Avondale Primary School  
Adrenalin autoinjectors for students with anaphylaxis  

Proposal for Policy Amendment  

Introduction  
Anaphylaxis is defined as an extreme sensitivity to a substance such as a foreign protein or drug; a severe and rapid systemic allergic reaction which can cause constriction of the trachea, preventing breathing; anaphylactic shock. There are ten students who have experienced an anaphylactic reaction currently attending Avondale Primary School.  

Issue  
Students with anaphylaxis have an Epipen (adrenalin autoinjector) kept at the school in case of emergency. Staff are regularly retrained in the use of this devise. In May 2010 a second autoinjector, Anapen, was released in Australia. 

The Anapen requires the operator to hold the devise in a way that is contrary to Epipen instructions i.e. thumb over one end. 

The concern is that the possibility of an error increases if both types of autoinjectors are in the school. If a student has gone into anaphylactic shock, finding breathing difficult, it imperative that he/she receives their medication as soon as possible.  

Intention  
It is very important that a staff member administrating the medication does not make an error. By having one type of autoinjector only, in the school reduces the opportunity for error  

Proposal  
It is proposed that Avondale Primary School requests parents of students with anaphylaxis to supply an Epipen. 

Should new students arrive with an Anapen, then this will be kept at the school and used if necessary; it will be replaced with an Epipen when the ‘use by’ date for the Anapen has been reached.  

Policy Statement amendment  
It is expected that parents will supply an Epipen to the school for use during school hours. Should a new student arrive with an Anapen, it is expected that this will be replaced with an Epipen after the Anapen has expired.  

Invitation to comment:  
I invite parents to read the amended policy and respond to the implications for this school. You can leave a note at the office or email to avondale.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au if you wish to comment.  

Paul Mulroyan