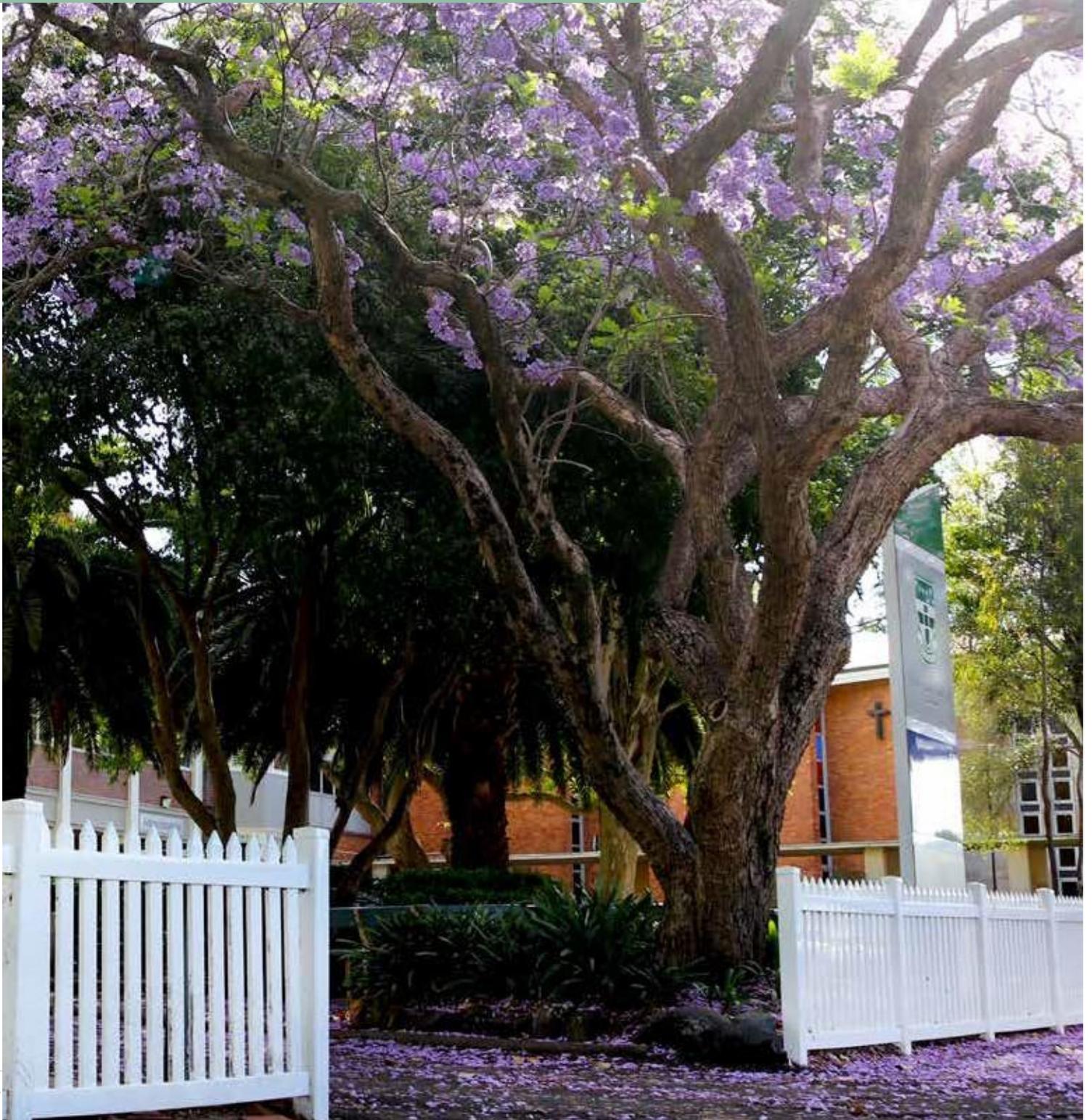




St Ursula's College
TOOWOOMBA

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT
INFORMATION
HANDBOOK



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

“Consider in what manner you must esteem them, for the more you esteem them, the more you will love them; the more you love them, the more you will care for and watch over them.”

