



Horizons College of Learning & Enrichment

Annual Report 2021 (Based on 2020 data)

Introduction

School Profile

Horizons College of Learning & Enrichment (Horizons College) is a co-educational, independent, special assistance school based at 2 King Street, Caboolture Queensland.

The College, which opened in 2014, caters to students in years 7 to 12 and is committed to assisting those young people who have disengaged from the mainstream education system.

At the time of the Commonwealth census in August 2020, there were 125 students attending the College, comprising 71 males (56.8%) and 54 females (43.2%). Twenty-one (16.8%) of our students identified as indigenous and fifty (40%) of our students had verified disabilities.

Our Philosophy

The philosophy of Horizons College of Learning and Enrichment is based on the recognition that all young people deserve a positive educational experience, one which will motivate and inspire them to reach their full potential.

The College believes that all young people have unique attributes and strengths that should be celebrated, allowing them to enjoy and be challenged through learning which builds on these individual strengths and interests.

The College believes that educational opportunities should help young people to develop a sense of pride and respect (for self and others) and challenge young people to broaden their horizons (socially, emotionally and educationally) and realise their dreams and place in an ever-changing global society.

Values

Horizons College promotes the following values in all College activities:

- 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.

All students are expected to uphold the 'PRIDE' ethos.

Distinctive Curriculum Offering

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.

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

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

Years 7 to 9

In 2020, students in years 7 to 9 studied Mathematics, English, Humanities and Social Science (HASS)/ Science, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and Music, Art and Drama (MAD).

Students also had the opportunity to undertake elective courses in Art Projects, Automotive, Cooking, Enterprise Projects, Gardening, Hair and Beauty, and Industrial Technology.

Each week, students in years 7 to 9 participated in a variety of recreational activities as part of the ACE program. These activities included swimming, boxing, fishing and bush walking.

Year 10

Students in Year 10 studied Mathematics, English, HASS/Science and Sport or Art as well as undertaking two to three of the following elective courses:

- Administration Services (Certificate II in Business and Certificate II in Customer Engagement)
- Art, Photography and New Media (Certificate I and Certificate II in Visual Arts)
- Building Services (Certificates I and II in Construction and Certificate II in Horticulture)
- Certificate II in Active Volunteering
- Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation
- Certificate II in Visual Arts
- Independent Living Skills Course – Nutrition and Wellbeing

Years 11 and 12

In order to meet the literacy and numeracy requirements of the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), students in years 11 and 12 were required to undertake one of the following learning options:

- Essential English and Essential Mathematics
- Certificate II in Skills for Work
- QCAA Short Courses in Literacy and Numeracy

The elective subjects available to senior students in 2020 included:

- Art, Photography and New Media (Certificate I and Certificate II in Visual Art)
- Building Services (Certificate I and II in Construction Pathways and Certificate II in Horticulture)
- Certificate II in Active Volunteering
- Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation
- Certificate II in Horticulture
- Certificate II in Hospitality
- Certificate II in Retail Services
- Certificate II in Salon Practices
- Certificate II in Tyre Fitting
- Certificate II in Visual Arts
- Certificate III in Business
- Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
- Certificate III in Information, Digital Media and Technology

Work Experience

All students at Horizons College have the opportunity to undertake structured workplace learning in industries of their choice. Students in years 10, 11 and 12 undertake a number of one-week blocks of work experience during their senior schooling years.

The COVID-19 pandemic meant that work experience opportunities were not available for most of 2020 however, our year 11 students were fortunate enough to undertake a weeklong placement in Term 4. We received very positive feedback from both our students and their host employers.

Social and Emotional Support

Horizons College recognizes that some of our students require help with social and emotional issues, and we employ Student Support Officers (SSOs), qualified youth workers, who work one-on-one with students who may need their help.

Our SSOs 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.

Key Student Outcomes

Attendance

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

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2020 was **93.8%** up from 89% in 2019.

Average student attendance rate (%) for each year level:

Year Level	Average Attendance Rate
7	94.6%
8	91.2%
9	89.8%
10	96.7%
11	94.6%
12	93.4%

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

Management of Attendance

Each morning students are greeted at the front gate by our Student Support Officers and their attendance is recorded. We use an SMS service to alert parents/carers when a student is absent or late to school

without explanation. We seek to have written evidence of all reasons for absence, which we record in our student management system.

Attendance rolls are also marked at the beginning of each lesson throughout the day. Teachers notify Student Services of any students who have not arrived to their classes and the student's whereabouts is ascertained.

