



**SUZANNE CORY HIGH SCHOOL
COUNSELLING SERVICES
CLIENT CONSENT FORM**

COUNSELLING: is a confidential process designed to help you address your concerns, come to a greater understanding of yourself, and learn effective personal and interpersonal coping strategies. It involves a relationship between you and a counsellor who has the desire and willingness to help you accomplish your individual goals. Counselling involves sharing sensitive, personal, and private information that may at times be distressing. The outcome of counselling is often positive; however, the level of satisfaction for any individual is not predictable. Your counsellor is available to support you throughout the counselling process. *It is not within the parameters of Student Support Staff to provide a clinical diagnosis. If, during the course of our work together, it is mutually agreed that diagnostic clarification is appropriate and/or would be beneficial, you will be referred to the appropriate service.*

COMMUNICATION: All communication with Student Support Staff is to be via your Suzanne Cory High School student email address.

CONFIDENTIALITY: The content of your sessions, progress in counselling, and your counselling records and notes are confidential and securely stored. No record of counselling is contained in any academic, educational, or job placement file. In the event a referral to an external agency is required, your consent will be sought per (Department of Health 'Consent to Share Information Form'). No audio recording is to occur either on the part of the counsellor or the client.

EXCEPTIONS TO CONFIDENTIALITY:

- If there is evidence of clear and imminent danger of harm to self and/or others, a counsellor is legally required to report this information to the principals, head of house, caregivers and authorities responsible for ensuring safety.
- Australian mandatory reporting law requires that any counselling staff who learn of, or strongly suspect, physical or sexual abuse or neglect of any person towards you must report this information to child protection authorities.
- A court order, issued by a judge, may require the counselling staff to release information contained in records and/or require a counsellor to testify in a court hearing.
- The counselling staff work as a team. Your counsellor may consult with other counselling staff to provide the best possible care and obtain secondary consultation.

We appreciate prompt arrival for appointments. Please email us if you are not able to make it, we can reschedule another appointment. Please do not use counselling as a mean to skip classes or avoid any school activities. You have the option to withdraw counselling services at any point of time, a discussion with the counsellor is recommended before withdrawing from counselling services.

I (name) _____ have read and discussed the above information with my counsellor. I understand the risks and benefits of counseling, the nature and limits of confidentiality, and what is expected of me as a client of the Counselling Services.

Signature of Client: _____

Date: _____