

Important dates:

Friday 12 November
Year 11 Last Day

Monday 08 November
P & C Meeting

Friday 12 November
Year 12 Valedictory

Wednesday 01 December
Year 6 Orientation Day
Year 6 Parent Orientation
Evening

Thursday 02 December
Twilight Concert

Tuesday 07 December
EMITS Awards Night

Wednesday 08 December
Hockey Awards Night

Thursday 09 December
Golf Awards Night

View the

[College Events Calendar](#)

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all the news [here](#)



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Digby Mercer

Canteen Refurbishment and Arts and Technologies Showcase

The occasion of the Arts' and Technologies' Showcase was used to open the newly refurbished canteen. The project timeline from conception and design to handover of the new building has been very quick and very tight. While the works created inconvenience for the canteen staff and the Student Services team, the result has been very worthwhile. The new building passed its first test as an exhibition space with flying colours with the light and airy atmosphere showing off the art to great effect. In addition, the acoustics were also very good as shown by the choral, piano and didgeridoo performances. Apart from operating as a cafeteria and exhibition space, the new building will also be used for meetings, assemblies and lessons.

The new building was opened by Geoff Baker MLA and the Showcase itself was opened by Steve Irons MHR, both of whom have been instrumental in gaining resources for the school. This was the fourth Showcase and it highlighted the great work being done by students and teachers in the Arts and Technologies areas. There has been a steady improvement in the overall standard which is no doubt driven by the knowledge that there is now an established event for exhibiting work and performing. Particular thanks go Ms Monique Laves who first came up with concept, and to her team, and to Ms Kirsten Romany and her team. The catering provided by the Home Economics students was excellent

UniReady

This year was the school was fortunate to be offered a place in the new UniReady course provided by Curtin University. The course guarantees an ATAR of 72 and entry into university for students who successfully complete the course. It is a very good alternative and provides a safer and more attainable pathway for students. There has been a great interest in places for next year and we look forward to consolidating and developing the program in collaboration with Curtin University.

Fogarty Edvance Program

This was the second year of the school's involvement in the Fogarty Edvance Program. The work this year has been on setting in place the fundamental conditions for change. A particular has been on the development of the skills and knowledge of the Heads of Learning Area and Program Coordinators in regards to data analysis, team building and understanding the change process. As the school's middle managers and senior teachers they are the critical element in improving practice. This week they attended the fifth and last workshop. The feedback from all of our HOLAs has been very positive. As a part of their involvement in the program they have had to develop an action plan which they will be implementing this year and through 2022. One of the most valuable aspects of the program has been the provision of an experienced educator as a mentor. Next year the focus will be on the classroom and teacher practice. We are probably still a year or two away from seeing the benefits in terms of student results but the experience of schools previously involved is that results improve as practice changes in the classroom.

Jo May - Corporate Services Manager

Contributions and Charges

It is government policy that parents should contribute towards the cost of educating their children. Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected fees, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the balance of contributions and charges.

Contributions and charges form a large part of the school's income for learning and teaching programs in the school and supports the school in its focus to provide a quality education for all. The College is currently accepting payments for the 2021 school year.

Turn one big payment into easy instalments, you may like to consider starting a payment plan NOW to assist with completing all payments.

Payments are accepted by cheque, cash, Visa, Mastercard, direct deposit and Qkr:

BSB: 066 102 | A/C: 00903523 |Ref: student name

Attendance

- contact the Hub's 24 hour Attendance Hotline **9365 2011** or go to the Connect homepage to advise reason for student absence before 9.00am
- for early departure provide student with a written note to request permission to leave class
- write an explanation for absence and send it via your child as soon as they return to the College
- respond promptly to Absentee Letters

Contact Details

Please advise changes via email to Como.SC.AdminSupport@education.wa.edu.au or Change of Details Form available at Administration.

Many communications are sent by email – please ensure the College has your current email address.

Student pick up & drop off

Parents are reminded to please use the designated areas for pick up and drop off and not the Staff Car Park near Administration. We realise the temptation particularly when the weather is unfavourable, however it can cause more congestion in an already busy area of the school. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

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SPECIAL REPORT: Managing Overwhelm

Due to the pandemic, the world we now live in is a very different place. The hyperconnected nature of our current environment means that we are constantly being reminded of the challenges we face via numerous media and social media channels. Our connectivity to the digital world exposes us to a barrage of messages that can leave us feeling overwhelmed. As a result, many children and their parents are reporting higher levels of stress and anxiety.

