

## 2020 Annual Report

## Lincoln School





5757

#### Introduction

The Annual Report for 2020 is provided to the community of Lincoln 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.

#### **School contact details**

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#### **School vision**

Lincoln School provides outstanding individualised programs for its students in living skills, remedial, general, accredited and vocational education which will enable them to re-enter society and function as responsible citizens. We aim to provide educational, social and vocational programs for students that will allow them to function independently in their communities.

The staff at Lincoln School strive to:

- create an environment that is supportive, positive, happy, safe and non-threatening;
- \* provide skills based programs to enhance students' academic, personal, social and vocational skills, and facilitate their transition and reintegration into their communities;
- \* identify and acknowledge effort and achievement;
- \* work with our school community to provide a quality service to residents.

#### **School context**

Lincoln School is located in the Orana Youth Justice Centre in Dubbo and is one of six education and training units located across the state. Lincoln School provides educational services to male detainees aged 10 to 21 located within the centre.

During 2020 the school continued provision of educational programs to the Youth Justice Mac River Drug Rehabilitation facility located on the outskirts of Dubbo. This facility caters to both male and female clients.

Our programs are designed to improve our students' education and training standards and their confidence and skills to re-enter education, training or the workforce. The school caters for 36 students, but averages new enrolments of up to 180 students each year due to the remand and transitional nature of the centre. The school maintains a consistent enrolment pattern of approximately 80% Aboriginal enrolments.

School staff work closely with the Department of Communities and Justice, Justice Health, Local Dubbo AECG, NSW Health, NSW Police, TAFE, public schools and Non Government Organisations to provide a positive learning environment for students where personal success in learning is the goal. Each student has an Individualised Education Plan developed following initial and ongoing assessment and in consultation with the student.

The school continued implementation of an extended school year in 2020, whereby it operated for an additional fifteen days during traditional holiday periods.

#### 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

#### Self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework

Elements	2020 School Assessment
LEARNING: Learning Culture	Sustaining and Growing
LEARNING: Wellbeing	Excelling
LEARNING: Curriculum	Sustaining and Growing
LEARNING: Assessment	Delivering
LEARNING: Reporting	Delivering
LEARNING: Student performance measures	Working towards Delivering
TEACHING: Effective classroom practice	Delivering
TEACHING: Data skills and use	Delivering
TEACHING: Professional standards	Sustaining and Growing
TEACHING: Learning and development	Delivering
LEADING: Educational leadership	Delivering
LEADING: School planning, implementation and reporting	Sustaining and Growing
LEADING: School resources	Sustaining and Growing
LEADING: Management practices and processes	Sustaining and Growing

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#### **Strategic Direction 1**

Innovative & Flexible Learning

#### **Purpose**

To create a student centred learning environment which provides a differentiated curriculum that is responsive, relevant and dynamic enough to meet the diverse individual needs of our students and unique school community, and which reflects aspirational expectations of learning progress and achievement for all students.

#### **Improvement Measures**

All students will achieve growth in literacy and numeracy levels across internal literacy and numeracy data measurements.

Increase capacity of staff to embed best practice into their teaching and learning in literacy and numeracy.

Increase capacity for each student to achieve recognised credentials or success through self-identified learning pathways.

#### Progress towards achieving improvement measures

#### **Process 1: Building Staff Capacity**

Develop staff capacity to implement effective teaching strategies to improve students' literacy and numeracy achievement, including instructional leadership, quality teaching rounds, classroom observation, mentoring, team teaching, and targeted support.

