



The Drug Education Network – visits Scottsdale High School

On Monday 25th – Thursday 28th August the educators from The Drug Education Network held information sessions for all our Year 7 – 10 students. The DEN's work in schools is guided by the [Australian Government's Principles for School Drug Education](#) which is informed by theory and research into what works within the school context. In particular, the DEN's education approach:

- prioritises positive health messages and harm reduction strategies
- is age appropriate
- is delivered to all students, regardless of their level of risk
- supports the embedding of drug Education into the curriculum
- focuses on substances most likely to be used by the student group and those most likely to cause harm
- encourages a whole school response to drug education

It was positive to see our students actively engage in the many discussions and interactive learning activities which functioned to provide students with the opportunity to exchange ideas, receive feedback and develop their decision making and help-seeking skills.

We would like to thank Rob from the Drug Education Network for providing our students with such a valuable and engaging learning experience. We feel confident that they came away with increased understanding and awareness of drug related knowledge, attitudes and values. Most importantly it is hoped that students take this knowledge and continue to ask questions and build their capacity to understand the factors that reduce drug related harms enabling them to respond safely to drug issues in their futures. Thankyou also to Julie (our nurse) for providing support to our students.

On a further note, it was very heartening to receive some excellent feedback from the DEN presenters in relation to Scottsdale High School students being such an attentive and responsive audience. Well done to you all!

Kathryn Smalldon

Assistant Principal

