

# Quakers Hill High School 2019 Annual Report





## Introduction

The Annual Report for 2019 is provided to the community of Quakers Hill High School as an account of the school's operations and achievements throughout the year.

It provides a detailed account of the progress the school has made to provide high quality educational opportunities for all students, as set out in the school plan. It outlines the findings from self–assessment that reflect the impact of key school strategies for improved learning and the benefit to all students from the expenditure of resources, including equity funding.

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#### Message from the principal

Quakers Hill High School is a comprehensive, coeducational high school in Western Sydney. The school has high standing in its community, and utilises these productive community relationships to enhance learning opportunities for students.

In 2019, our wellbeing programs continued to be closely aligned to the emerging needs of students. The work of the school executive, School Counsellors, Year Advisers and Wellbeing staff was closely aligned and planned to provide an atmosphere of high quality and tailored support, where every student is known, valued and cared for.

Staff at Quakers Hill High School are experts in their field and engage in regular, planned professional learning to enhance their practice. In 2019, our School Administration and Support Staff were honoured by being awarded the best team in New South Wales and the best team in Australia. These awards, sponsored by the Public Service Association, are a recognition of the wonderful work of our Administration and Support team.

Our Aboriginal students were supported by the Aboriginal Education Officers and members of the school staff and executive. The students were mentored through individual and collaborative activities, with plans made on the Goal Hub platform which allowed for input from their families. The learning of Aboriginal students was greatly enhanced through extra—curricular programs in the creative and performing arts, as well as through excursions and engagement with Elders. A junior AECG was established in order to provide for increased student voice.

The SRC continued to fundraise, lead assemblies and above all, provide a platform for the expression of student voice throughout the year. Some of the charities supported include the National Breast Cancer Foundation, the Red Nose Foundation, the White Wreath Foundation and Bear Cottage. They also organised a non–perishables drive to support bushfire affected communities.

In sport, Quakers Hill High School students continued to achieve great results at school and representative levels. Successful Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals were held, alongside strong weekly grade sport competitions.

Our Duke of Edinburgh Awards group successfully completed their Bronze level award. This was a significant undertaking, requiring a great deal of personal time spent by the staff and students.

The Quakers Hill High School creative and performing arts program went from strength to strength, with the production of Peter Pan, numerous successful band and choir performances, dance events such as Pulse and Synergy as well as the CAPA evening which also showcased the talents of our visual artists.

The Prosperitas and Primary Prosperitas programs ran successfully once again and showcased the great skills of students which fall outside the usual curriculum structures. Primary Prosperitas extends enhances the strong community links between Quakers Hill High School and its partner Primary Schools: Barnier Public School, Quakers Hill East Public School and Hambledon Public School.

Perhaps the year's biggest announcement was Quakers Hill High School, alongside collegiate partners will begin offering senior school courses as of 2021, beginning with Year 11. Planning for this incredible expansion, known as the Nirimba Collegiate Recalibration, took place throughout 2019 and will continue in 2020.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous self–evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school's achievements and areas for development.

Andrew Skehan

Principal

# School background

#### **School vision statement**

QHHS meets the educational and welfare needs of students in a Stage 4/5 environment, encouraging all students to become lifelong learners and active, connected citizens. The school provides a diverse and comprehensive curriculum responsive to the needs and aspirations of students with a focus on teaching and learning and teacher quality. We are committed to embedding literacy, numeracy and technology into all aspects of professional practice. We develop the 'whole child' via our focus on sport, physical activity, creative and performing arts and student leadership. Tailoring the curriculum to meet student needs is a priority with a focus on Gifted and Talented (GAT) initiatives. We facilitate seamless transitions into and out of Quakers Hill HS via strong links to partner primary schools and Wyndham College.

#### **School context**

Quakers Hill HS is a public co–educational 7–10 high school situated in the north–west of Sydney. The school has 845 students and is one of the largest 7–10 campuses in NSW. It is one of four schools forming the Nirimba Collegiate Group with over 74 teaching staff and 15 support staff. Quakers Hill HS has a vibrant and enthusiastic staff who work collaboratively with the school community to provide a quality learning environment. The student population comprises 37% from a language background other than English with over 50 Indigenous students. A Support Unit which comprises of 2 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) classes and 2 mulitcategorical classes are an integral element of our school community.