Unfortunately, our brains have not evolved fast enough to adapt to this digital landscape. The combination of constant access to information and having little control over the situations presented, can be stressful and overwhelming. It is therefore important for adult carers to check in with their children and be aware of what information they may have been exposed to. It may not necessarily be the information itself that is harmful, but more their inability to process and make sense of it. Providing children with the skills and strategies to cope will enable them to flourish and thrive, socially, emotionally and academically.

The blueprint for parenting, based on our own experiences, is no longer fit for purpose in raising kids as citizens of tomorrow. This can be inherently stressful and overwhelming, not only for parents and carers, but children alike. If left untreated or unmanaged, constant stress and anxiety can lead to a number of behavioural issues or health consequences.

This Special Report suggests a number of strategies to help manage any feelings of overwhelm that you or your child may be

experiencing. We hope you take a moment to reflect on the information offered, and as always, we welcome your feedback. If this raises any concerns for you, a loved one or the wellbeing of your child, please seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report https://como.wa.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-managing-overwhelm



SchoolTV has a number of reports on a variety of topics which you may find helpful.

- [Surviving Year 12](#)
- [Exam Jitters](#)
- [Starting Year 7](#)

Como Orientation Day is Wednesday 01 December, however if you have a Year 7 student coming to Como in 2022 and feel you or your child would benefit from additional information in regard to transition to high school then further resources are available.

[SchoolTV: Starting Year 7](#)

[Headspace Transition to High School](#)

COMO SECONDARY COLLEGE P & C

Jesvin Karimi - President

As we are nearing the end of another year disrupted by the pandemic, the P & C look forward to 2022, hopeful that it will be a year whereby the P & C can return to hosting an event or events to bring our Community together and to raise funds for our College, after all this is the very essence of what our P & C is about! If you think you would like to get involved, we welcome all, joining is simple. All it will cost you is a \$1 fee to enable full voting rights. We meet once a month, usually on the second Monday of the month, during school terms only, at 7:30 in the Elicos Room.

Spotlight on the Canteen...We are very fortunate to have our wonderful canteen team, Sam, Jennie, Louise and Kathryn, who have been diligently working through dust and chaos continuing to serve our hungry village throughout the renovation process. We cannot thank our canteen team enough for all that they do!

We are all looking forward to embracing the new canteen servery area soon, with some new and exciting improvements on the way. The canteen will be transitioning to square terminals, to make the

cashless payment process more streamlined and reduce waiting time for students. We have also been very fortunate to benefit from some very generous support from the Hon Geoff Baker MLA who has funded the purchase of a new iPad and keyboard for the canteen to further streamline processes and enable online ordering and more.

We look forward to continuing to support the College Community and welcome new members anytime.

To assist families on Orientation Days and end of term the second-hand uniform shop be open

- Monday 29 October / 8.30-9.15AM
- Wednesday 01 December / 8.30-9.15AM
- Friday 03 December / CLOSED

Normal opening resumes Friday 10 December 8.30-9.15AM.

This will be our final day of opening for 2022.

ARTS AND TECHNOLOGIES SHOWCASE 2021

Kirsten Romany - Technologies HoLA

This year the annual Arts and Technologies Showcase began with an official opening of our beautiful new cafeteria space.

Geoff Baker, our local Member for South Perth Australian Labor Party, officially opened the cafeteria with Como Secondary College's principal Digby Mercer, who also delivered the welcome address along with Steve Irons, Federal Member for Swan.

Barry Winmar, a Whadjuk Nyoongar Elder, was invited to present the Welcome to Country as part of the opening proceedings.

Como's very own pianist Chaeyoung Lim was on Piano throughout the exhibit and the Como Senior Choir opened under the direction of Bronwynn Sprogowski.

Como Secondary College's Arts and Technologies exhibit continues to grow each year and the standard of student work this year was exceptional. Work on display included Visual Arts, Media, Photography, Digital Technologies, Woodwork, Metalwork and Engineering, Food and work from our specialist Create and EMITS programs.

The event was catered by Year 10 and 11 Food students.