St Angela Merici, Prologue to the Counsels 9-10

Welcome to St Ursula’s College, a dynamic Catholic day and boarding school where educating and caring for girls has been our priority since 1931. Established by the Australian Ursuline Nuns in Toowoomba, our College draws on a rich tradition that evolved in the 16th century in Italy through our Foundress, St Angela Merici. Our mission is to grow in wisdom, justice, and integrity through personal and shared responsibility to transform ourselves and others. Inspired by the College motto, *Serviam - I Will Serve*, you will be challenged to apply yourself at school, be respectful of others and give of your best in all circumstances.

We have high expectations of you in terms of how you learn, uniform, conduct and how you interact with others. We have these high expectations of each of you because we know that you are capable of much.

Our staff recognise the importance of giving you the skills, knowledge, and experiences that you need to ensure that you are post-school ready and capable of making ethical and moral decisions with integrity. To better support you on this journey, we have prepared this Information Booklet to answer some of your questions specifically related to being an international student.

Finally, we are delighted that you are part of our College community and look forward to getting to know you better. I wish you success in every facet of your education at St Ursula’s College.

Mrs Deidre Young

Principal





EASTWOOD

ST URSULA'S COLLEGE
SERVIAM
TOOWOOMBA

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PRIVACY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

St Ursula's College will meet all requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988* in relation to the way it handles personal and sensitive information about students. Website link:

<https://www.st-ursula.qld.edu.au/>

ACCREDITATION

St Ursula's College is an approved school under the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017* and the *Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996*. St Ursula's College is registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS):

- St Ursula's College, Toowoomba's CRICOS Registration details:
St Ursula's College, Toowoomba
CRICOS Provider No:03033M
<http://cricos.education.gov.au>
- The Principal Executive Officer (PEO) is the School Principal;
- The International Student Contact person is the Registrar – enrolment@st-ursula.qld.edu.edu

St Ursula's College is an incorporated Company owned by the Corporation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. ABN: 88 934 244 646

38 Taylor Street, Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia.

COURSES

The CRICOS Courses available at St Ursula's College are:

Course Code	Course Name	Course Level	Duration
082491G	Secondary Junior Years 7-10 Girls Only	Junior Secondary	156 weeks
065607J	Secondary Senior Years 11-12 Girls Only	Senior Secondary	104 weeks

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority issues senior education profiles to Queensland students upon completion of Year 12.

- All international students are eligible for a Statement of Results which is a transcript of the learning account for all students completing Year 12 at a Queensland School. The Senior Statement shows all studies and the results achieved that may contribute to the award of a QCE or Tertiary Entrance Statement.
- Eligible students will receive a Queensland Certificate of Education. The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland's senior school qualification, which is awarded to eligible students, usually at the end of Year 12.

The Year Handbooks provide a selection of suitable subjects/courses. The Handbooks will be available to international students prior to accepting enrolment to assist them to make appropriate selections.

Mode of Study

Students are required to attend St Ursula's College's course(s) face-to-face on the College premises.

Depending on course components, a student's course may also include:

- *Online learning in class time or after school hours*
- *Approved excursions or field trips*
- *Approved work experience program*
- *Outdoor education activities*
- *Approved studies that contribute to a student's enrolled course but are delivered by another approved provider.*

Student suitability

To assist international students with the selection of suitable subjects and courses, the Deputy Principal, Director of Learning and Teaching, and Careers Advisor are available for consultation to help students by assessing their individual needs and matching those needs with the educational outcomes of the available subjects and courses.

Expected outcomes

In the subject selection process and at the point of entry, every effort is made to ensure that that international students will have reasonable chance of success in courses they are undertaking.



Entry criteria and academic procedures

St Ursula's College, Toowoomba will consider enrolment applications from students wishing to apply for a Student Visa, subject to compliance with minimum requirements and conditions set by the College, and with legislative requirements of the State of Queensland and the Commonwealth of Australia, including any requirements to undertake extra tuition to learn English to meet the English language proficiency standard needed to enter mainstream classes.

Please see the Entry Requirement Policy on the College website ([International Students | St Ursula's College Toowoomba \(st-ursula.qld.edu.au\)](https://www.st-ursula.qld.edu.au))

ORIENTATION

An Orientation Programme to the Boarding House and life as an International student will be coordinated by the Head of Boarding. Our aim is to ensure that you feel like a valued member of the Brescia House family. Please see the Boarding Handbook for more information.

