Throughout a student’s secondary school life a student faces huge changes physically, socially and mentally. Along the way, these young people need to have support systems in place to help them make some very important decisions about the range of choice that are open to them. These may be from career counselling to needing some help in sorting out a friendship problem. Some students need a lot of support; some need very little.

Nevertheless, at Nerang State High School we have a great team who can help support students by either giving assistance directly or by making referrals to others with specific expertise. We like to have parents and guardians involved, so that we can all work together to make Nerang State High School a happy and productive learning environment for all students.

I therefore recommend our Support Team and trust that both students and parents alike will take the opportunity to use the expertise on offer in assisting in any matters that relate to their education and well-being.
GUIDANCE OFFICER:

Suzanne Riley
Angela Dunshea

The Guidance Officer’s role encumbers a range of responsibilities that includes counselling, individual student support, psycho-educational assessment, and referral to outside specialist agencies. The Guidance Officer gives advice to students, teachers and parents concerning educational, behavioural, career development, mental health and family issues.

Students can see the Guidance Officer to discuss:
- peer pressure
- grief and loss
- self-esteem
- stress management/time management
- University/TAFE course information
- relationship issues
- depression/anxiety
- Abuse
- career options/pathways
- subject selection

The aim of the Guidance Service is to provide professional expertise, leadership and support to the school community in the development and implementation of plans, programs and procedures to assist students in achieving positive educational, developmental and lifelong learning outcomes.

NURSE:

Suzie Koenig

The School Based Youth Health Nurse (SBYHN) provides opportunity for students, parents and the whole school community to access a health professional.

The SBYHN provides an invaluable link between the school and health services.

The SBYHN supports the school community in the development of the “Health Promoting Schools” philosophy through the creation of a more supportive and healthy school environment.

Young people can access the nurse to talk in private about:
- health concerns
- sexual health
- Smoking
- nutrition and exercise
- anything that may affect health and wellbeing
- relationships
- mental health issues
- alcohol or drug use
- feeling unhappy or stressed

The nurse is located at Nerang State High School every Thursday and Friday — and accepts referrals from teachers, parents and young people themselves.

All consultations with the nurse are confidential under the Health Act.
YOUTH SUPPORT COORDINATOR:  

Erin Watts

The role of a state school Youth Support Coordinator (YSC) is to provide support to at-risk students in Years 10 to 12 to remain engaged with their education to enhance their opportunities for further education and sustainable future employment. The role of the YSC will reflect the specific needs of the school. Also, Youth Support Coordinator can assist with:

• refer at-risk students to appropriate agencies and support services that will assist students to overcome barriers to education and training; and
• provide individual support, case management and, where appropriate, group support to students to maximise their engagement with education and training.

Students can see the Youth Support Coordinator to discuss:

• Peer pressure
• Homelessness
• Grief and Loss
• Career options
• and much more

CHAPLAIN:  

Chris Perry

The role of a Chaplain is to take care of the Pastoral needs within the school. The majority of the Chaplain’s day is spent in the school grounds interacting with students and building relationships.

As trust is established, students can make appointments to see the Chaplain with any issues they are experiencing at home or school.

The Chaplain is available to students and families for all pastoral needs.

These include:

• grief and loss
• family conflict
• depression
• loneliness
• smoking
• conflict
• dispute resolution
• self esteem
• problem with friends
• family break-up / separation
INDIGENOUS SUPPORT:

Indigenous support aims to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to stay engaged with their education by providing them with access to in-class support and cultural activities in both school and community.

Students can access support on a wide variety of issues including:
- Tutorials;
- In-class support;
- Homework and Assignment help;
- Referral to Community organisations;
- Connection with Community Elders;
- Work Experience and Traineeships.
- Self Esteem issues
- Grief and loss
- Conflict with family members
- Drug and Alcohol issues
- Problems with friends

RTC (RESPONSIBLE THINKING CLASSROOM):

The RTC is a classroom that is staffed at all times during the school day. Students go to the room if they fail to meet behavioural expectations at school.
- Students are assisted to examine their behaviour in relationship to stated expectations.
- Plans are completed to enable successful conferencing with the teacher involved.
- Student progress is tracked using the 8 point level system.
- Support is offered to students to assist them in making and maintaining behavioural changes.
- Parent contact is maintained.

Parents and students are able to make appointments with RTC staff, Head of Student Engagement or Year Level Deans if assistance is required.

**CHOICE, NOT CHANCE DETERMINES YOUR FUTURE.**

TEAM (Anti Bullying Program):

- **TOGETHER**
- **EVERYONE**
- **ACHIEVES**
- **MORE**