an asthma puffer are able to be managed within existing school processes. The nurse is happy to provide health information to the school when required.

Who provides the equipment for my child's healthcare?

Generally the equipment for healthcare at school is provided by the child's family. The nurse will discuss this with you and arrangements can be made with the school if the equipment is not easily transportable.