

ST MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, NORTHBRIDGE
ALLERGY, ANAPHYLAXIS & ASTHMA POLICY



Date approved: 26 October 2023

Date to be reviewed: 12 months after approval (October 2024)

Related policies: First Aid Policy, Safe Food Policy

1. Commitment

- 1.1 Allergies and asthma can be a significant and serious health issue for some in our community, particularly children and young people. In its most severe form, an allergic reaction can involve anaphylaxis (which often involves breathing difficulties) and can be life threatening.
- 1.2 St Mark's seeks to create an environment which promotes the good health and wellbeing of those who are affected so that they can participate in church activities with confidence.
- 1.3 St Mark's will effectively communicate this policy and related policies to those involved in the preparation and handling of food for our events.

2. Policy

- 2.1 Our focus is on children and young people who attend church events who may be affected by severe allergies or asthma, where their parent or carer is not also in attendance.
- 2.2 St Mark's will have one designated first aid trained leader present on all children and youth events organised by St Mark's. Leaders at an event will be made aware of who the designated first aid leader is on the day of the event.
- 2.3 It is the responsibility of parents and carers to inform St Mark's if a child in their care has allergies, asthma or another health condition that requires management.
- 2.4 Where potential anaphylaxis has been diagnosed, an anaphylaxis action plan should be provided to the event organiser. This will be kept by the designated first aid leader for the event.
- 2.5 Any medication that may be required is to be provided by parents and carers to the event organiser or the designated first aid leader, together with directions for its use. This should be stored by the first aid leader in a designated location known to all leaders.
- 2.6 Children and young people in Years 6-8 may carry their medication themselves, following prior consultation and agreement between the children or youth ministry team leader and a parent or carer.
- 2.7 Young people in Year 9 and above are responsible to carry their own medication unless this is not practicable. In this case any medication and directions as to its use should be provided to the event organiser or designated first aid leader for the event.
- 2.8 When serving food during children/youth events it is recommended that no nuts are served. Nuts are a common cause of allergic reaction.

2.9 In the case a child or young person has an allergy to a common food product that cannot easily be substituted with a safe alternative, parents or carers should provide food for their child to be brought to the event.

References

Sydney Diocesan Services (SDS) Risk Management Module 5, Safe handling of food and managing anaphylaxis.