



St Edmund's College Newsletter

EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Term 4, Week 1,
16th October 2020

Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives



Principal's Message ...

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of St Edmund's,

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope families had an opportunity for some down-time over the school holiday break as we prepare for another very busy term. Over the break we commenced some of the reorganisation of the College in preparation for building work later in the year. The Library was reorganized to accommodate our server room, staff were moved to other office spaces, ready for the demolition of the Administration block and our Year 12 students moved to their new Homeroom in the Music Room so that the Flat can be refurbished to make way for our new staffroom. As always, the students were very inquisitive about these changes but adjusted very quickly which was pleasing to see. Further information and forewarnings will be circulated as additional changes occur and we will continue to keep the students and broader community updated as these details come to hand.

EREA Statement of Child Safeguarding

Edmund Rice Education Australia has recently released a revised Statement of Commitment to Child Safety. This commitment is in alignment with the EREA Child Safeguarding Standards Framework which is being implemented across all EREA schools nationwide. St Edmund's is committed to ensuring a welcoming and safe environment which fosters right relationships which value the dignity and worth of all members of the school community. We are also committed to the safety and wellbeing of students in our care which is underpinned by the implementation of the EREA Child Safeguarding Standards Framework. This statement and the EREA Child Safeguarding Standards Framework can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Staffing

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mrs. Sharon Eldridge has been appointed to the position of Creative Arts Coordinator commencing in 2021 replacing Mrs. Margriet Shaw-Taylor who retires at the end of the year. Sharon is currently the Leader of Learning Dance, Drama and Music at Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta and has held this position since 2014. She has also held the position of Pastoral Leader at OLMC as well as Music and Special Education Teacher at Jack Tizard SLD School, London. Sharon has a Bachelor of Education (Music) from the University of Newcastle and comes highly recommended to this position. We congratulate Sharon on this significant appointment and we will have an opportunity to welcome her to the College prior to the end of the year.

Parent Group Meeting

Our next and final Parent Group Meeting for the year will be on Tuesday, 3rd November at 7.00 p.m. and will be conducted as a webinar via Zoom. In light of us all being more online these days, our guest speaker and topic for the meeting is very relevant, entitled 'Digital Parenting and Cyber Safety' presented by one of Australia's leading cyber safety experts, Leonie Smith, also known as the Cyber Safety Lady. Leonie has 20 years' experience in this area and will no doubt deliver an eye opening, practical and ultimately positive webinar addressing your family's digital wellbeing and future. Please note this is an **'adults only'** webinar presentation due to the sensitive nature of the content. Please join our St Gabriel's community for this webinar. Details on how to register are contained in this Newsletter.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Jon Franzin
PRINCIPAL



Deputy Principal's Message ...

Welcome to Term 4. We begin this term with the return of Mrs Rebecca Kirwan on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. I will be at the College on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

This term continues to be guided by COVID restrictions, however, excursions are now available for schools. Students are looking forward to their year group excursions in place of Camps that had to be postponed until 2021. It was wonderful news that Year 12 Formals can go ahead this term, providing the Year 12 students with the opportunity to celebrate their 13 years of schooling. More details will follow regarding the details of the Formal.

As we begin Term 4, a reminder that students return in their Summer uniform and that appropriate haircuts and grooming reflect the College uniform policy. Keeping sun safe is also very important and students must bring their hats/caps each day please; even if students are attending work experience.

This week has been a smooth transition back from holidays, with students and staff reconnecting with each other. Staff spent some of their first day back with reflections on their Connection to God, Others and Self - as part of our Staff Formation day. This allowed staff to reconnect with their moral purpose as Catholic educators in the Edmund Rice tradition.

A Reminder about Student illness -

As NSW Health provides our mandated process around COVID-19, a reminder that if your child is not feeling well, has a mild fever, running nose, vomiting or diarrhea, bad pain or coughing, they need to remain at home to rest and/or see your doctor. NSW Health now requires your child to have a COVID test prior to returning to school. Please ensure the negative result of your child's test accompanies your child's return to school for our records.

Here at the College we are encouraging constant use of hygienic practices, especially hand sanitising for staff and students. Please also encourage this practice at home to promote health and reduce illnesses within our community.