Following the exhibit, was a showcase of Dance and Drama work which included re-enactments of YohFest State Finalist Dance production entitled "Pretty Hurts" and Yohfest State Finalist Drama production of "Fading".



Monique Laves - The ARTS HoLA

The Arts have had a busy month. Dance and Create students made it to the YOHFest finals for the first time which we were all very excited about. Our annual Showcase took place in our new facility and to top it off our Create students got to meet "Charlie" from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' at the matinee performance at Crown.

Our annual Showcase displayed inspirational work from our Year 7-12 students. The diversity of subject matter and quality of work was outstanding. The evening opened with songs from the Como Choir directed by Bronwynn Sprogowski. Harmonies filtered throughout the space and created a beautiful ambience for the event. Thank you and congratulations to Bronwynn and the Choir for their performance and making the evening special.

Welcome to Country by Noongar Elder Barry Winmar, began playing the didgeridoo, dressed in traditional kangaroo skin (a booka). He welcomed us all and shared his knowledge, culture and understanding of the land we all stand on together. With the rhythm of the tapping sticks he sang a traditional song that was appreciated by all.

While the exhibition was being viewed Emily Lim played classical piano on our community Arts piano which was painted for a City of South Perth festival. A very impressive recital, thank you Emily.

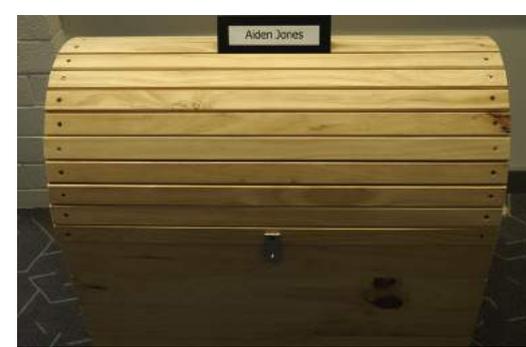
The second part of the evening was filled with performances from Dance and Drama in the performing arts centre. It was a very full house, students and parents came along to support all of the performances and there was certainly excitement in the air.

Como Secondary College is proud to encourage and support young aspiring artists through our annual showcase exhibition. The exhibition promotes creativity and imagination, and provides an opportunity for students to have their art project displayed in an exhibition.

The Arts would like to thank Mr Mercer for his vision and execution of our new multipurpose facility, it has already made a huge impact providing valuable exhibition space with endless possibilities for all.

But that's not all! Thursday 02 December is the Twilight Concert, a fabulous night for the family celebrating music from the Specialist Music Program. There will be raffles, Pimm's lounge, sausage sizzle, book sale plus more. It promises to be a wonderful night of entertainment from our talented Music students.







OUTDOOR EDUCATION SEATREK

Bruce Emslie - Outdoor Education Teacher



The Year 11s sailed and powerboated upriver from East Fremantle to Elizabeth Quay, and camped overnight at Pelican Point. On the second day they went to Pig Trough Bay on Garden Island and sailed back to Jervoise Bay Sailing Club at Woodman Point to camp overnight, while finishing day three with a visit to Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour.

GOLF

Adam Smith - TIC

Kai Flying High in Lower School Golf Championships

Congratulations to Year 8 student Kai F who won the inaugural Lower School Golf Championships at Collier Park, Thursday 28th October. Kai shot an impressive 9 hole score of 20 points to claim a 1 shot victory over Year 7 student Mitchell H. Bailey P, from Year 8, shot a solid 39 off the stick to claim the gross prize.

There was a lot of love for this new event and many smiley faces on the golf course. We will be working hard to make this a permanent fixture on the calendar.

Thank you to Collier Park Golf Course for their wonderful hospitality and support.



Golf Academy Online Fundraising Auction is LIVE

It is that time of year when our Golf Academy online fundraising auction gets underway.

There are some fantastic items up for grabs, which would make nice Christmas presents or just general gifts:

- Rounds of golf with carts - at 5 different courses
- Golf lessons
- Grand Cinemas Gold Lounge vouchers
- Grand Cinemas Family Cinema vouchers
- Meal Vouchers at various locations
- 2 x Curtin Stadium All Access 6 month gym memberships
- Signed sports memorabilia

Plus more to come

Please take a look at the link <https://www.32auctions.com/CGA2021>

Even if you do not want to bid on any of these items, please share with friends and family so we raise as much as we can for our awesome golf students.

