

# DET Contenance Policy

This policy outlines strategies that schools can adopt to support students needing continence care to attend school.

## Summary

- Schools must support students requiring continence care.
- It is recommended that schools develop a [Student Health Support Plan](#) which details family and school staff roles and responsibilities for students requiring continence care.
- To inform the [Student Health Support Plan](#), schools should request that the student's medical/health practitioner complete a [Toileting, Hygiene and Menstrual Health Management — Medical Advice Form](#).

## Details

Schools must support students requiring continence care.

This policy does not cover young children for whom continence care is related to their age and level of development.

A range of strategies and actions are available to schools to support students with continence care are outlined below.

### Strategies and actions schools may adopt

#### General

In general, children should be allowed to go to the toilet when they need to go or when a medical need has been identified.

#### Request advice

Schools should encourage parents or carers to seek professional advice on causes or management of persistent continence issues in cases where advice has not yet been sought.

#### Develop a plan

It is recommended that schools develop a Health Support Plan which details family and school staff roles and responsibilities.

To inform this plan, schools should request that the student's medical/health practitioner completes a [Personal Care Medical Advice Form — Incontinence](#).

Where appropriate, schools can use a [Personal Hygiene Learning Plan](#) to involve students in step-by-step toileting processes to:

- self-manage toileting tasks, if possible
- track students progression as it relates to toileting and personal care

Provide equipment

If it is a reasonable adjustment that the student requires, schools should provide equipment to support continence care, such as hoists and slings.

## Definitions

Incontinence

Incontinence is the lack of control over bowel or bladder functions and can be caused by:

- medical conditions such as gastroenteritis, causing short term incontinence
- lack of bowel nerve function, causing long term incontinence
- constipation, causing faecal soiling
- bladder over-activity, causing day wetting
- medical intervention, such as a side effect of medication
- development delay or physical and intellectual disability
- life experience such as behaviour associated with a history of abuse
- lack of learning opportunity

## Related policies

- [Health Care Needs](#)
- [Infectious Diseases](#)
- [Personal Hygiene](#)