

NSW School-Link Initiative

Factsheet

**Health**

NSW School-Link is a strong collaborative initiative between Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and the NSW Department of Education to improve the mental health and wellbeing of students in NSW.

NSW Health funds local health districts and specialty networks to employ School-Link Coordinators to implement the School-Link Initiative across approximately 3,000 NSW schools and TAFEs, in partnership with teachers, school counsellors and specialist mental health staff.

These positions provide a point of contact and build stronger links between new Department of Education Networked Specialist Centres, schools and community mental health services.

School-Link helps education staff to better understand what the young person and their family may be experiencing, provides support at school/TAFE and facilitates referral to specialist mental health services.

School-Link Coordinators support the implementation of the *NSW School-Link Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2017* in the areas of:

- early identification of mental health issues
- access to evidence-informed mental health early intervention programs in schools and TAFEs
- early access to specialist mental health services
- support for the recovery journey.

Under the NSW Government Mental Health Reform, three additional School-Link Coordinator positions will increase capacity in locations with high need.

The three new positions have been funded in:

- Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (Shellharbour and Nowra)
- South West Sydney Local Health District (Campbelltown and Camden)
- Hunter New England Local Health District (Newcastle or Maitland/Cessnock).

To learn more about mental health care reform in NSW visit

www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth/reform