HEALTH COVER

The Australian Government requires all Overseas Students to be covered by Overseas Student Health Cover. St Ursula's College uses BUPA Private Health Fund. The College will work with the student and her family to arrange health cover as part of the enrolment process.

This cover must be in place for the full length of the student's stay at the College.



LIVING IN TOOWOOMBA – QUEENSLAND – AUSTRALIA “THE GARDEN CITY”

The City of Toowoomba, in Queensland, Australia is well known for its exciting history as well as its parks, gardens and scenic views.

Toowoomba's colonial history traces back to 1816 when English botanist and explorer Allan Cunningham arrived in Australia from Brazil and in June 1827 discovered 4 million acres (16,000 km²) of rich farming and grazing land bordered on the east by the Great Dividing Range and situated 100 miles (160 km) west of the settlement of Moreton Bay. Thirteen years later when George and Patrick Leslie established Toolburra Station 56 miles (90 km) south-west of Toowoomba the first settlers arrived on the Downs and established a township of bark-slab shops called The Springs which was soon renamed Drayton.



Towards the end of the 1840s Drayton had grown to the point where it had its own newspaper, general store, trading post and the Royal Bull's Head Inn, which was built by William Horton and still stands today. Horton is regarded as the true founder of Toowoomba, despite the fact that he was not the first man to live there. Drovers and wagon masters spread the news of the new settlement at Toowoomba. By 1858 Toowoomba was growing fast. It had a population of 700, three hotels and many stores. Land selling at £4 an acre (£988/km²) in 1850 was now £150 an acre (£37,000/km²). Governor Bowen granted the wish of locals and a new municipality was proclaimed on 24 November 1860. The first town council election took place on 4 January 1861 and William Henry Groom won.

In 1892 the Under Secretary of Public Land proclaimed Toowoomba and the surrounding areas as a township and in 1904 Toowoomba was declared a city.

This prosperous university city is set 700 metres above sea level, on the edge of the Great Dividing Range. It is strategically located at the junction of major highways from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Darwin and is just 90 minutes' drive from the state's capital, Brisbane. Toowoomba is known as 'The Garden City', and with around 150 public parks and 6,300 hectares of open space within the city, this second name is not undeserved.

There are numerous primary and secondary schools in Toowoomba. **Primary school** is an institution where children receive the first stage of compulsory education known as primary or elementary education. Primary school is the preferred term in the United Kingdom and many Commonwealth Nations. In some countries, and especially in North America, the term elementary school is preferred. Children generally attend primary school from around the age of four or five until the age of eleven or twelve when they attend **Secondary school**.



Daily maximum temperatures in Toowoomba average 27 °C (81 °F) in summer and 16 °C (61 °F) in winter. According to the Bureau of Meteorology, the highest temperature ever recorded in Toowoomba was 39.3 °C (102.7 °F), while the lowest was -4.4 °C (24 °F). Winter temperatures seldom go below freezing; however (in a situation unique among Queensland cities), snow has been reported on the higher parts of the city on rare occasions. Light frost will be experienced several nights each winter in the city centre; more often in the western suburbs.

Average annual rainfall, according to the Bureau of Meteorology, is 928 millimetres (37 inches) per year in Toowoomba City. Rainfall in the eastern suburbs along the Great Diving Range nudges 1,000 mm (39 inches) per year.

The largest industry employers in Toowoomba are retail trade, health and community services; manufacturing; and education. Professional employment was the most prominent occupation followed by clerical, sales and service workers and tradespersons and related workers. The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is also present in the local community, with the city providing housing and amenities for many of the personnel based at the Oakey Army Aviation Centre (in Oakey, 29 km (18 miles) NW of Toowoomba) and Borneo Barracks at Cabarlah to the city's North.

The city also has many large shopping centres including Grand Central Shopping Centre,

Clifford Gardens, K-Mart Plaza, the Ridge Shopping Centre, Northridge Shopping Centre, the Range Shopping Centre, Wilsonton Shopping Centre, and High Street Plaza.

For more information on living in Australia including costs of living, climate etc, visit the Study in Australia website – www.studyinaustralia.gov.au and also see information in for the form of a factsheet from the Australian Government - [factsheet](#)

Other sites about Toowoomba and surrounding areas: Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers - <http://www.tcof.com.au/>

Toowoomba Regional Council - <http://www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/>

Toowoomba Visitor Information - <http://www.toowoombaholidays.com.au/visitor-information/getting-here-and-around/>

Other helpful websites:

Department of Immigration <http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au>

Importing and Quarantine Information for International Students:
<http://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/passports-and-travel/customs-and-quarantine>

The Early Days

Bullock wagons, the early means of transport to Toowoomba and the Darling Downs, carried wool from the great pioneering stations to the port at Moreton Bay, and brought supplies from the coast to the stations. The earliest township in this area was Drayton, a small trading and service settlement, at a gully where the tracks of the early bullock teamsters met.



