

SPRINGWOOD ROAD STATE SCHOOL



CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS PROCEDURE 2026



Purpose

Springwood Road State School appreciates and acknowledges that parents, carers, students and community members have a right to make a complaint. This document outlines how Springwood Road State School will manage these complaints.

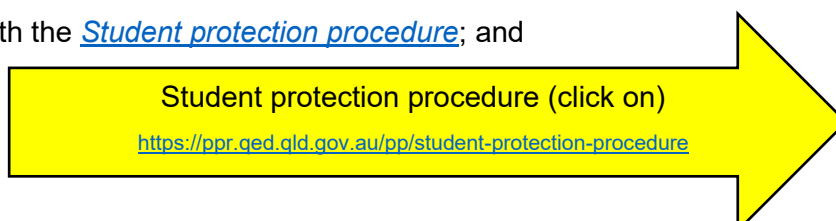
1. What is a customer complaint?

A complaint is a customer complaint if the person is unhappy with the service or action of Springwood Road State School, our staff, and directly affected by the service or action they are unhappy with.

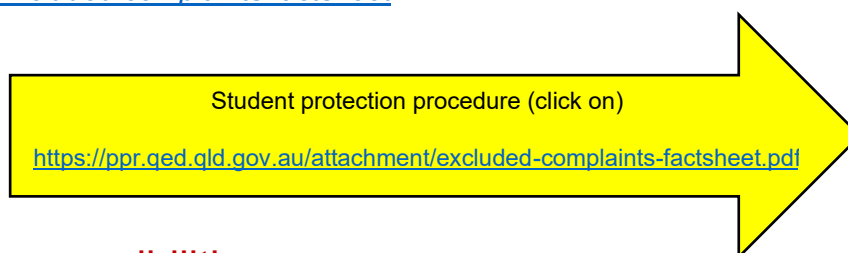
In our school community, the person making a complaint will usually be a parent, carer, student or other school community member, but could also be anyone else directly impacted by something at our school.

Some complaints must be managed using different processes. These include:

- issues about harm, or risk of harm, to a student attending a state school which must be managed in accordance with the [Student protection procedure](#); and



- complaints about corrupt conduct, public interest disclosures, or certain decisions made under legislation – refer to the [Excluded complaints factsheet](#) for more information.

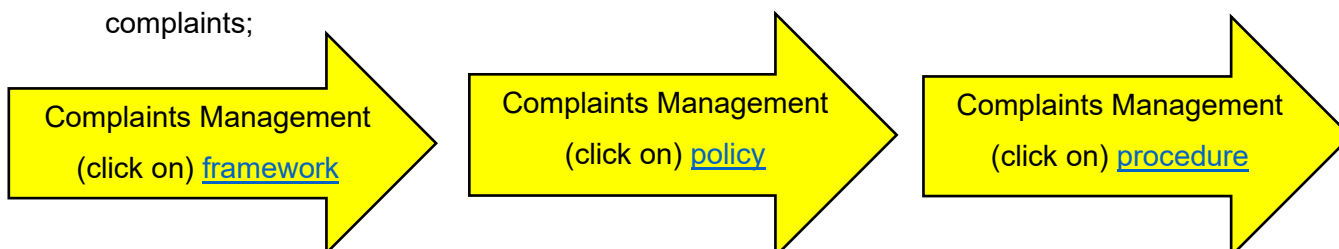


2. Roles and responsibilities

We treat everyone with respect, courtesy and fairness, and aim to act compatibly with human rights.

Our responsibilities include:

- following the customer complaints management [framework](#), [policy](#) and [procedure](#) when managing complaints;



- resolving complaints promptly; and
- providing information about our processes, time frames and any available review options.

For example, the following timeframes may be adhered to:

- Subject to the complexity and nature of the customer complaint and when the complaint is received (for example, in school holidays), the complaints officer should aim to resolve the customer complaint within the following framework timeframes:

- simple complaint: up to 20 days
- complaints requiring some inquiry: up to 45 days
- complaints requiring investigation and referral: up to 90 days, or longer in some cases
- complaints involving human rights issues: up to 45 business days.

If someone makes a complaint, they also have responsibilities, including:

- cooperating respectfully and understanding **that unreasonable conduct will not be tolerated;**
- giving us a clear idea of the issue or concern and a possible solution;
- providing all relevant information when making the complaint;
- understanding that addressing a complaint can take time; and
- letting us know if something changes, including if help is no longer needed.