## Self-assessment and school achievement

This section of the annual report outlines the findings from self–assessment using the School Excellence Framework, school achievements and the next steps to be pursued.

This year, our school undertook self–assessment using the School Excellence Framework. The Framework is a statement of what is valued as excellence for NSW public schools, both now and into the future. The Framework supports public schools throughout NSW in the pursuit of excellence by providing a clear description of high quality practice across the three domains of Learning, Teaching and Leading.

Each year, we assess our practice against the Framework to inform our school plan and annual report.

Our self–assessment process will assist the school to refine our school plan, leading to further improvements in the delivery of education to our students.

For more information about the School Excellence Framework: https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/school-excellence-and-accountability/school-excellence

## Self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework

Elements	2019 School Assessment
LEARNING: Learning Culture	Sustaining and Growing
LEARNING: Wellbeing	Sustaining and Growing
LEARNING: Curriculum	Delivering
LEARNING: Assessment	Sustaining and Growing
LEARNING: Reporting	Sustaining and Growing
LEARNING: Student performance measures	Sustaining and Growing
TEACHING: Effective classroom practice	Delivering
TEACHING: Data skills and use	Delivering
TEACHING: Professional standards	Sustaining and Growing
TEACHING: Learning and development	Sustaining and Growing
LEADING: Educational leadership	Sustaining and Growing
LEADING: School planning, implementation and reporting	Sustaining and Growing
LEADING: School resources	Sustaining and Growing
LEADING: Management practices and processes	Sustaining and Growing

## **Strategic Direction 1**

Life Long Learners, Connected Citizens

#### **Purpose**

To provide a diverse and comprehensive future focused curriculum responsive to the needs and aspirations of students within a well–resourced environment where all learning is underpinned by the development of critical literacy, numeracy and technology skills with a focus on continuously improving performance.

#### **Improvement Measures**

- The QHHS 21st Century 12 Transferrable Skills are explicit in all teaching and learning programs.
- Problem solving skills embedded in all KLA's with increased opportunities for inquiry-based learning
- 80% students achieving 'at expected growth or above' in NAPLAN performance in reading/numeracy (2019)

#### Progress towards achieving improvement measures

#### Process 1: Needs Based/Responsive Curriculum

- Year 7 Future Focused Learning Course
- Cross–KLA integrated units from Years 7 9
- · Focus on problem solving skills in all KLA's with increased opportunities for inquiry-based learning
- Investigation of re–organisation of period structure to provide opportunities for deeper learning
- · Increased range of subject choices tailored to student interest and engagement

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
The implementation of a needs –based curriculum that was responsive to student learning and engagement was evaluated through the collection of	RAM Equity funding
data across the school. Differentiation was used to a greater extent in classrooms. The High Resolves program was run with Year 8 students focusing on topics such as socialisation and social justice. This included professional learning for staff. Executive planning for the implementation of a Stage 6 curriculum from 2021 provided an opportunity to map a continuum of learning that will be tailored to student need.	Teacher Professional Learning budget

#### Process 2:

- · Literacy/ Numeracy/ SMART expectations roll call lessons to explicitly
- Maintain focus writing through TEEL/ALARM
- · Assessment as learning, goal setting, report reflection and peer feedback
- High Challenge/ High Support Frameworks
- Second stage implementation of Newman's Error Analysis
- · Success Criteria and Success for Learning
- Research 'I can statements' in Literacy/ Numeracy
- Targetted BIU roll calls

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
Staff undertook professional learning on the TEEL/ALARM strategies and were supported when implementing these into class and assessment tasks. Student writing samples demonstrated explicit scaffolds based on these	A/HT Literacy and Numeracy – \$32 000 funded through RAM Equity

Progress towards achieving improvement measures	
strategies. Further professional learning on academic writing is planned for 2020, led by the Acting Head Teacher Literacy and Numeracy.	Teacher Professional Learning budget

## **Strategic Direction 2**

Collective Purpose, Productive Pedagogies

#### **Purpose**

To inspire each staff member to engage in actively building their mastery of teaching through closer professional reflection with a particular focus on the Professional Standards as a reference point for whole school reflection. For all staff to have the highest expectations of themselves and the students that we teach.

