

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania's Schools Program is to reduce risk to students with asthma and severe allergies as a result of these medical conditions.

The program is designed to be easily implemented by busy schools. It aims to:

- decrease the likelihood of a loss of life due to asthma and severe allergies
- decrease physical discomfort or mental anguish due to asthma and severe allergies.

HOW TO BECOME ACCREDITED. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

The first step to accreditation is to contact the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania to discuss the program and arrange a free staff information session. The session takes approximately 75 minutes.

After this session, the Principal signs off on the fact that the school will fulfil all criteria within a certain timeframe (30 days for Asthma Active and 90 days for Anaphylaxis Active).

When this timeframe has elapsed, it is assumed that the school has fulfilled all criteria unless the Asthma Foundation is informed to the contrary.

The school will then be sent a certificate of accreditation that is valid for three years.

At any time the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania reserves the right to conduct a program audit of an accredited school.

HOW TO JOIN THE PROGRAM AND FURTHER INFORMATION



CALL the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania on
1800 645 130
during business hours.



Or **EMAIL**
schools@asthmatas.org.au



Or **VISIT**
www.asthmatas.org.au
to find out more.

asthma
FOUNDATION OF TASMANIA

ASTHMA FOUNDATION OF TASMANIA'S SCHOOLS PROGRAM

A GUIDE FOR SCHOOL STAFF



asthma
ACTIVE

CERTIFIED

anaphylaxis
ACTIVE



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A PRACTICAL PROGRAM FOR BUSY SCHOOLS

The founding principle of the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania's Schools Program is that it should be substantial enough to reduce risk to students with asthma or severe allergies but easy enough to implement in all schools.

It is a practical response to the almost overwhelming pressure on school staff to implement extra programs. It is neither lip service nor is it an unwieldy set of criteria developed in an ivory tower.

We want schools to be able to easily implement the criteria underpinning the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania's Schools Program and believe that the more schools that can achieve this the better. Consequently, learning from our experience of administering the Asthma Friendly Schools Program, we have minimised paperwork and red tape.

ASTHMA IN SCHOOLS

Children with asthma have sensitive airways that, when exposed to certain triggers, make it hard for the child to breathe.

Asthma is one of the federal government's national health priority areas. It affects over 15,000 Tasmanian children. That means that in a class of 28 children, at least four will have asthma.

Apart from it being intensely traumatic to have an asthma attack – the victim is being suffocated by their own body – asthma can kill.



ANAPHYLAXIS IN SCHOOLS

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction. Peanuts, fish, shellfish and eggs are just a few of the things that can trigger anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis can be fatal. By definition, it will affect the respiratory and/or cardiovascular system and other parts of the body such as the skin or gut.

In any average-sized classroom today, there is a 25 per cent chance that at least one student will have this life threatening condition. The reality is that anaphylaxis rates in Australia are increasing dramatically, largely due to a five-fold increase in peanut allergies observed in young children during the past 10 years.



WHY IS THE PROGRAM COMBINING AWARENESS OF ASTHMA WITH ANAPHYLAXIS?

Combing the annals of modern western medicine, almost every person who has died from anaphylaxis has also suffered from uncontrolled asthma.

However, having said this, a person who has well-controlled asthma and also has anaphylaxis is at no greater risk of death from anaphylaxis than a person without asthma.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The program is an accreditation system comprising two levels:

Asthma Active

This entry-level accreditation is centred around asthma awareness. It concentrates on putting simple, practical measures in place to help children who have asthma. It is similar to the former Asthma Friendly Schools Program, except we have streamlined the system considerably.



Criteria for accreditation

1. Staff members have attended the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania's Schools Program information session.
2. There is sufficient equipment and basic information to enable staff to deal with asthma emergencies.
3. A reasonable effort has been made to find out which students have asthma and then to obtain, and keep on file, current records of their condition.
4. Students have ready access to asthma medication.

The accreditation is current for three years.

Anaphylaxis Active

This is the higher standard of accreditation that includes an anaphylaxis component.

Criteria for accreditation

1. Sufficient staff members have completed competency-based training in asthma and anaphylaxis management techniques appropriate to a school setting.
2. The school has sufficient information about each child known to have anaphylaxis to enable the staff to provide appropriate management.
3. Procedures are in place for the administration of emergency medication.

The accreditation is current for three years.

Please note: To be eligible for Anaphylaxis Active accreditation the school must first be Asthma Active.