Complaints management process

At Springwood Road State School, our complaints management process involves the following steps:

Receipt

At Springwood Road State School, we ask parents, carers, students or community members who would like to make a complaint to

- Contact the school office on 073457 8333 to make an appointment with your child's teacher or relevant staff member/s or
- Email your child's teacher to make an appointment or
- Email the Deputy Principal who oversees the year level your child is in

The following information should be provided when making a complaint:

- what happened, including when and where it occurred, and who was involved; and
- what outcome or solution you are seeking to address your issue or concern.

We accept anonymous complaints; however, it is important to understand that this could limit how a complaint is assessed and resolved, and it may also prevent an outcome being provided. **We will endure to acknowledge your complaint within 5 business days.**

Assessment and management

We will examine the issue(s) raised and try to resolve the complaint. We aim to do this promptly, but understand that we have many other responsibilities and it may not be possible to make contact or resolve a complaint immediately.

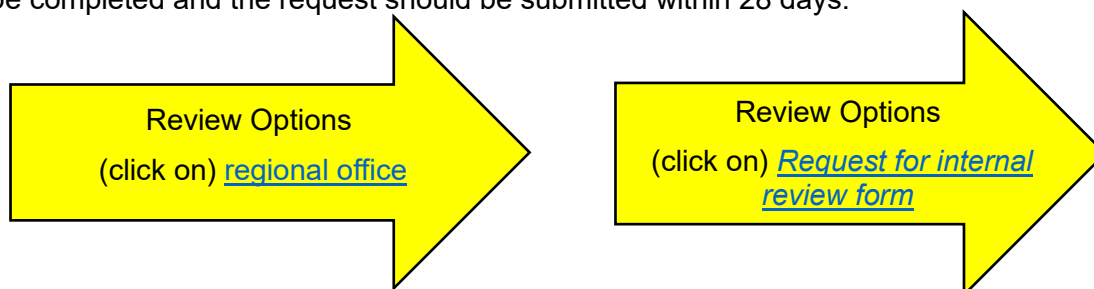


Providing an outcome

Once we finish examining the complaint, we will let the person who has made the complaint know the outcome and any available review options. **We will endeavour to provide an outcome within 10 days of receiving the complaint.**

3. Review options

If the person who has made the complaint is dissatisfied with the outcome or the way we handled their complaint, they can contact the [regional office](#) to ask for an internal review. A [Request for internal review form](#) should be completed and the request should be submitted within 28 days.

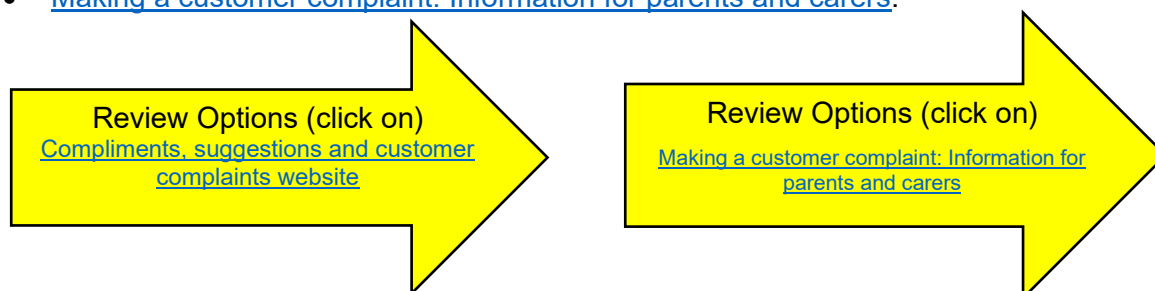


There is also an external review option (for example, the Queensland Ombudsman or Queensland Human Rights Commission), which becomes available once the department's complaints process has been exhausted.

4. More information and resources

The following resources contain additional information:

- Customer complaints management [framework](#), [policy](#) and [procedure](#)
- [Compliments, suggestions and customer complaints website](#)
- [Making a customer complaint: Information for parents and carers.](#)



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

<https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/attachment/customer-complaints-management-framework.pdf>

<https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/pp/customer-complaints-management-procedure>

<https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/attachment/customer-complaints-management-procedure.pdf>

<https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/pp/customer-complaints-management-internal-review-procedure>

5. Endorsement

Principal: Deb Robinson

P&C/School Council:

Effective date: 2025

Review date:



Queensland
Government

Responsibilities

All schools and education centres are required to:

- follow the customer complaints management framework, policy and procedure
- respect a person's right to make a complaint
- try to resolve complaints promptly and in accordance with framework timeframes
- consider human rights when responding to a complaint
- keep appropriate records
- provide advice about any review options.