#### **Improvement Measures**

Classroom observations and PDP's demonstrate alignment between individual classrooms and whole school strategic directions

100% of staff involved in ongoing professional learning and reflection, using the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers as reference.

Learning and Development to be assessed by internal review as excelling.

## Progress towards achieving improvement measures

#### Process 1: • Higher Order Thinking (HOT) hours

- Pilot Marking
- · Exemplar Development
- Peer to Peer Observation and Coaching
- Inquiry based Learning
- Integrated Unit Development
- Quality Assessment Coding
- Program Evaluation
- · Student Assessment Evaluations
- Staff Surveys
- Faculty TPL
- Twilight Sessions
- · Growth Coaching
- · Technology Group Sessions
- External TPL
- Nirimba Learning Community Sessions
- AITSL standards
- SEF standards
- Beginning Teacher Days
- Induction Programs

Funds Expended (Resources)

## Progress towards achieving improvement measures

Teacher professional learning remained a high priority in 2019. Data skills and use were an area of focus in the Term 2 Staff Development Day, which assisted in progressing one of the "next steps" following the 2018 External Validation. Planning in anticipation of the Nirimba Collegiate Recalibration, which was confirmed in Term 3 2019, began in earnest at the executive conference. A key aspect of this was planning for the development of staff capacity to deliver Stage 6 curriculum. This was further supported by a twilight TPL session and a whole of collegiate Staff Development Day, both run by NESA. Quality Teaching rounds were delivered for the first time in Term 3 with two rounds completed. This provided a focused opportunity to examine pedagogical practice amongst participants, which can then be used to inform planning for professional learning.

\$35 000 funded by the Teacher Professional Learning budget

**Process 2:** • A whole– school approach to wellbeing focused on positive recognition of staff contribution

<ul> <li>Promotion of regular s</li> </ul>	social and sporting	activities to	promote health and	wellbeing.

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
Staff wellbeing and engagement were supported by well established supervisory relationships and processes. The PDP process was successfully undertaken with plans to further build the capacity of executives to work with staff in the construction of achievable goals which are tailored to their individual needs. This process was and will continue to be supported by the standards maintenance process, whereby staff provide evidence of meeting the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.	Teacher Professional Learning budget

## **Strategic Direction 3**

Strong Partnerships, Community Commitment

# Purpose

To build stronger relationships within our immediate and wider educational community by fostering and maintaining sustainable links that are focused on collaboration, communication, excellence and the overall improvement of student learning outcomes.

## **Improvement Measures**

Development of a student devised School Excellence Framework

All forms of school communication are used to build stronger community connections.

Student led internal validation of whole school initiatives and KLA's underpins school evaluation.

## Progress towards achieving improvement measures

#### Process 1: Community Communication Project

- \* SENTRAL parents portal
- \* ATSI radio program
- \* AECG School representative group and newsletter
- \* Extended use of online communication platforms

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
The Quakers Connecting Communities Program continued successfully in 2019. Communication with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students was enhanced with the establishment of a Junior AECG. Community communication was enhanced with the introduction of the SENTRAL Parent Portal. Work will continue on effectively utilising this for parent communication. The new school website has been populated with relevant, engaging content and is maintained by an appointed staff member, fulfilling the role of communications officer.	\$34 000 from RAM Equity funding – Aboriginal Students  Technology budget – whole school

#### Process 2: Student voice

- \* Student Devised School Excellence Framework
- \* Internal Validation Student Review: KLA/Initiative
- \* SMART Student Voices team

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
The student goal setting initiative was successfully undertaken utilising the Goal Hub platform. Whilst highly beneficial to students as both a planning and reflective activity, it also provided further opportunity for student voice. The SMART team provided further scope for student voice in relation to whole school issues. Student voice has and will continue to feature heavily in planning for the Nirimba Collegiate Recalibration.	Goal Setting classroom teacher position – \$31 500 funded through RAM Equity