Assemblies

This week our Assembly will celebrate the changes that are taking place to our school buildings. A reminder that our College assemblies, held each fortnight, are recorded for your viewing at home via ClassDojo. Students have become very competent in their ability to be filmed with very few edits required. Students view the recorded Assembly in their Homeroom together.

Swimming Program

The swimming program will resume this term for our students to continue to gain the necessary skills in water safety. All students are encouraged to participate in the swimming program this term and we ask that parents ensure that students come to school prepared with their swimmers, towels etc. Swimmers can also be worn under their uniform to help with changing.



Around the College

Thank you Barker College

Usually at this time of the year, our students perform for the Year 12 Barker College students as a way of saying thank you for the funds they raise through their Coffee House. With the restrictions we have had in place this year, at the end of last term, our Year 11 and 12 students sent a virtual performance of their drumming, dancing and solo singing to the Year 12 Barker College students.

After they watched our performances, it was decided that it would be played to their whole College Assembly. A huge thank you goes to the Year 12 Barker students who presented St Edmund's with a cheque for \$600 from their fundraising efforts; this will be used to buy equipment and instruments for our Music Department.

Margriet Shaw-Taylor
Creative Arts Coordinator



Absentees

If your child is absent from the College for any reason during term time:

- ⇒ Please phone Mrs Acret in the College office or email: secretary@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au on the first morning your child is absent so that the Homeroom teacher can be advised; and
- ⇒ A written note (or email) must accompany your child when he/she returns to the College - this is a legal requirement for the class roll.

Requesting Leave during College term (for any reason)

It is expected that every endeavor is made for students' leave to be taken during the College holidays. If however, this is not possible, a request should be:

- ⇒ Emailed to Mr Franzin on franzin@erses.nsw.edu.au asking for permission and giving the reason for the leave. The necessary form will be emailed back to you to be completed and returned to the College. Mr Franzin will respond to your email, copying in the Homeroom teacher and Mrs Acret. This is also a legal requirement for the class roll.





Mission & Identity

Welcome to the final term of 2020. We ended last term with our Senior Retreat. The theme for the retreat was "Where Do We Find God?"

As a group we explored where God is present in our lives every day. We located God in the wondrous nature that is all around us and identified the people in our lives who inspire us and reveal God to us in so many different ways. We looked at the God within us all and what he helps us to achieve very day.

This year our Senior Retreat took on a different format due to the restrictions of COVID-19. The Retreat was held partly on site at St Edmund's where a sacred space was set up in the hall. The students then travelled out to different venues over the three days.

On Wednesday we gathered to identify the journey we are on and where God can help us along the way. We acknowledged our own talents and skills as well as those of our friends. We travelled to The Wildflower Gardens at St Ives to gather images of God in the beauty of nature that exists all around us.

On Thursday morning, we began with a very lively barn dance, the Heel and Toe Polka, followed by a student lead version of the 'Nutbush' dance. The Year 12 students visited Peter Canisius House for the prayer of the labyrinth walk and the whole group gathered at Bobbin Head for lunch.

On Friday, we started by decorating our personal cross that we could then take and keep with us as we journey through these coming months of 2020. We were able to attend a special Mass at Holy Name Church, Wahrenonga. This was a very reverent and prayerful time for all involved. We followed this with lunch at Apple Tree Bay before returning to the College.

We prayed, we meditated, we danced and we laughed a lot. As a group, we shared our stories and listened to the stories of others. Sharing meals together was another important part of our day as we gathered with our friends to build our social skills and enjoy the company of each other.

Retreat is a time to reflect on the past; a time to enjoy the present with all our friends and to imagine the future that may be ahead for each one of our students. It is a time that we hope will stay with our students in their memories for many years to come.

Terry O'Keefe
Head of Mission & Identity



Around the College

Senior Retreat





Administration

2020 Term 4 - Old School - New School

Some students approach Term 4 with trepidation; others with anxiety but most with excitement. It is a time for rounding up and evaluating one year whilst considering and preparing for a new year. A time to reflect and time to plan.