Thank you to all our fantastic partners who have been extremely generous in donating items for our auction, we are extremely grateful for their support.

A Grade work by Connor

Congratulations to Golf Academy Vice - Captain Connor Vladich-McKenzie on winning the A Grade Plate of the Club Championships at Royal Perth GC. This is a fantastic achievement for junior to win such a prestigious prize amongst some very good players. Well done Connor, who has reaped the rewards of hard work, persistence and excellent attitude.



Study and Play USA

During week 4 the Como Golf Academy hosted our first ever live Webinar. This was with Queensland based company 'Study and Play USA' who kindly gave up their time to inform our students and parents of the many scholarship opportunities and pathways that are on offer to Australian students. Their staff, Chris and Ellen, gave an informative insight into life in the US, going through the American college system and the application process itself. Ellen, who recently went to Lynn University, Florida on a Golf Scholarship, was able to add a personal touch by sharing stories and the many fantastic experiences with our golf students.

Thank you to both Chris and Ellen for their time and information, and a big thank you to the parents and students who tuned in. Chris and Ellen will be visiting Perth in early 2022 and will be on hand to meet with parents and students who are interested in this pathway.

Partnerships with these organisations highlights how the Golf Academy's strong links stretch beyond local partners and, indeed,

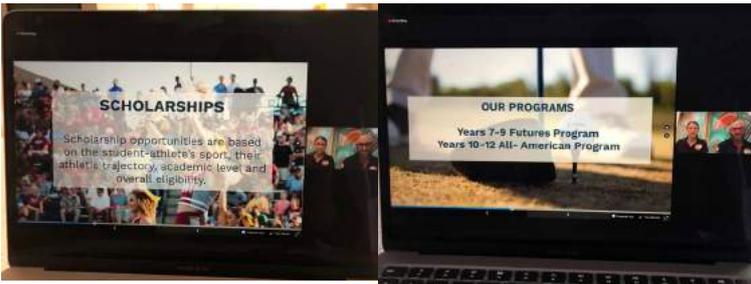
reaches out to inter-state colleagues.

Events, Events, Events...Term 4 is here!

The students have lots to look forward to as we wrap up our year. We have some of our most important events coming up during term 4. We have...

- Como Away Series ***final event*** Sunday 7th November at Royal Perth GC
- Como Family Golf Day – Thursday 11th November at Collier Park GC
- Como Golf Academy Championships – Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th November at Collier Park GC
- Golf Awards Night – Thursday 9th December in the Performing Arts Centre at School

We look forward to our students enjoying and embracing the opportunity of being part of these fantastic school events.



EMITS Ellen Sabatino - EMITS Coordinator

Have Sum Fun Online Competition

Over the next few weeks, our Year 7, 8 and 9 EMITS students will be competing in the Have Sum Fun Online competition. The competition consists of three rounds of 10 questions, where competitors have one hour to complete each round of questions. It is a maths quiz of problems where students compete in teams of four. All students will receive a participation certificate and all place-getters will receive a MAWA place-getter's certificate with their prize. There are prize vouchers up for grabs for top scoring teams! We wish all our teams the best of luck.

Year 8 + 9 EMITS Curtin Excursion

On the 25th October, our Year 8 and 9 EMITS students spent the day at Curtin University with their STEM Outreach team. Students were introduced to a range of courses available at university and what jobs each of these degrees could get you into. A few current uni students spoke to our EMITS students about what life at university is like and how to balance study, work and a social life. Students were then taken through a range of STEM workshops to build on their team work as well as STEM capabilities. The workshops included:

- An engineering challenge, where students had to build a platform that could float on water and withstand the most weight, whilst being the most cost efficient.
- A robotics challenge, where students had to program and build robots to specific guidelines and complete a series of challenges in the least amount of time.
- A spatial sciences workshop, where students were stepped through how to survey an area of the university using surveyors equipment and put their trigonometry skills to the test calculating angles, distances and slope from data collected.

The day concluded with a campus tour lead by some student engagement leaders at Curtin who spoke to the students about the array of different career options out there and the range of different degrees Curtin University has to offer.



MUSIC

Kiara Wild - TIC

Jazz Festival – Winners!