Beautiful Toowoomba

Toowoomba enjoys four distinct seasons and the rich volcanic soil in the region helps



maintain the 150 public parks that are scattered across the city. Jacaranda and Camphor Laurel trees line many of the city streets. The city's reputation as 'The Garden City' is highlighted during the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers festival held in September each year. Deciduous trees from around the world line many of the parks, giving a display of autumn colour. This is particularly rare in Australia, as nearly the entire continent is forested with evergreens.

SERVICES

Electricity



The standard voltage for electrical items in Australia is 240V. Electric plugs have 3 flat pins one of which is an earth pin. You may need to buy an adaptor or have the plugs changed when you arrive.

Note: In the picture, the red dot indicates that the switch is on and power is flowing through that socket.

Digital Devices

Before bringing any digital device, you must check with St Ursula's College.

The College cannot guarantee that any electronic device you bring (such as mobile phones or laptops) will function within Australia or at St Ursula's College.

Australia Post

It is important to remember that certain items cannot be posted to Australia because of Customs Regulations.



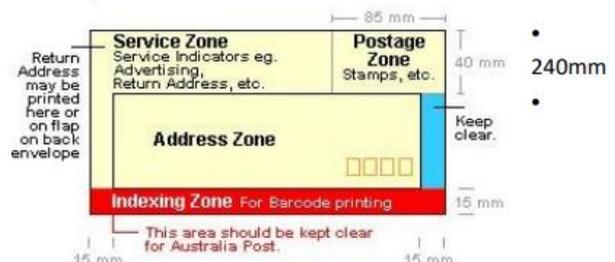
Australia Post is one of our nation's largest communications, logistics and distribution businesses; and is committed to providing high quality mail and parcel services to all people within Australia.

The cost of posting a small letter for distribution in Australia is an **AU\$1.20 postage stamp** which you affix to the envelope.

A small letter has the following characteristics:

- No larger than 130mm x
- No thicker than 5mm
- Maximum weight 250g

Envelope Face Format - Allocation of Zones





Emergencies – Dial 000

The Triple Zero (000) service is the quickest way to get the right emergency service to help you. It should be used to contact Police, Fire or Ambulance services in life threatening or emergency situations only. Emergency 000 should not be used for general medical assistance. 112 may also be dialled from mobile phones.

Dialling **112** will override key locks on mobile phones and therefore save time. Emergency Services operators answer this number quickly and to save time will say, “Police, Fire, or Ambulance”. If you are unsure of what emergency service, you need tell the operator what the emergency is. You will then be connected to the appropriate service to assist. It is wise to think ahead with the most important information which will help them to respond. Where you are; (note street names and the closest intersection), what has happened and to whom; what their condition is. The operator may then ask you to stay on the phone until the emergency services arrive. In life threatening situations the operator may also give you some instructions to assist until the emergency unit arrives. If you are concerned about your English, remain calm and work with the operators who are very experienced with all cultures.

Police

In Australia police protect people and properties, detect, and prevent crime, and preserve peace for everyone. They are not connected to the military or politics. The police can help you feel safe. In a non-emergency situation, you can contact a local police station.

Fire

The fire brigade extinguishes fires, rescues people from fires in cars and buildings, and helps in situations where gas or chemicals become a danger. As soon as a fire starts call 000 no matter how small or large the fire may be.

Ambulance

Ambulances provide immediate medical attention and emergency transportation to hospital. You can call an ambulance using the emergency triple zero number (000).

Lifeline

Lifeline’s 13 11 14 service is staffed by trained volunteer telephone counsellors who are ready to take calls 24-hours a day, any day of the week from anywhere in Australia. Anyone can call Lifeline. The service offers a counselling service that respects everyone’s right to be heard, understood and cared for. They also provide information about other support services that are available in communities around Australia. Lifeline telephone counsellors are ready to talk and listen no matter how big or how small the problem might seem. They are trained to offer emotional support in times of crisis or when callers may be feeling low or in need of advice.