This term we prepare each year group to transition to the next year by advising where they will be located. Often this will be in a different room, perhaps with familiar as well as not so familiar friends or teachers.

For Year 12 students, this year will be one of the most momentous changes in their school life as they transition out of the secure environment of College life into an exciting new world with unimagined adventures. Their six years of learning at St Edmund's has rewarded them with a Life Skills education, significant experiences and long-lasting, if not life-lasting school friendships. It has also given them the skills to move beyond the security that St Edmund's has offered by developing more independence and taking greater responsibilities for themselves.

I recall the Year 12 students when they first started as fresh Year 7 students in 2015. Mrs Hosken and Mrs Modra were Homeroom teachers for Class 7H whilst Mrs Welsh and Mrs O'Neil managed Class 7W. I supported a Homeroom with Mrs Welsh each Friday as well as teaching French to both classes. I have been fortunate to be able to continue my teaching with many of these students in Year 12 Agriculture.

It is a testament to the determination of the students, the commitment of their teachers and the strength of their families, that they are now ready to graduate at the end of this term.

Whilst the students and the staff at the College are preparing to say goodbye to Year 12 we are also welcoming new students. Next month we will hold Orientation Day and we will welcome to our College the Year 7 students of 2021. It is always an exciting time for the new students as well as our current students, many of whom welcome friends who they first met in primary school. The Orientation morning is the opportunity for the new students to meet their Homeroom teachers for 2021, to visit their classrooms as well as to get a feel for their new school.

An exciting time ahead for all.

***To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose, under heaven***
© The Byrds, 1965

Carl Southern
Head of Administration



JERSEY DAY

Our Term 3 Mufti Day theme was 'Jersey Day' supporting the DONATE LIFE network and beginning the conversation with friends and families about organ donation. \$200.00 was raised from our Mufti Day and will be sent to the Donate Life network. A big thank you to all students and staff who thoroughly enjoyed the day. A special thank you to Elliot's family (Class 8L) who donated various promotional paraphernalia which were handed out to the students on the day.



Around the College

Awards

Students of the Week:

7S Alessio and Michael
8C Kate and Chloe
9F Tom E and Byron
10J Luke and Ben M
11G Ciaran
12M Emily

7T Ella and Will
8L Chris and Tom
9H Daena and Anna
10V Josh W
11T Grace and Ben T
12O Dan and Josh

Eddie's Best:

7S Saskia
8C Hugh
9F Luke
10J Brendan
11G Mitch
12M Anthony

7T Arpita
8L Krish
9H Johann
10V Indira
11T Zac
12O Logan



St Edmund's
COLLEGE

EDDIE'S BIG NIGHT OUT

Save The Date 2021

SATURDAY 17TH JULY
Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills



PROUDLY SUPPORTING ST. EDMUND'S SCHOOLS & THEIR STUDENTS

Around the College

Eddie's Got Talent



Well done to all the students who entered Eddie's Got Talent this year and a BIG thank you to our Judges, Mrs Shaw-Taylor and Mr Falkner for their organisation of the event.

Our winners on the day were:

Years 7 & 8

1st: Class 7T
2nd: Class 8C

Years 9 & 10

1st: Ben M
2nd: Class 9M

Years 11 & 12

1st: Angelica M
2nd: Class 11T

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!



Community News

From the Parent Group

Welcome back to Term 4!

Hope you all enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to the last term of the year. Term 4 is always a busy term, filled with end of year excitement and fun activities.

We have a new activity that we are trying this year. We thought it would be nice to make **gingerbread houses**. This activity was originally going to be done as an end of year activity held at school as part of our Parent Group. Given COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to hold this at the College but we thought it would still be fun for us to do it with our families as an activity at home.

The complete sets can be ordered for \$30.00. This is less than the cost you would pay in the shops. More information is attached to this Newsletter on how to order. We are hoping that this is a success so that we can continue to do it onsite at school next year.