Key Initiatives	Resources (annual)	Impact achieved this year
Aboriginal background loading	\$45 365 spent on staffing \$5000 on whole school programs	The Aboriginal Education Officers, in collaboration with the school executive, provided individual and collective support for Aboriginal students. Under the Quakers Connecting Communities Program, this included cultural programs, excursions, in class support, wellbeing support, creative and performing arts and the maintenance of strong family relationships with the school. This strengthened student engagement and participation. Individual learning plans were collaboratively created utilising the Goal Hub platform. In 2019, emphasis was placed on student self direction, with resources diverted from outside providers back to them. This provided a rich and authentic expression of Aboriginal cultures within the school.
English language proficiency	English Language Proficiency – \$26 352 spent on staffing	Students for whom English is an additional language or dialect received specialist support to enhance their access to the curriculum. This included withdrawal support, assistance with specific class or assessment tasks and the provision of additional strategies for reading and writing.
Socio-economic background	\$91, 420 spent on Student Support Officer from Flexible Wellbeing and RAM Equity funds \$10 000 allocated for student assistance	Quakers Hill High School dedicated equity funding for student assistance, to enable the school to provide uniform and other essential items to families in need. The Student Support Officer and the provision of additional HT Wellbeing time enabled more effective case management of students. Staff professional learning on trauma informed practice built the skills and understanding of teachers in relation to students who have experienced trauma yet may not have had accessed adequate support services for a variety of reasons.
Support for beginning teachers	\$32 000 spent from Beginning Teacher Funding	Early career teachers at Quakers Hill High School were supported in their use of Beginning Teacher Support Funding to access additional release time and professional learning opportunities. This support was tailored to the needs of the teacher and allowed them to participate in lesson observations, professional learning events and to engage in rich mentoring activities with their supervisors and expert staff.
Bump it Up Literacy	Head Teacher Literacy and Numeracy – funded through RAM  Professional learning budget	In the area of literacy, this cohort of students 38 % demonstrated growth significant growth from the end of Year 8 into Year 9 while 22% demonstrated expected growth. 12% in Year 9 achieved Band 9 while 48% achieved Band 8. Of the remaining cohort, five students were in the upper end of Band 7. 50% of this cohort achieved Level 4 in Minimum Standards (Literacy) with a further 4 gaining Level 3. Of this cohort, nine students had not attempted the Literacy Minimum Standards assessment at

Bump it Up Literacy	Head Teacher Literacy and Numeracy – funded through RAM  Professional learning budget	this school.  The Head Teacher Literacy and Numeracy facilitated extensive professional learning for staff in face to face and online forms. This included the SCOUT software package, which enabled staff to access key data in relation to Bump it Up students. Further professional learning on the Here, Hidden and Head technique was provided at a faculty level.
Bump it Up Numeracy	Numeracy Team	Of the 2018 into 2019 cohort of Bump it up students 24% of students received Band 8 with a further 15% gaining either Band 9 or 10 in Numeracy. 35% of the cohort received a Band 8 in Reading with an additional 15% receiving Band 9. 46% of students showed at or above expected growth in Numeracy.  Students received specific instruction in Numeracy concepts and Newman's Error Analysis/Newman's Prompts in dedicated roll call lessons. Prior to these lessons, staff received professional learning in the specific Numeracy techniques with clear links made to NAPLAN.

## Student information

#### Student enrolment profile

	Enrolments			
Students	2016	2017	2018	2019
Boys	564	525	475	432
Girls	469	464	483	434

#### Student attendance profile

	School				
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	
7	94	93.9	92.4	92.5	
8	89.7	92.8	90.2	88.6	
9	90.4	88.9	90	87.3	
10	88.9	90	86.1	87.8	
All Years	90.8	91.3	89.6	89	
	State DoE				
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	
7	92.8	92.7	91.8	91.2	
8	90.5	90.5	89.3	88.6	
9	89.1	89.1	87.7	87.2	
10	87.6	87.3	86.1	85.5	
All Years	90	89.9	88.7	88.2	

# Management of non-attendance

Attendance at school has a big impact on longer term outcomes for children and young people. When a child is not at school they miss important opportunities to learn, build friendships and develop their skills through play. Regular attendance at school is a shared responsibility between schools and parents. By working together we can have a positive effect on supporting our children and young people to regularly attend school.