Emergency Translation

For translation service in an emergency situation dial **1300 655 010**.

Health Care in Australia

The Australian healthcare system is mixed. Responsibilities for healthcare are divided between the Federal and State governments, and both the public and the private sectors play a role. Government programmes underpin the key aspects of healthcare. Medicare, which is funded out of general tax revenue, pays for hospital and medical services. Medicare covers all Australian citizens, pays the entire cost of treatment in a public hospital, and reimburses for visits to doctors.

Public System

The major provider of healthcare services in Australia is the Public Health System (Medicare). The Public Health System provides a comprehensive free-of-charge healthcare service for all Australian citizens covering both hospital based and community-based medical services. Public hospitals are owned by the State. One of the problems with such a system is that waiting times in public hospitals can be extensive due to a shortage of healthcare professionals and facilities. See also: Attending an Australian Hospital.

Private System

Private hospitals provide about a quarter of all hospital beds in Australia. Private medical practitioners provide most nonbed medical services and perform a large proportion of hospital services alongside salaried doctors. Most dental services are provided by private practitioners. For Australians who take out private health insurance a range of services can be covered, such as access to your own Doctor in a private hospital, and extra services such as dental, optical and physiotherapy.

Attending an Australian Hospital

Few private hospitals have emergency departments, so, in an emergency, most Australians rely on the public hospital system. If you attend an Emergency Department in a hospital you will be attended to immediately by a triage nurse for information about you, your cover, and your current health condition. The triage nurse will determine the urgency of your condition in comparison to others in need in the emergency room and it is likely that you will remain at the emergency room for several hours. Whether you are seen immediately by a Doctor, or have to wait, it is customary to keep you in the emergency room for several hours to monitor your condition before releasing you to go home, or admitting you to hospital in more severe cases.

There are **extensive waiting times for elective surgeries at public hospitals**, e.g. for orthopaedic surgery. One of the attractions of health insurance is the ability to bypass public hospital waiting lists and go through the private system.

Private hospitals are very expensive for treatment and hospitalisation. Your health insurance will cover some of the cost of some private hospitals, but you will have to pay the difference.

Your health insurance covers the total cost of accommodation in a shared ward of a public hospital. It also pays for the 'schedule fee' for the doctor but you will have to pay the difference if the doctor's fee is higher than the 'schedule fee'.

General Practitioners (GPs)

In Australia you do not have to go to a hospital to see a doctor. You can see a doctor (also known as a **GP – General Practitioner**) in their private practice or medical centre, with part or the entire doctor's fee being covered by Medicare or health insurance. You must make an appointment to see a GP. It is important to note that some GP surgeries will request full

payment from you at the time of consultation and you will need to present the receipt to claim the rebate back from your health cover provider.

Pharmacies

GP surgeries do not have medications to dispense to you. You must take the prescription given to you by the doctor to a pharmacy or chemist to obtain the medication. You will need to provide the pharmacy with your health insurance card, your full name and address. You are able to walk in off the street to any pharmacy/chemist/drug store in Australia and will only have to wait a short while for your prescription medicine to be prepared.

Prescription Medication

Medication prescribed by your doctor is not free. You must pay the pharmacy. If the cost is more than *AU\$34.20 you can claim the difference back from your health insurance provider. Many pharmacists will offer you the option of having a “generic” brand of medicine. If the prescription medicine the doctor has prescribed is also made available by a company which produces generic brands at cheaper prices, this option will be offered to you. This is **ONLY** offered if the content of the medicine is exactly the same as that prescribed by your doctor. It will, however, assist you to pay less for your medicine.

Over-the-Counter Medication

Pharmacies/chemists also provide a variety of over-the-counter medications useful for treating colds, headaches, allergies and the like which do not require a prescription. Ask the pharmacist on duty for advice regarding the best medication for your symptoms. Ensure that you advise the pharmacist of any other medications you may be taking.