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
Staff demonstrate an increased confidence in individualised programming to meet the differing developmental needs of students.  An increased range of online and physical school resources are utilised to meet student needs and interests.  Teachers have an increased knowledge of curriculum content and expectations. Units of work are aligned to NESA and new syllabus requirements. This will be revisited due to the 2021-2024 curriculum overhaul.  All experienced and beginning teachers have increased their knowledge of local school curriculum and planning procedures, including informative IEPs and PLPs.  All staff confidently embed Aboriginal pedagogy into planning and programming. Many teachers have reported they have authentically embedded most processes into everyday programming and planning however they use some processes (story sharing, non-linear, deconstruct/reconstruct visuals, symbols and images) more than others (land links, community links).	<ul> <li>Top up SAO to 0.8 (\$2299 - Principal Support Funding)</li> <li>Additional teacher - Curriculum expert (\$8272.76 - SSP Supplementary Funding)</li> <li>1:1 Music tutor SLSO (\$602 - SSP Supplementary Funding)</li> <li>AP admin (\$9782 - SSP Supplementary Funding)</li> <li>Casual SLSO (\$678 - SSP Supplementary Funding)</li> <li>Visual art teachers to art exhibition PL (\$695.74 - Professional Learning)</li> <li>Principal conferences (\$972.03 - Professional Learning)</li> <li>3 additional teachers trained in delivery of MultiLit (\$1486.35 - Professional Learning)</li> <li>Staff development days (\$2008.40 - Professional Learning)</li> <li>Staff cover for PL (\$1975 - Professional Learning)</li> </ul>

#### **Process 2: Curriculum Provision**

Implement innovative and flexible curriculum provision that supports high expectations for student learning and which is enhanced through learning alliances with other schools, agencies and organisations, where useful and practicable.

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
Curriculum continued to be reviewed throughout the year to ensure our units of learning meet current curriculum requirements. This will be an	Top up SAO to 0.8 (\$2299 - Principal Support Funding)

#### Progress towards achieving improvement measures

ongoing process due to the 2021 syllabus changes.

- All staff are trained in Aboriginal Pedagogies and are embedding these processes into their programming and planning
- Teachers are actively teaching with the themes from the 'What works best' document. They self-reflected on their teaching processes to find strengths and focus areas. identified focus areas moving into 2021 High expectations, explicit feedback, and learning intentions
- Peer observations were effective in building teacher collaboration, identifying strengths and focus areas, and building on staff capacity. These were not completed with all teachers due to low numbers and staff absences continuing focus in 2021.
- Additional teacher Curriculum expert (\$8272.76 SSP Supplementary Funding)
- 1:1 Music tutor SLSO (\$602 SSP Supplementary Funding)
- AP admin (\$9782 SSP Supplementary Funding)
- Staff vehicle use (\$490.68 School Operational Funds)

#### Strategic Direction 2

Student Wellbeing

#### **Purpose**

To successfully re-engage students in educational and vocational programs through the provision of learning environments that are safe and well managed within a consistent, school-wide approach.

To maintain and promote a school culture where positive, respectful relationships are evident and widespread among students and staff and promote student wellbeing to ensure optimum conditions for student learning.

#### **Improvement Measures**

Improved levels of student wellbeing and engagement.

The learning achievements of Aboriginal students match or better outcomes of all students during enrolment.

Student Surveys indicate satisfaction with the school program.

#### **Progress towards achieving improvement measures**

#### Process 1: Aboriginality, Identity and Diversity

Plan and promote school practices to support the cognitive, emotional, social, physical and spiritual wellbeing of Aboriginal students which result in improved educational outcomes, positive behaviour and re-engagement in formalised learning situations.

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
<ul> <li>Staff have an increased capacity to support wellbeing of Aboriginal students.</li> <li>Indigenous students achieved academic improvement in literacy and numeracy</li> <li>Student exit surveys report that students further increased knowledge of Aboriginal Culture (85%). Due to shorter enrolment periods upon completion of exit survey, this has impacted the duration of program provision for some students.</li> <li>PLPs are consistently implemented and regular evaluations are completed involving staff and the student.</li> <li>Teachers have embedded Aboriginal pedagogy into programming and classroom practice and have reported improved student engagement</li> </ul>	Top up SAO to 0.8 (\$2299 - Principal Support Funding) Additional AEO (\$18034.11 - SSP Supplementary Funding) AP admin (\$9782 - SSP Supplementary Funding) BroSpeak program consumables/resources (\$1477.25 - RAM Equity)

#### **Process 2: Productive and Inclusive Learning**

Support the maintenance and development of productive and inclusive learning environments across the school by reviewing inclusive strategies and exploring new approaches to engage and support all students.