The Principal/Deputy Principal, or their nominated delegate, regularly review student attendance and contact parents/carers where patterns of non-attendance are identified. Actions include phone calls, parent/carer and student meetings and attendance warning letters. Where possible, the college supports students to attend by assisting families to overcome the barriers that may be impacting attendance.

The college takes a positive approach to improving attendance by regularly recognizing and rewarding the students for their good attendance.

Depending on the circumstances, poor attendance may result in enrolment being cancelled.

NAPLAN results for 2020

Education ministers made the decision to cancel NAPLAN in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This means our students in Years 7 and 9 in 2020 did not undertake the assessment in 2020 and will not do a 'catch-up' test in 2021. Those in Years 7 and 9 in 2021 will sit the NAPLAN assessments.

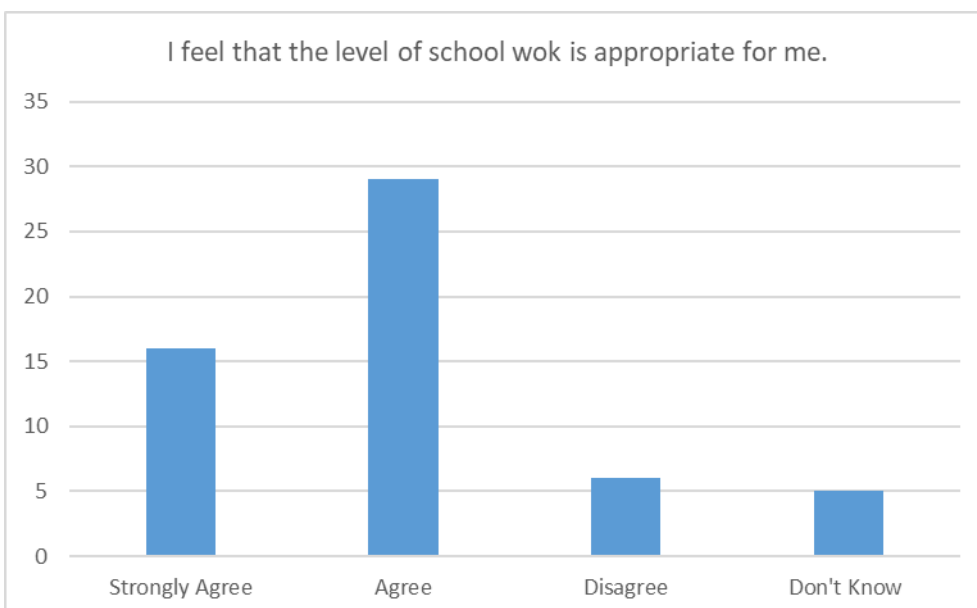
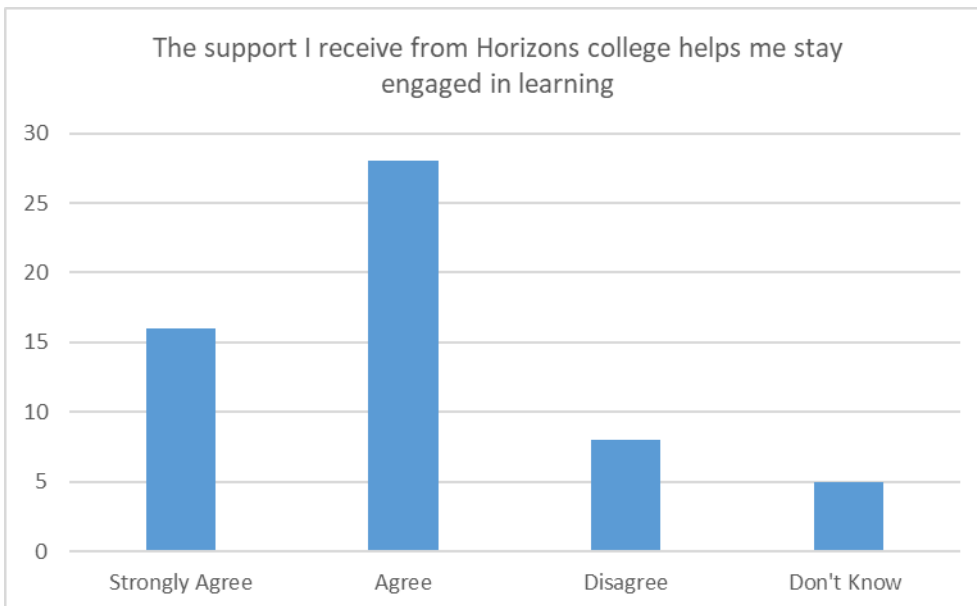
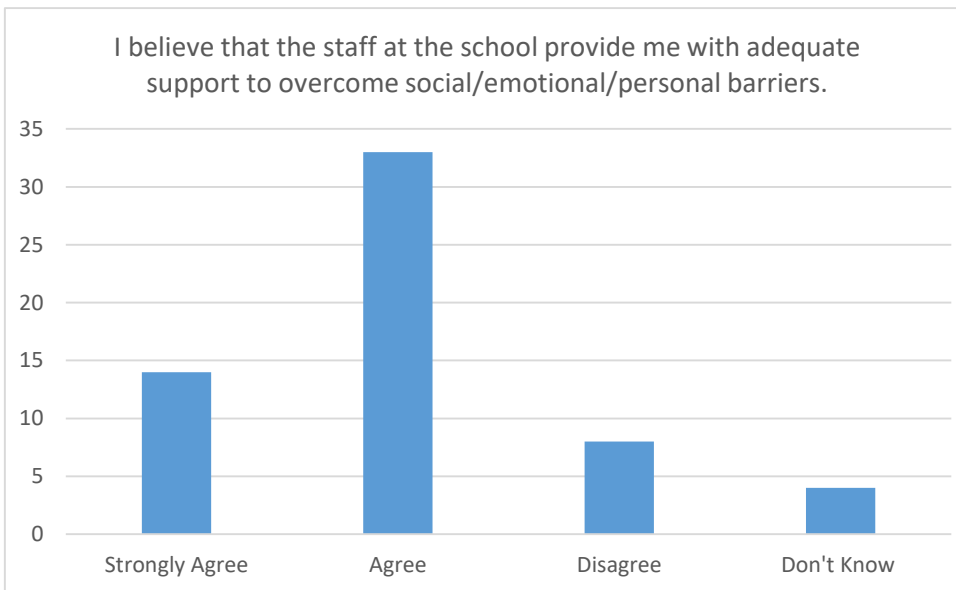
Apparent retention rate Year 10 to 12