Principals and deputy principals share these responsibilities, and must also ensure information is available at their school about how to make a customer complaint.

Complainants also have responsibilities, including:

- cooperating respectfully and understanding unreasonable conduct will not be tolerated
- giving a clear idea of the issue or concern and a possible solution
- providing all relevant information when making the complaint.

Refer to the *Customer complaints management procedure* for more information.

For more information and support



Contact the regional office

www.education.qld.gov.au/contact-us/state-schools-regional-contacts



Visit our website

www.qed.qld.gov.au/contact/customer-compliments-complaints



Search the Policy and Procedure Register

Customer complaints management framework, policy and procedure



Email

customercomplaintsgs@qed.qld.gov.au

**Managing
feedback in
schools**

Responding to compliments and complaints helps us improve



What is a customer complaint?

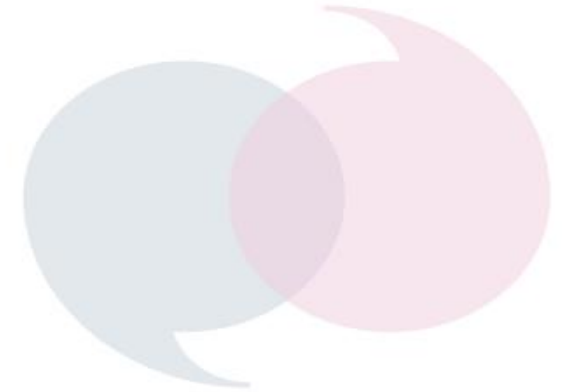
The department appreciates that parents, carers, students and community members have a right to provide feedback and make complaints.

It is important that the way we respond to complaints is consistent across all Queensland state schools and education centres, regions and divisions.

This way, people have clear expectations and receive consistent experience and service throughout the Department of Education and all its schools and services.

A customer complaint occurs when a person is dissatisfied with the service or action of the department or its staff, and the person is directly affected by the service or action.

In a school or education centre, a person making a complaint will usually be a parent, carer or student, but could also include members of the community who are directly impacted by something at the school. For example, a person who lives near a school, or someone who would like to enrol their child at the school but is not able to.



How are these complaints managed?

The department's approach is outlined in the customer complaints management framework, policy and procedure. This approach applies to schools and education centres, regions and divisions.



Early resolution

Frontline handling and resolution of customer complaints

Resolving at point of receipt

- We always try to resolve customer complaints quickly at the frontline or the point where the complaint is received so we can fix issues locally.



Internal review

Dissatisfied customer seeks internal review

Requesting an internal review

- Complainants can request an internal review if dissatisfied with the outcome of their complaint and/or the way the department handled the complaint.



External review

Dissatisfied customer seeks external review

Requesting an external review

- Complainants can ask an external agency, such as the Queensland Ombudsman, to review the department's handling of their customer complaint if they are dissatisfied.



Customer complaints management framework

Strategy and Performance
Analysis. Evidence. Insight.

Principles



✔ What is a customer complaint?

An expression of dissatisfaction about the service or action of the department, or its staff, by a person who is directly affected by the service or action, and includes complaints related to:

- a decision made, or a failure to make a decision, by a public service employee of the department
- an act, or failure to act, by the department
- the formulation of a proposal or intention by the department
- the making of a recommendation by the department
- the customer service provided by a public service employee of the department.

Source: section 219A Public Service Act 2008

✘ What is not a customer complaint?

Our customers contact us for many reasons and most of the time our customers do not have a complaint. It is not a complaint when our customers:

- request more information
- request a change in services or request a new service
- make a suggestion for improving our services
- express a concern about a situation
- provide feedback on the department's performance
- are not directly affected by the decision or action of the department
- provide information (e.g. reporting an incident).

💬 Accessibility

Customer complaints can be made by:

- telephone
- email
- in person
- Smart Service Queensland
- QGov website
- departmental social media
- letter.

When making a customer complaint, complainants:

- can be supported by a friend, an advocate, an interpreter or a community elder
- can request other reasonable assistance, such as translation services or text telephone services
- will be provided information about how to make a customer complaint and how complaints will be managed, including any review options available
- can remain anonymous, although this may limit how we can address your complaint.

🕒 Complaint type and response times

The time it takes to resolve a customer complaint depends on a number of factors, including when the complaint was made and the complexity of the complaint. As a guide:

- simple customer complaints may take up to 20 working days*
- customer complaints requiring some inquiry may take up to 45 working days
- customer complaints that require investigation and referral may take up to 90 working days or longer in some cases
- complaints involving human rights issues will take up to 45 business days
- an internal review should take 45 working days, subject to complexity.