Dental and Optical

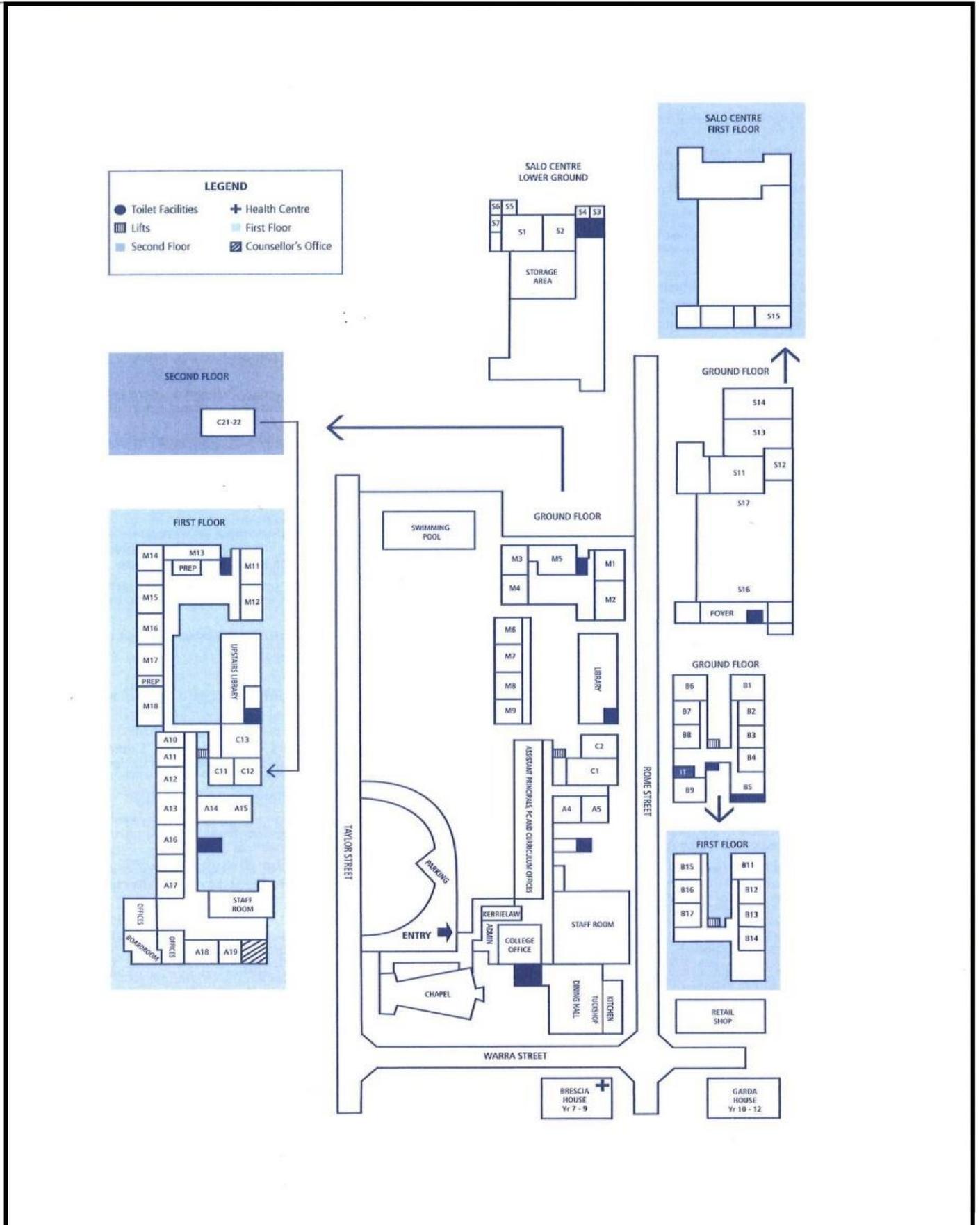
Dental and optical health services are **not covered by your health insurance** unless you take out extra cover. If you need to see a dentist or optometrist this will be organised through the Health Centre. Payment of the full fee of this service is required.

Interpreter Services

We are lucky in Australia to have a variety of healthcare professionals from many different cultural backgrounds, so you may be able to see a doctor who speaks your first language. However, if you are having difficulties communicating with your doctor, the **Translation and Interpreter Service (TIS)** can be used. For more information, visit www.tisnational.gov.au or phone 131 450.



MAP OF ST URSULA'S COLLEGE TOOWOOMBA







St Ursula's College

TOOWOOMBA

VISIT US:
www.st-ursula.qld.edu.au

38 Taylor Street
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

Phone 07 4632 7611 Fax 07 4638 5634



BOARDING SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

CRICOS NO: 03033M
ABN: 88 934 244 646