Government of **Western Australia**
Child and Adolescent Health Service
WA Country Health Service

Community Health Nurses working with primary schools

Who are the Community Health Nurses?

School Health Services are delivered in public and private primary schools and district high schools across Western Australia. The Community Health Nurses who deliver the services, are employed by WA Country Health Services or Child and Adolescent Health Service (in metropolitan Perth). Teams of Community Health Nurses provide services in local primary schools.

Community Health Services in Primary Schools

Community Health Nurses are primarily involved in early detection of health concerns and promotion of health and wellbeing for children and their families. They may provide;

- Information, advocacy and support for children and their parents to make informed decisions about health, wellbeing and development.
- Health and development assessments.
- Referral to other health services for further assessment, diagnosis, treatment or therapy.
- Parenting advice and parenting programs (eg Triple P).
- Support for teachers to provide health education in the classroom.
- Support for student health and wellbeing programs (eg healthy eating).
- Support for school health promotion initiatives.
- Facilitation of professional development for teachers to ensure schools can care for children with particular health needs, e.g., asthma or anaphylaxis.
- Assistance for school staff and parents to develop health care plans for students with special needs (eg chronic disease; physical disability or other complex health conditions).

A School Level Agreement is negotiated between the School Health Nurse and/or the Nurse Manager and the Principal to guide service delivery at individual schools.

As a *general rule* Community Health Nurses

- Do not provide minor first aid (the school is responsible for this).
- Do not administer medication.
- Do not conduct invasive physical examinations.
- Do not conduct checks for head lice.
- Do not undertake long term interventions about psychological, relationship or educational problems.