We have our **Parent Group Meeting** for the term on Tuesday 3rd November via Zoom at 7.00 p.m. . It will be combined with the Parent Group from St Gabriel's. The topic is 'Digital Parenting and Cyber Safety' with consultant Leonie Smith, also known as the Cyber Safety Lady. Leonie will be conducting her presentation to us on the risks to our children, associated with using technology and social media. Leonie is an industry leader in educating parents and students. St Edmund's is providing this opportunity for parents and carers to hear Leonie's presentation as they see this as an important area of development and safety for our children. Please show your appreciation by zooming in to hear what Leonie has to say. Please note that this is an **adults only** presentation. Details are in the flyer attached to this Newsletter.

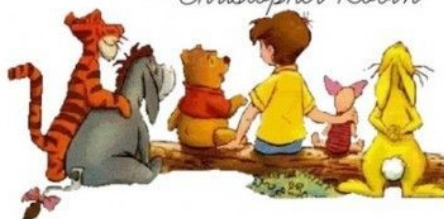
Finally, **The Self Care and Well Being program** continues to run for the wellbeing of parents and carers. A reminder that we are being offered a total of 10 x 50 minute counselling sessions per adult as part of a NSW Government Grant received to look after our mental health and wellbeing. This is a free service delivered via zoom or over the phone, by appointment. Please consider this very unique and generous offer of support to us. More details are in this Newsletter. Please note that this is a completely confidential service. The College does not know who is taking part in the counselling program or any content that is discussed. All confidential privacy privileges are maintained. The only data that is reported to the College is the quantity of participants so that the grant can be reconciled.

Enjoy the weeks ahead.

Janine Eastham
(Tom's Mum)
Parent Group Leader

"You're braver than you
believe, and stronger
than you seem, and
smarter than you think."

- Christopher Robin



Parents and Carers are invited to attend our

DIGITAL PARENTING AND CYBER SAFETY WEBINAR

Presented by Leonie Smith, The Cyber Safety Lady, via Zoom



Keeping Kids Safe Online

Parental controls

Tik Tok, Instagram, Snapchat,

Roblox, Fortnite, Minecraft

Cyber Bullying advice

Texting/Sexting

Screen Routines

Online 'friends'

Digital Reputation

Less Drama, more Fun!

www.thecybersafetylady.com.au

TUESDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER 2020 • 7:00 - 8:30PM

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS WEBINAR AND TO
RECEIVE YOUR FREE E-BOOK**

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_f06mUQtyRcmgVUxdnk95rw

MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE TO RECEIVE THE E-BOOK

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email to join the webinar and coupon code for your free e-book.

This is a free webinar for adults only due to the sensitive nature of the content.



St Edmund's
COLLEGE

Any enquiries, please contact Candice Palin on palin@erses.nsw.edu.au



St Gabriel's
SCHOOL

ONE ON ONE COACHING FOR FAMILIES

PART OF OUR SELF CARE AND
NOURISHMENT PROGRAM

- Please book in for your confidential and private coaching session with AccessEAP professionals, Netta Dolev or Pol Miles McCann.
- 10 Sessions available per person. Be early, limited spaces.
- Sessions up to 50 minutes at a time.
- Support strategies, Self care, Networks, Counselling



**Call 1800 818 728 to book your appointment
or visit AccessEAP's website
on <https://www.accesseap.com.au/>**

'Cost of these sessions are covered under the My Community Project Grant funded by the NSW State Government'



Around the College - Important Dates

Term 4

Tue 20th Oct	St Edmund's Swimming Carnival (<i>cancelled</i>)
Fri 23rd Oct	Term 4 College Disco (<i>cancelled</i>)
Wed 28th Oct	Years 9 & 10 Camp (<i>new format to be advised</i>)
Tue 3rd Nov	Term 4 Mufti Day
Tue 3rd Nov	Term 4 Parent Group Meeting (<i>online</i>)
Tue 10th Nov	Orientation Day
Fri 20th Nov	Abbotsleigh Concert (<i>to be advised</i>)
Fri 27th Nov	Year 12 Graduation Formal
Tue 1st Dec	Presentation Ceremony (<i>new format - to be filmed</i>)
Fri 4th Dec	Year 7 Immunisation
Wed 9th Dec	Year 12 Farewell Mass & BBQ lunch
Wed 9th Dec	Last day of Term 4

White Cane Day 2020

White Cane Day is the 15th October each year. The mission of White Cane Day is to educate the world about blindness and how the blind and visually impaired can live and work independently while giving back to their communities; to celebrate the abilities and successes achieved by blind people in a sighted world and to honour the many contributions being made by the blind and visually impaired.