Como secondary students participated in the WA Schools' Jazz Festival back in August.

Como has been awarded 4 individual awards for students, who have all won themselves a private instrumental lesson with a member of staff at WAAPA (WA Academy of Performing Arts). A massive congratulations to:

- Mariah, Year 11
- Tej, Year 11
- Ben D, Year 10
- George, Yr 8



An Afternoon at Collier Park Retirement Village

Students in the year 10 Specialist Program performed for the residents of Collier Park Village on November 2nd. The students performed 6 pieces: "Birdland", "How Insensitive", "A Horse with No Name", "La Negra", "Route 66" and "The Jazz Police". The residents enjoyed the charts and also the solos by Michelle, Ava, Teiren, Isaac, Sakda and Ben.

We look forward to being able to perform for the Village again in 2022!



Music Arts Attack – Grace Barbe

WAM (WA Music) have been so kind to organise a lunch time concert for Como students. Musician and songwriter, Grace Barbe, sung to us in her native tongue – Kreol!

Accompanied by her guitarist, the duo performed songs that fused African, European and Asian genres. We loved having Grace perform and would like to thank WAM for providing us with such a great concert.



Junior Band – Guest Conductors

During term 4, two students from ECU have been volunteering their time on Tuesday afternoons to work with our Junior Concert Band students Mr Torrence and Mr Johnston are both learning to conduct the ensemble and will be debuting at the upcoming Twilight Concert. So far, the ensemble has enjoyed having fun new warmups and rehearsal techniques and we look forward to performing on December 2nd.



End of Year Concert

On September 16th, Como Music Department formally farewelled their Year 12 music students at the End of Year Music Concert. All ensembles performed at the formal event, and some of the Year 12's performed for the last time.

Many of the Year 12 students have been a part of the program from Year 7, and some even joining Como's Junior Concert Band back in Year 6!

Well done to all ensembles, who performed at such high standards!

ENGLISH

Joan Armstrong - English HoLA

The English Learning Area is celebrating yet another published author among Como's students. Kobi N (Year 12 Literature) has just had his poem, *Song Hong*, published in the 2021 *Primo Lux* anthology. This is a prestigious publication which showcases a select number of poems from students across the state who attend both the public and private sectors. Kobi will be invited to give a reading of his poem in Fremantle on 6th December.



Song Hong

By Kobi Nguyen

Home is a humble hut of timber
by the currents of sun.
Luscious fields cradle a rose river.
Shaded by the Ancient One
laughs and smiles carried by a zephyr
From sweet lullabies we've grown.
Ebb and flow the rich loving waters
Calm and tranquil. This is Home.

Now rubber covered gravel stretch the land
Currents of people. Crowded. Cluttered
Once pink the river floods pungent avarice,
Once lush the fields now reek wretched greed,
Once smiles are now mask covered frowns,
Once lullabies now crash the engines.
Taint grey the skies, greyer the faces.
Foreign. Grotesque. Take me Home...

LIBRARY

Liz Humphries - Library Officer

Como Library continues to be a hive of activity with our regulars arriving on the dot of opening time ready to take out the next four volumes of their favourite Manga series. The day starts just as it should with friends meeting to play chess, dominoes, read a chapter or two, finish/start an assignment or just pause and draw breath before a busy school day.

Hot off the printing press comes our spring delivery of the latest selection of Australian Secondary School fiction. There are new novels from Kay Kerr, Steven Herrick, Jessica Walton, C.S. Pacat, Mark Smith, Phillip Gwynne and Aviva. Within 24 hours of the books hitting the shelves, all but two were out on loan. That says a lot about our enthusiastic Como students and their love of reading.

For those of you who don't frequent the Library, can I encourage you to come in at least once during your school week. You don't have to be a fan of fiction to benefit from this calm and relaxing space. We have magazines, journals, a large collection of Visual Arts, Dance and Sports books. There is an area where you can find out about Careers and Training, go online to read the news or research events around the world, or just sit somewhere comfortable before your next class.

We are open Monday to Friday, from 8am-4pm, and you are always welcome.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Alyson McIntyre and Tiffany Hussien - The VET Team



Congratulations to Year 12 student Nah S. Noah is completing a two week work placement with WesTrac as part of the Authority Developed Work Place Learning endorsed program.