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
<ul> <li>Staff demonstrated an increased confidence and comprehensive understanding of the Wellbeing Framework at both classroom and whole school levels.</li> <li>100% of students indicated that their wellbeing needs were supported while at Lincoln School reporting that they felt ready to return to community due to support while enrolled in educational program and social skills provision.</li> <li>Teachers regularly review, reflect and revise adjustments to teaching and learning that is individualised for all students. Teachers have taken responsibility for Disability Adjustment Plans with support of the leadership team and school counsellor.</li> <li>Students have demonstrated increased confidence in identifying and applying adjustments to support their learning.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Top up SAO to 0.8 (\$2299 - Principal Support Funding)</li> <li>Additional SLSO support (\$24379.74 - RAM Equity)</li> <li>Additional teacher - Curriculum expert (\$8272.76 - SSP Supplementary Funding)</li> <li>1:1 Music tutor SLSO (\$602 - SSP Supplementary Funding)</li> <li>AP admin (\$9782 - SSP Supplementary Funding)</li> <li>Casual SLSO (\$678 - SSP</li> </ul>
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#### Progress towards achieving improvement measures

- Staff demonstrated an increased confidence and comprehensive understanding of the Wellbeing Framework at both classroom and whole school levels.
- 100% of students indicated that their wellbeing needs were supported while at Lincoln School reporting that they felt ready to return to community due to support while enrolled in educational program and social skills provision.
- Teachers regularly review, reflect and revise adjustments to teaching and learning that is individualised for all students. Teachers have taken responsibility for Disability Adjustment Plans with support of the leadership team and school counsellor.
- Students have demonstrated increased confidence in identifying and applying adjustments to support their learning.

Supplementary Funding)

- WISA best practise course x 2 teachers (\$545.46 Professional Learning)
- ACF course x 1 teacher (\$30.48 Professional Learning)
- School snake license (\$50.20 School Operational Funds)

#### **Strategic Direction 3**

**Quality Pathways** 

#### **Purpose**

Students who gain skills and qualifications, and have transitional pathways clearly identified are more likely to experience success when they return to their community. Our purpose is to build our students' capacity to become positive contributors to their communities through the provision of work ready skills, vocational training and a comprehensive and coordinated network of multi-agency support services.

#### **Improvement Measures**

All students on a control order of 8 weeks or more have comprehensive Transition Plans in place.

Increase opportunities for student access to vocational training to support transitional pathways; dependent on, and within risk classifications.

Growth in students accessing educational, vocational or employment pathways post release across internal and external school data measurements.

#### Progress towards achieving improvement measures

#### **Process 1: Learning Pathways**

Integrate a range of vocational training opportunities into the school program that are tailored to meet the needs of students and which support or enhance transitional pathways back to the community.

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
Students accessed a broad range of vocational education and training opportunities to support their individual transition to community. Despite significant challenges this year (Shearer Review recommendations, COVID restrictions, lower student numbers), Lincoln School has continued to be innovative in the delivery of vocational education and training. New processes and procedures have been implemented and resources procured to ensure safe delivery of VET courses inside Orana Youth Justice. Relationships with external providers have continued to develop which has led to the ability to be more responsive to student need and provide courses such as White Card and First Aid "on demand" as opposed to pre-planned significant time in advance.	Top up SAO to 0.8 (\$2299 - Principal Support Funding)  1:1 Music tutor SLSO (\$602 - SSP Supplementary Funding)  AP admin (\$9782 - SSP Supplementary Funding)  NSF transition funding (\$8450.93)

#### **Process 2: Transition**

Devise and implement strategies that cater to the individual needs and circumstances of every student and which give students the best chance at success upon return to their community through a supportive and collaborative approach with partner agencies.