Community News

Youth Group

Ku-ring-gai Council's next Youth Group for people with disabilities is on Friday 30th October. As it is the day before Halloween it will have a Halloween theme to the night. There will be music, lollies, dinner and games. The organisers are asking people to come dressed up if you would like to. They are going to be decorating the room with Halloween decorations. Council's youth workers will be supervising the night.

The details of the event are:

Date: Friday 30th October 2020
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 pm
Location: Gordon Youth Centre (in the old part of the library)
Cost: Free

Due to COVID, numbers are still limited and we need people to book in via this link:
<https://bookings.kmc.nsw.gov.au/CoursesandEvents/StandardTicketBookingProcess/ViewEventDetails/53332280>

For further information please contact:

Samantha Marren
Community Development Officer- Disability Services- Ku-ring-gai Council
Ph: 9424 0992
Email: smarren@kmc.nsw.gov.au
Samantha's working days are Mondays and Tuesdays.





GINGERBREAD HOUSES

This year the Parent Group thought it would be fun to celebrate Christmas as a School community by making Gingerbread Houses.

With social gatherings being restricted, we are having to run this activity a little differently than first planned earlier this year.

So we are selling Gingerbread House packs to families, sourced from
Gingerbread Folk



COST per pack : \$30.00

Includes: baseboard, gingerbread house parts, cellophane, ribbon, prefilled piping bag of Royal Icing

Selection – Original/Chocolate/Gluten Free
(NB: provide your own lollies for decorating)

ALL HOUSES ARE EGG-FREE, DAIRY FREE, NUT FREE, and PALM OIL FREE.

Please complete the attached form and return to the School Office by 5 November for your order to be processed.

This year gingerbread houses will need to be assembled at home. However, we would love for you to send us photos of your completed houses so that we can share them.

Gingerbread houses are easy to assemble and instructions are provided
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpX7lViaTkg&ab_channel=GingerbreadFolk

For any enquiries, please contact Janine Eastham (Tom's mum) on 0412 779 580



CHRISTMAS GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Take a gingerbread house kit home to enjoy with the family and create a tradition that children will treasure. A joyous, creative activity...Keep and enjoy or give as a gift!

Gingerbread Kits include everything required to build your gingerbread creation including gingerbread parts, baseboard + piping bag, royal icing, cellophane and ribbon. Add your own lollies.

- Delicious gingerbread made with the finest pure ingredients
- All natural and free from added colours, flavours and preservatives
- All products are dairy, egg-free & nut free
- Gluten free option same price!
- Gingerbread Folk products are made in Sydney's Blue Mountains

For more information about the supplier and product nutritional details, please view product info at www.gingerbreadfolk.com.au



GINGERBREAD HOUSE

ORDER FORM




To place an order, please fill out this order form and return to the College office or via email to Wendy on scott@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au. If cash or cheque, please send order form with this in an envelope with your child.

Please ensure your order is placed **by 5/11/2020** to avoid disappointment.

Student/Family Name:

Student's Class:

Best contact number:.....

	Qty	Price Each	Total Price
TRADITIONAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE KIT			
		\$	\$
GLUTEN FREE GINGERBREAD HOUSE KIT			
		\$	\$
CHOCOLATE GINGERBREAD HOUSE KIT			
		\$	\$
TOTAL			\$

Method of Payment ☐ Credit Card ☐ Cash (enclosed) ☐ Cheque (enclosed)

