

[Snake Awareness Alert](#)

As we are coming into the warmer months it is important to be aware of the hazard snakes pose around campus and what to do if you see or are bitten by one.



Caution Areas

Whilst you should be cautious in all areas around campus, you should be especially mindful of the possibility of a snake encounter around garden and bush areas, or any place that provides a dark warm refuge for a snake. Try to walk through well lit areas at night so you can see where and what you are walking on.

If you see a snake

Make sure to keep your distance and under no circumstances try to kill, capture or otherwise provoke a snake. If you spot a snake on campus, a trained and accredited snake handler should be utilised to capture and relocate the snake to a safe area. Simply call maintenance on 6304 5554 to report the hazard.

Snake bites

If bitten by a snake, it is important to remain calm, alert someone and seek medical attention by calling 000. First Aid should be applied as soon as possible (see snake bite First Aid Guide below). If bitten on campus or in immediate surrounding areas, call the ECU emergency number on 6304 3333.



Snake bite First Aid

Warning

DO NOT wash venom off the skin.

DO NOT cut the bitten area.

DO NOT try to suck venom out of wound.

- 1) Check for hazards and ensure the snake does not still pose a threat.
- 2) Ensure the patient keeps movements to a minimum.
- 3) Apply a bandage over the bite site as soon as possible.
- 4) Apply a pressure bandage starting just above the fingers or toes of the bitten limb, and move upwards on the limb as far as can be reached (include the snake bite). Apply firmly without stopping blood supply to the limb.
- 5). Write down the time of the bite and when the bandage was applied. Stay with the patient.
- 6) Regularly check circulation in fingers or toes.
- 7) Wait for ambulance or medical assistance to arrive and follow [DRSABCD](#) if the patient collapses.