



# Horizons College of Learning & Enrichment

## Annual Report 2020 (Based on 2019 data)

### School Profile

Horizons College of Learning & Enrichment (Horizons College) is a co-educational, independent, special assistance school based at 2 King Street, Caboolture Queensland. At the time of the 2019 Commonwealth census (August 2019) there were 118 students attending the College, comprising 67 males and 51 females. Eighteen of our students identified as indigenous and thirty of our students had verified disabilities.

The College catered to students from year 7 to year 12 in 2019, with our first cohort of year 12 students graduating at the end of 2016.

Students enrol at the College after becoming disengaged from the mainstream education system.

### Curriculum

Our approved curriculum model is a mix of school-developed programs, the Australian Curriculum, Queensland Studies Authority curriculum and accredited Vocational Education and Training.

Our students study core subjects including English, Mathematics and HASS/Science and also have the opportunity to learn practical skills in areas such as:

- Automotive
- Business
- Construction
- Hairdressing/Beauty
- Horticulture
- Hospitality
- Information, Digital Media and Technology
- Retail
- Skills for Work
- Visual art

Students across all year levels can gain experience in any of the above areas. Year 10-12 students participate in one week's work experience – offered twice during the year.

Our College aims to provide a highly personalised, authentic and meaningful learning experience to students, with an emphasis on critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical and intercultural understanding. Students have the opportunity to develop a strong connection to the broader community and a sense of belonging.

We have a strong link to our related entity, Worklinks Qld Ltd, which is a registered training organization, and which coordinates vocational education courses for Horizons College students.

## **Extra-curricular Activities**

Students have the opportunity to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities, including sporting activities, excursions, art, drama and music.

## **Social and Emotional Support**

Horizons College recognizes that some of our students require help with social and emotional issues, and we employ Youth Workers who work one-on-one with students who may need their help. Our Youth Workers are at the College every day and are involved in all day-to-day College activities. We provide additional professional development opportunities for our Teaching staff to enable them to gain skills in dealing with difficult behavior and challenging social situations.

We want our students to enjoy their time at school and feel that they belong. We have a 'rec room' where students are provided with breakfast and lunch at first break. Here the students are free to socialise during break times and enjoy each other's company, play table tennis, listen to music or read a book. We also have a 'lunch' club for those students who want quiet activities e.g. board games, arts and crafts.

We do not tolerate bullying and aim for all our students to feel secure when at school. We teach our students skills to increase their self-esteem and build their resilience. We deal with bullying incidents quickly and any issues are dealt with directly by the Principal.

Our College ethos is **PRIDE**:

**P**articipation – participating in all activities

**R**espect – showing respect to staff, fellow students, staff and others

**I**ntegrity – being honest and acting truthfully

**D**etermination – being determined to achieve and overcome obstacles as they arrive

**E**mpathy – being thoughtful of others and helping when you can.

## **Parental/Caregiver Involvement**

Parents and caregivers are closely involved in their students' educational experience at Horizons. An open invitation is given to all parents and caregivers to attend the College at any time to discuss the progress of students and to raise any concerns. Parents and caregivers are regularly invited to attend celebratory events at the college and are encouraged to contact the Principal directly with any suggestions or concerns. We consider our students' education to be a shared responsibility between the College staff and the parents/caregivers.

## **Parent/Caregiver, Teacher and Student Satisfaction with the School**

Students complete a satisfaction survey at least once per year.

Staff attend regular staff meetings, at which all concerns, issues, and ideas are shared in an open manner as part of our continuous improvement process. Staff retention for both teaching and youth support is very high.

Parents/caregivers have an open invitation to liaise with the school and to discuss concerns or provide feedback.

## School Income Broken Down by Funding Source

Income for 2019 was as follows:

Government funding	\$3,306,868
Student resource levies	\$98,867
Other income	\$197,043
<b>Total income in 2019</b>	<b>\$3,602,778</b>

## Staffing Information

Horizons College employed the following as at December 2019:

### Teaching Staff

13 full time Teachers (including the Principal) and 2 part time Teachers

### Student Support Staff

- 5 full time Youth Workers (two of these also act as school support officers, with other assigned tasks) and 1 full time VET Trainer
- 3 casual Tutors

### Administrative Staff

4 full time employees and 0.5 part time employee

### Teachers' Qualifications

Qualification	Number of Teachers holding this as their highest level of qualification
Doctorate or higher	-
Masters	2
Bachelor Degree	13
Diploma	-
Certificate	-

### Teachers' Participation in Professional Development in 2019

#### a) Teacher Participation in Paid Professional Development

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
Personal Defence Instructional Program	15
Cert IV in Design	1
TAEASS502	1
TAELLN411	2
Cultural Awareness Training	15
First Aid	15
<b>Total number of teachers participating in at least 1 activity in the year</b>	<b>15</b>

Other informal PD occurred regularly throughout the year.

## **b) Expenditure on Paid Professional Development**

Total Number of Teachers Employed in 2019	15
The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2019	\$13,078
Average expenditure on PD per Teacher	\$872
The proportion of the teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2019	100%
The major paid in-house professional development initiatives were as follows: Vocational education and training compliance, completing aspects of Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.	

### **Average staff attendance for the school**

*(based on unplanned absences of sick and emergency leave periods of up to 5 days)*

The average attendance rate for all staff in 2019 was 97%. For teaching staff the average attendance was 97.6%.

### **Proportion of teaching staff retained from the previous year**

All of our 2018 teaching staff were retained for 2019.

## **Key Student Outcomes**

### **Average student attendance rate (%) for the whole school:**

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2019 was 89%.

### **Average student attendance rate for each year level:**

The average attendance rates for students in 2019 by year level were as follows:

<b>Year Level</b>	<b>Average Attendance %</b>
7	97%
8	84%
9	92%
10	86%
11	86%
12	88%

Given many of our students have barriers to engaging with education, we are always striving to improve attendance rates.

### **Management of Attendance**

Attendance rolls are marked at the start of each day, and at the start of each lesson during the day.

We use an SMS service to alert parents/caregivers when a student is absent without explanation. We seek to have written evidence of all reasons for absence, which we record in our student management system.

Poor attendance may result in enrolment being cancelled (depending on the circumstances).

**NAPLAN results 2019**

Horizons College, for the first time, had a small number of students who participated in NAPLAN in 2019. Due to the nature of being a special assistance school, small enrolment numbers and small cohorts, this data is not published in order to maintain student privacy and to minimize misinterpretation of performance.

**Apparent Student Retention Rate Year 10 to 12**

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 cohort is 47%.

**Year 12 Outcomes and post-school destinations**

In 2019 Horizons College had a 100% outcome rate for year 12 students ie they either achieved the Qld Certificate of Education and/or at least one fully completed Vocational Education and Training Certificate II. This was a continuation of the 100% outcome rate for the previous 2 years; however not every year will be the same, depending on our clientele and their individual needs and challenges.

**Contact Person for Further Information**

Jane Robinson, Principal