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
<ul> <li>Eligible students accessed opportunity to participate in work experience and other out of centre work ready programs.</li> <li>Stakeholder network has broadened, strengthening the provision of support for students returning to community schools and settings.</li> <li>2020 has been a challenging year for getting eligible students to access training, work experience and jobs in the community due to COVID restrictions and compliance with Department of Education and Youth Justice procedures.</li> <li>More broadly over the last 3 years there has been a significant shift in Lincoln School's role in supporting students access community learning opportunities. A number of students have accessed work experience, jobs and community based training opportunities. Networks of stakeholders (schools, employers, training organisations, NGOs, etc) have continued to</li> </ul>	Top up SAO to 0.8 (\$2299 - Principal Support Funding) AP admin (\$9782 - SSP Supplementary Funding) Student work experience clothing (\$22.68 - School Operational Funding)
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# grow resulting in further opportunities for Lincoln School students to access meaningful community transition activities. There has been a significant number of anecdotal reports of past students accessing employment and training after leaving Lincoln School.

#### **Process 3: Personal and Social Capability**

Students are given opportunities to develop strong self awareness and social maturity through the provision of targeted programs.

Evaluation	Funds Expended (Resources)
Students received regular opportunities to engage in courses and programs that supported social maturity and promoted strong self awareness.	Top up SAO to 0.8 (\$2299 - Principal Support Funding) Additional AEO (\$18034.11 - SSP Supplementary Funding) AP admin (\$9782 - SSP Supplementary Funding)

Key Initiatives	Resources (annual)	Impact achieved this year
Aboriginal background loading		The Aboriginal Education Officer (AEO) provided strong support in assisting students with additional learning needs, intensive programs and culturally supportive behaviour management interventions.
		Additional release was provided to the AEO to coordinate and work with the local Aboriginal community including the additionally appointed AEO funded under SSP Supplementary Funds, in the provision of relevant programs to support students. The 'BroSpeak' cultural and mentoring programs delivered each term, along with NAIDOC and community days, were highly valued by students and completed successfully with strong support from community representatives. The AEO also provided creative support to students in traditional arts and practices which resulted in strong engagement, and deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture by all students.
		All Aboriginal students have a Personalised Learning Pathway (PLP), initially designed with the support of the AEO, and which are reflective of individual learning needs and aspirations. PLPs will continue to be a school priority in 2021 as the school continues its focus on improving student learning outcomes, and strengthening student pathways.
Socio-economic background		Funding was utilised to provide additional release for the Assistant Principals in order to support interagency partners with significant events impacting on Centres across the state. This included both a significant influx of young people and very high numbers of inter-centre transfers occurring weekly.
		Release was also utilised to support teachers with complex behaviour management, quality teaching practice, joint interagency case management, individual work with students around transition activities, intensive support of the Mac River classroom and school risk assessment processes. Risk management of students is highly effective, well managed and efficiently documented by the Assistant Principals, leading to minimal health and safety incidents within the school.
		Additional support has also been utilised to help manage the increasingly significant administrative processes involved in the constant and high turnover of students from across the state, and to support the high level of interagency interactions and contact from both centre and community agencies and organisations.
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Socio-economic background	sites, resulting in more intensive and timely interventions to meet student learning and behavioural needs.
Professional learning	During 2020, COVID-19 affected the school's capacity to access face to face delivered professional learning. Lincoln staff continued to access a broad range of both teacher identified and registered training through varying online platforms, aligned to School Plan directions and individual Performance and Development Plan goals.
	Staff accessed Learning on Demand through the Department of Education's suite of courses. Staff also engaged in a range of professional learning in the areas of literacy, numeracy, behavioural support, disability standards, mental health, wellbeing, information and communication technology and supporting Aboriginal students.
	Whole school professional learning was delivered on CPR and anaphylaxis, trauma informed practice and Premier's Priority focused learning in Aboriginal Histories and Culture and Turning Policy into Action.
	Lincoln School supported the training of a staff member to become a facilitator in the delivery of Managing of Actual or Potential Aggression (MAPA) which will be embedded into future school professional learning sessions.
	The total school expenditure on supporting professional learning was \$13 337.