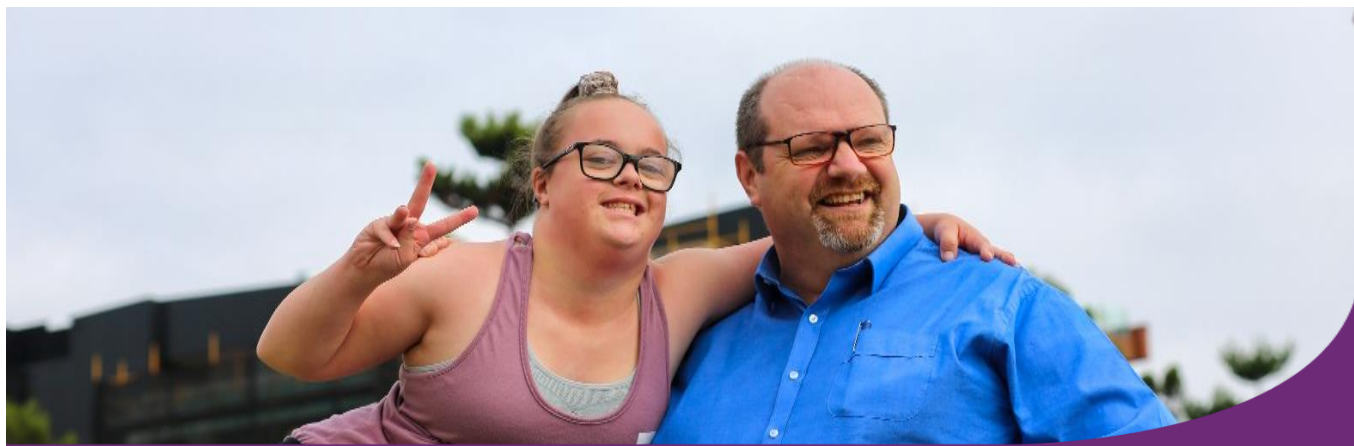
Name on card

Amount \$

Credit Card No.

Expiry ____ / ____

Please return to Wendy in the College Office or email scott@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au. All orders will be sent home with your child by end of November. **THANK YOU**



NSW School Leaver Information Session

Supporting your pathway to post-school life

The National Disability Insurance Agency would like to invite school leavers and their families to attend a virtual information session.

This session will provide an opportunity to hear about supports available through the NDIS to support transition to post-school life and employment. Learn how to prepare for a conversation about your goals and things to consider when choosing the right provider for you.

This session is offered over two different dates to allow flexibility for attendees. Each session will cover the same content, and will have a maximum capacity of 300 attendees. Sessions will be delivered via video-conference using Microsoft Teams. Registrations will close three business days prior to each session. Login details will be sent two business days prior to the session to the email you provide at registration. If you would like to attend please register via Eventbrite.

For any enquiries regarding this session, please contact events@ndis.gov.au. Please include the session name in the subject line.

Where: Virtual Information Sessions via Microsoft Teams

Dates & Times:

Monday 26 October 2020	5.00pm – 6.30pm (AEDT)
Tuesday 3 November 2020	5.00pm – 6.30pm (AEDT)

RSVP: Please register via Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/nsw-school-leaver-information-session-tickets-123554672351>

Additional information: Accessibility is important to us. If you have any accessibility, interpreter, live captioning or other requirements, please advise when registering. Please note - we need a minimum of five (5) business days' notice to book interpreters and live captioning services.



My Personal Health Information Folder

Seeking your feedback

Northern Sydney Local Health District is seeking support from family carers of children with an intellectual disability to trial the resource: *My Personal Health Information Folder*. The folder has been developed in collaboration with Northern Sydney Local Health District's Carer Support Service and is designed to keep important health care information accessible, when presenting for health care appointments or hospitalisation.

This folder has been developed through the Intellectual Disability Mental Health Drug and Alcohol (ID MHDA): Team and Training Program. This folder and other ID MHDA program resources aim to build our capacity to care for people with an intellectual disability who present to our health, and mental health services.

Participants in this trial are asked to complete a pre- and a post- survey to help us review and continuously improve this resource and our services. Responses will not be linked to personal information.

Sign up for your folder



Register to receive a folder and participate in this trial via our online survey via the QR Code or this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MyPersonalInformationFolder>

Registrations will close on Friday 16th October. Folders will be delivered to schools for collection by family carers during the following week.

There will be no requirement to return the folder once used.

For more information please contact: Kerry Hides-Pearson, Senior Project Manager, Northern Sydney Local Health District, Mental Health Drug & Alcohol. P: 8877 5375 | E: Kerry.HidesPearson@health.nsw.gov.au