Our teachers promote and monitor regular attendance at school and all our schools have effective measures in place to record attendance and follow up student absences promptly. They are guided by the School Attendance policy which details the management of non–attendance.

#### **Post school destinations**

Proportion of students moving into post- school education, training or employment	Year 10 %	Year 11 %	Year 12 %
Seeking Employment	2.45	N/A	N/A
Employment	4.49	N/A	N/A
TAFE entry	1.22	N/A	N/A
University Entry	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	8.0	N/A	N/A
Unknown	2.04	N/A	N/A

The majority of students leaving Quakers Hill High School at the end of Year 10 in 2019 went to Wyndham College, the senior campus of the Nirimba Collegiate.

## Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training

0% of Year 12 students at Quakers Hill High School undertook vocational education and training in 2019.

## Workforce information

#### **Workforce composition**

Position	FTE*
Principal(s)	1
Deputy Principal(s)	2
Head Teacher(s)	12
Classroom Teacher(s)	43.88
Learning and Support Teacher(s)	2.5
Teacher Librarian	1
School Counsellor	1
School Administration and Support Staff	15.48
Other Positions	1

<sup>\*</sup>Full Time Equivalent

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce composition

The Department actively supports the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander employees through the use of identified positions, scholarship opportunities to become a teacher and by providing a culturally safe workplace. As of 2019, 3.9% of the Department's workforce identify as Aboriginal people.

#### **Workforce ATSI**

Staff type	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	2019 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander representation <sup>2</sup>
School Support	3.30%	7.20%
Teachers	3.30%	2.90%

Note 1 – The NSW Public Sector Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2014–17 introduced an aspirational target of 1.8% by 2021 for each of the sector's salary bands. If the aspirational target of 1.8% is achieved in salary bands not currently at or above 1.8%, the cumulative representation of Aboriginal employees in the sector is expected to reach 3.3%.

Note 2 – Representation of diversity groups are calculated as the estimated number of staff in each group divided by the total number of staff. These statistics have been weighted to estimate the representation of diversity groups in the workforce, where diversity survey response rates were less than 100 per cent. The total number of staff is based on a headcount of permanent and temporary employees.

#### **Teacher qualifications**

All casual, temporary and permanent teachers in NSW public schools must hold a NSW Department of Education approval to teach. Teachers with approval to teach must be accredited with the NSW Education Standards Authority, and hold a recognised teaching degree. All NSW teachers must hold a valid NSW Working With Children Check clearance.

#### Professional learning and teacher accreditation

Professional learning is core to enabling staff to improve their practice.

Professional learning includes five student–free School Development Days and induction programs for staff new to our school and/or system. These days are used to improve the capacity of teaching and non–teaching staff in line with school and departmental priorities.

Quakers Hill High School staff undertook a range of professional learning activities in 2019 in line with the their performance and development plans. These included a mixture of course and seminar attendance, mentoring, coaching and online learning. The staff had regular professional learning meetings which involve the use of guest speakers and

professional sharing sessions. There was a stror compliance during professional learning activities	ng emphasis on literacy, numeracy, pedagogy, student w s.	ellbeing and
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# **Financial information**

## **Financial summary**

The information provided in the financial summary includes reporting from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. The Principal is responsible for the financial management of the school and ensuring all school funds are managed in line with Department policy requirements.

	2019 Actual (\$)
Opening Balance	1,803,294
Revenue	10,769,006
Appropriation	10,370,181
Sale of Goods and Services	44,958
Grants and contributions	342,053
Investment income	11,815
Expenses	-10,767,629
Employee related	-9,732,586
Operating expenses	-1,035,043
Surplus / deficit for the year	1,378

Figures presented in this report may be subject to rounding so may not reconcile exactly with the bottom line totals, which are calculated without any rounding.