#### Student information

#### Student enrolment profile

	Enrolments			
Students	2017	2018	2019	2020
Boys	18	23	35	22
Girls	0	1	2	0

The table above is reflective of a single snapshot of static enrolment data at the time of census. The school has a pattern of students entering and exiting the school continuously throughout the year with no defined enrolment period. The school enrolment ceiling is 36 students, with an average 180 students enrolling annually. Six student places are held at the Mac River Rehabilitation Centre.

NSW student attendance data in 2020 is not comparable to previous years due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The NSW Government encouraged students to learn from home, where possible, for a seven week period from 24 March to 22 May. During this period, schools monitored engagement with learning to determine whether students were marked present. This changed the attendance measure. There was also some evidence of varied marking practices as schools adjusted to the learning from home period, with some schools recording higher attendance rates while others recording markedly lower rates.

#### 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.

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#### **Workforce information**

#### **Workforce composition**

Position	FTE*
Principal(s)	1
Assistant Principal(s)	2
Classroom Teacher(s)	7.1
School Administration and Support Staff	8.62

<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, and scholarship opportunities to become a teacher and by providing a culturally safe workplace. As of 2020, 3.7% of the Department's overall workforce identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People.

#### **Workforce ATSI**

Staff type	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	2020 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander representation <sup>2</sup>
School Support	3.30%	6.30%
Teachers	3.30%	2.80%

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.

In 2020, an additional School Development Day was included at the start of Term 2 to assist school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the wellbeing of students and continuity of education, such as online and remote learning.

### Financial information

#### **Financial summary**

The information provided in the financial summary includes reporting from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020. The Principal is responsible for the financial management of the school and ensuring all school funds are managed in line with Department policy requirements.

	2020 Actual (\$)
Opening Balance	589,491
Revenue	2,581,476
Appropriation	2,580,284
Investment income	1,091
Other revenue	100
Expenses	-2,140,755
Employee related	-1,946,686
Operating expenses	-194,069
Surplus / deficit for the year	440,721
Closing Balance	1,030,212

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.

	2020 Approved SBA (\$)
Targeted Total	0
Equity Total	190,404
Equity - Aboriginal	81,077
Equity - Socio-economic	109,327
Equity - Language	0
Equity - Disability	0
Base Total	1,862,336
Base - Per Capita	19,308
Base - Location	1,849
Base - Other	1,841,179
Other Total	464,435
Grand Total	2,517,175

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.

#### Parent/caregiver, student, teacher satisfaction

Youth Justice Management recognised the positive impact Lincoln School has on young people in custody due to the provision of educational, wellbeing and transition programs. The continuation of education at the Mac River Campus was also identified as a strength in supporting transitional pathways and ongoing engagement in educational programs. Management acknowledged the strong effort of all agencies working in collaboration in an integrated case management approach. Matters of concern raised by Youth Justice or the broader community were addressed expeditiously and collaboratively, with a strong and shared focus on engaging all students in quality educational programs. Strong satisfaction was indicated with the highly effective, safe and supportive practices the school implemented, to manage the ongoing access to education and centre based programs.

Students provided feedback through an exit survey at the completion of their enrolment. Responses in 2020 demonstrated an increasingly more aspirational outlook when returning to the community, with most students indicating a desire to either return to school (37%), attend TAFE (40%) or seek employment (60%). Eighty-eight per cent of students felt that school staff understood their individual learning needs and were supported to achieve their learning goals, while fifty-five per cent believed that they had improved their literacy level and eighty-one per cent their numeracy skills. Ninety-five per cent of students responded that they had liked coming to school at Lincoln, with one-hundred percent of students feeling supported in the area of wellbeing.

Staff shared feedback in a range of forums throughout the school year, including focus group sessions and participation in the 2020 People Matter Survey. Ninety percent of staff indicated job satisfaction. Eighty-four percent of staff indicated support of wellbeing, health and safety needs. Ninety-four percent of staff indicated that the organisation motivates them to achieve their goals. One-hundred percent of staff reported that they received the training and development to do their job well. The majority of staff rated the school highly in supporting each team member to build their professional capacity, providing role clarity and support. All staff reported confidence in the school's ability to support our students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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#### **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.

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