* For school-related complaints, working days refers to school days during the school term.

Our approach



The Department of Education welcomes feedback from its customers.



We use customer complaints data to inform improvements and to meet our complaints reporting obligations under the *Public Service Act 2008* and *Human Rights Act 2019*.

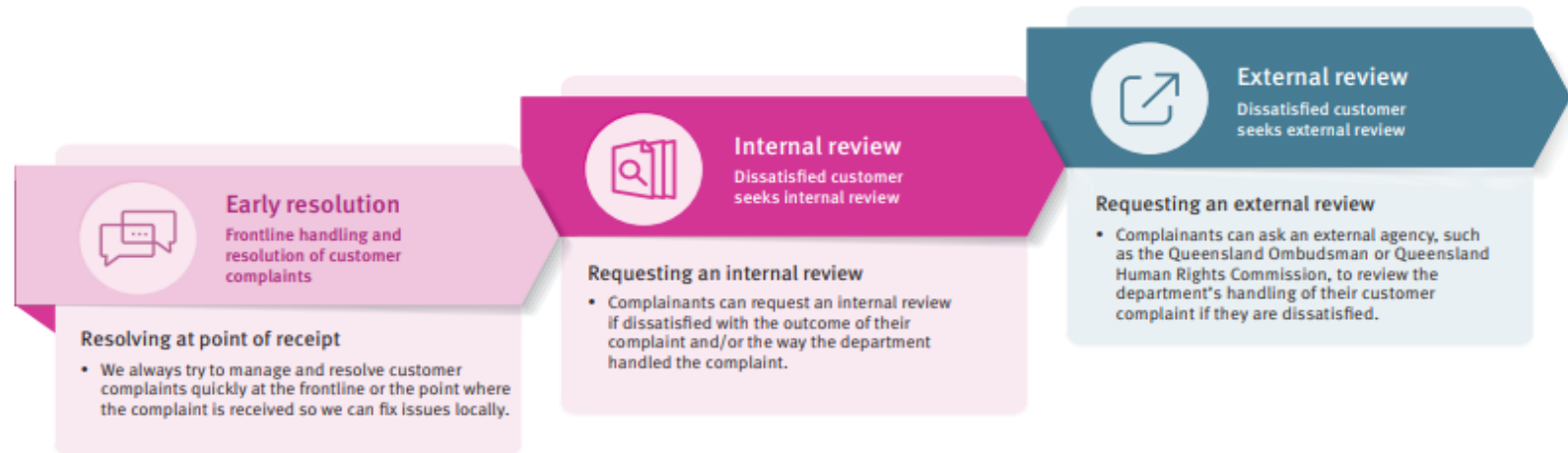
Customer complaints management framework

Strategy and Performance
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How we handle customer complaints

We try to resolve customer complaints as quickly as possible at the point where the complaint is received or after it is re-directed to the appropriate business area. If a complainant is dissatisfied, they may be able to ask for a review.

Our approach to handling complaints is based on the Australian/New Zealand Standard on complaints management (AS/NZS 10002:2014).



Complaint categories

The department uses set categories to record customer complaints at the organisational level. This helps us analyse customer complaints to identify trends and issues to improve our services. The categories are:

- Health and safety
- Services
- Staff and volunteers
- Policy and procedure
- Third parties
- Assets, infrastructure and information technology
- Procurement, fees and charges
- Privacy
- Other



Excluded complaints

Some complaints are outside the scope of this framework and will be managed through different processes:

- complaints under the *Education and Care Services Act 2013* and the *Education and Care Services National Law*
- complaints about certain decisions made under legislation
- complaints about decisions made under a contract
- employee complaints about their employment (*Public Service Act 2008* and *Public Service Commission Directives*)
- complaints involving corrupt conduct (*Crime and Corruption Act 2001*)
- public interest disclosures (*Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010*)



Complainant responsibilities

Customers making a complaint are responsible for:

- cooperating respectfully and understanding that unreasonable conduct will not be tolerated, including abusive, aggressive or disrespectful behaviour
- providing a clear idea of the problem and the desired solution
- providing all relevant information when the complaint is made
- understanding that some decisions cannot be overturned or changed under the framework approach
- informing the department of changes affecting the complaint including if help is no longer required.



Resources

- Customer complaints management policy and procedure
- Internal review procedure
- Information sheets
- Compliments and customer complaints website
- Excluded complaints factsheet
- Information for parents and carers factsheet