# Financial summary - Equity loadings

The equity loading data is the main component of the 'Appropriation' line item of the financial summary above.

	2019 Approved SBA (\$)
Targeted Total	1,036,096
Equity Total	755,360
Equity - Aboriginal	45,365
Equity - Socio-economic	272,097
Equity - Language	26,352
Equity - Disability	411,546
Base Total	7,352,569
Base - Per Capita	230,030
Base - Location	0
Base - Other	7,122,539
Other Total	1,009,133
Grand Total	10,153,158

Figures presented in this report may be subject to rounding so may not reconcile exactly with the bottom line totals, which are calculated without any rounding.

# **School performance - NAPLAN**

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10. The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

From 2018 to 2021 NAPLAN is moving from a paper test to an online test. Individual schools are transitioning to the online test, with some schools participating in NAPLAN on paper and others online. Results for both online and paper formats are reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale. Any comparison of NAPLAN results – such as comparisons to previous NAPLAN results or to results for students who did the assessment in a different format – should be treated with care.

#### **NAPLAN Online**

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing. Go to myschool.edu.au to access the school data. As schools transition to NAPLAN online, the band distribution of results is not directly comparable to band averages from previous years. While the 10 band distribution available to schools who completed NAPLAN online is a more accurate reflection of student performance, caution should be taken when considering results relative to what was formerly a six band distribution. As the full transition of NAPLAN online continues, the most appropriate way to communicate results for NAPLAN online is by scaled scores and scaled growth. This is the reporting format agreed by state and territory education ministers, and is reflected on the myschool website.

# Parent/caregiver, student, teacher satisfaction

Each year the school conducts multiple surveys of parents, students and teachers. The Tell Them From Me survey is conducted twice a year. The first survey specifically targeted Year 7 providing baseline data for their future years. The second survey for the year was conducted to survey all students. The survey revealed that 83% of students felt they had positive relationships compared to the state average of 79%. The surveyed revealed that 87% of students felt that they had positive behaviour for learning compared to the state average of 85%. 66% of students felt they were successful in English, 68% felt they succeeded in Mathematics and 67% felt they succeeded in Science compared to the state average of 68% for English and 66% for Mathematics and Science. Students rated their expectations of success as being above the state average. Effective use of learning time rated 6.4 compared the state rating of 6.2. Relevance in learning rated 5.6.comapred to the state of 5.8. Rigour in learning rated 6.1 compared to the state rating of 6.3. These drivers of learning continue to show growth. Students rated a positive relationship between teachers and students above the state average with advocacy and positive learning environment being in line with the state average. 41% of Aboriginal students stated they agreed or strongly agreed that they felt good about their culture when at school and 43% agreed or strongly agreed that staff understand their culture.

# **Policy requirements**

#### **Aboriginal Education Policy**

The responsibility for enacting the Aboriginal Education Policy rests with all Departmental staff. The policy should underpin and inform planning, teaching practice and approaches to educational leadership in all educational settings.

Evidence of effective implementation of the policy included:

- Establishing, building and strengthening relationships with the Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, Aboriginal people and communities.
- Providing, in partnership with Aboriginal people and communities, education which promotes quality teaching, is engaging, and is culturally appropriate and relevant.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students will match or better the outcomes of the broader student population.
- Implementation of Personalised Learning Pathways for all Aboriginal students in a school culture of high expectations.

#### **Anti-Racism Policy**

All teachers are responsible for supporting students to develop an understanding of racism and discrimination and the impact these may have on individuals and the broader community. Principals are responsible for examining school practices and procedures to ensure they are consistent with the policy. All schools have an Anti–Racism Contact Officer who is trained to respond to concerns in relation to racism.

## **Multicultural Education Policy**

Teachers address the specific learning and wellbeing needs of students from culturally diverse backgrounds through their teaching and learning programs. Principals are responsible for ensuring that school policies, programs and practices respond to the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of the school community, and provide opportunities that enable all students to achieve equitable education and social outcomes.