Of the forty students enrolled in year 10 at the end of 2018, nine of those (22.5%) graduated year 12 in 2020. The eight other year 12 graduates enrolled at Horizons College during years 11 and 12.

Year 12 Outcomes

Number of students who received a Senior Education Profile (SEP)	17
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)	8
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)	1
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD)	0
Number of students receiving a Senior Statement only	8
Number of students awarded one or more VET qualifications	16
Number of students who are completing/completed a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship (SAT)	0
Number of students awarded a VET qualification:	
Certificate I	9
Certificate II	15
Certificate III	1
Certificate IV	0
Diploma	0
Advanced Diploma	0

Student Satisfaction with the School



Parent/Carer Involvement

Parents and carers 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 carers 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/carers.

Our Staff

Horizons College employed the following staff as at December 2020:

- Teaching Staff
 - 13 full time and two (2) part time Teachers (including the Principal)
- Student Support Staff
 - Seven (7) full time Student Support Officers (qualified youth workers)
 - Two (2) full time Vocational Trainer and Assessors
 - Four (4) casual Tutors
 - One (1) casual School Support Officer (Hospitality)
- Administration Staff
 - Two (2) full time and two (2) part time

Teachers' Participation in Professional Development in 2020

Teacher Participation in Paid Professional Development

Activity	Teachers
Cert III in Information, Digital Media and T	1
Cert IV in Design	1
Cert IV in TAE	3
Cert IV in Workplace Health and Safety	1
TAEASS502 Design and develop assessment tools	1
Mindful Collective Training – Managing Anxiety in the Classroom	15
First Aid	15
Total number of teachers participating in at least one activity in the year	15

Other informal PD occurred regularly throughout the year.

Expenditure on Paid Professional Development

Total number of teachers employed in 2020	15
The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2020	\$20,432
Average expenditure on PD per Teacher	\$1,362
Proportion of teaching staff involved in professional development activities during 2020	100%

Average staff attendance for the school

The average attendance rate for all staff in 2020 was 97%.

Average attendance rate

Teaching Staff	97.18%
Student Support Staff	96.75%
Administration Staff	96.24%

Number of staff retained from previous year

The percentage of staff employed at the end of 2019 and retained for the entire 2020 school year was:

Retention rate

Teaching Staff	80%
Student Support Staff	100%
Administration Staff	80%

School Income

Income for 2020 was as follows:

Government funding	\$3,507,384
Student resource levies	\$96,309
Other income	\$207,369
Total income in 2019	<u>\$3,811,062</u>

Contact person for further information: Jane Robinson, Principal