On Friday, 29th of October Fremantle Group Training held their 2021 participation ceremony to acknowledge all their students hard work towards their traineeships. Congratulations to our Year 12 students Hayley B, Olivia-May W and Alissa J for completing their certificate II qualifications as part of their school based traineeships.

YEAR 12

Nicole Richardson - Year 12 Coordinator

The last week of Term 3 2021 saw the Year 12 Leavers enjoy a Graduation Dinner, Breakfast and Farewell assembly. It was a lovely week of celebrations for a fabulous group of students. The formal Valedictory graduation ceremony will be held at UWA Octagon Theatre where the students will officially graduate from Como Secondary College. We wish our Year 12 group all of our best wishes



PARENTS & CITIZENS

Meetings

The P&C meet once a month during term time on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the College in the Elicos Room. Attendance at these meetings is a great way to find out more about what is happening in the College, its future plans and how these will affect your child and your family. It is also a venue for parents to voice concerns, raise issues and discuss ideas both with the Principal and with other parents.

Second-hand uniforms

There is a second hand uniform shop located at the school. It is run by the P&C and all funds raised go towards projects to benefit all students. Non-students need to sign in at the front office and staff can assist as to where to find the shop.

The shop is run on donations only. Please consider donating any school uniforms that you no longer need, including any specialist program uniforms, e.g. black pants, white collared long sleeve shirts for music performances.

Donations: can be placed in the marked boxes in the Canteen, the front office during school hours or given to the shop when open.

OPEN EVERY FRIDAY 8.30AM – 9.15AM

LOCATION: B BLOCK

ENQUIRIES: COMOSECOND@OUTLOOK.COM

PAYMENTS: CASH ONLY

COMO NOTICES

Please remember school zone speed limit



College Access

All visitors to the College MUST sign in at Administration.

Contact Details

Please advise changes via email to Como.SC.AdminSupport@education.wa.edu.au, or Change of Details form available at Administration. Please ensure the College has your current email address.

Contact During School Hours

Please DO NOT call the College to ask for a message to be given to your child. Please understand that with a College community of over 800 it is not possible to get messages to individual students. To avoid this issue, please ensure that after school arrangements are pre-arranged. This is part of helping students to become independent.

Drop-off

There is considerable vehicle traffic around our College site before and after school. It is expected that all vehicles use the Bruce Street car park or the marked drop-off bays to drop students off. Staff and Student car parks are NOT to be used for this purpose because it causes a great deal of congestion and potential danger to students.

Health

The Health Centre is open when the School Nurse is on site. When the Centre is open, students may access it at recess and lunch time without needing permission. If a student wishes to go during class time, permission with a note written in the College diary by their supervising teacher is required. If the Nurse is not available, students should see another member of the Student Services team or a Deputy Principal. Under no circumstances are students to contact parents/guardians directly and leave the College grounds without parents contacting the College and the student being properly signed out. In the case of injury, either a parent will be contacted or the student will be sent by ambulance to hospital, at the parent's expense.

NOTE: Please consider the health and wellbeing of others before allowing unwell students to attend school.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

These times can be stressful for many families. If you require help during this period, the following information may be of assistance.

Emergency services and help lines:

Call 000 in an emergency if you feel someone is at risk of harm OR for mental health emergency assessment, support and referral contact:

- Urgent Mental Health Telephone Support Line supports children and young people under 18 years (family who have concerns can call 24 hours a day/7 days a week incl. public holidays) - 1800 048 636

- Mental Health Emergency Response Line (MHERL) 18 years+ is 24/7 – 1300 552 002 (metro) Peel callers – 1800 676 822 (free call).

- RuralLink for Rural and remote areas from 4:30 pm to 8:30 am (Mon to Fri) and 24 hrs (Sat, Sun and public holidays) - 1800 552 002

- Find your GP after-hours clinic. Call after hours GP Helpline on 1800 022 222

Womens Domestic Violence Helpline	1800 007 339
Beyondblue	1300 224 636
Crisis Care Helpline	9223 1111
Or Country Toll Free	1800 199 008
Headspace	1800 650 890
Kids Helpline	1800 551 800
Lifeline	13 11 14
Men's Line Australia	1300 789 978
Suicide Call Back Service	1300 659 467
The Samaritans	135 247 (7AM to 7PM)

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