



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

Youth*

Deception Bay Flexible Learning Centre 17 Silver Street Deception Bay Qld 4508

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

This annual report for 2013 is published to provide information about the Deception Bay Flexible Learning Centre for parents/carers, young people and other interested parties. This report contains the detail mandated by the Commonwealth and State Governments and Edmund Rice Education Australia reporting requirements.

*I see no value in a centre of learning, which churns out
numberless school leavers each year
and is passively part of a society torn apart
by divisions of race and partisan politics...
Our schools exist to challenge popular beliefs
and dominant cultural values,
to ask the difficult question,
to look at life from the standpoint of the minority,
the victim, the outcast, and the stranger*.*

* Congregational Leader of the Christian Brothers, Br Phillip Pinto. New York 2002



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INTRODUCTION

Deception Bay Flexible Learning Centre (FLC) is a part of Edmund Rice Education Australia, Youth+ and is conducted in accordance with the Youth+ philosophy and principles. Deception Bay FLC commenced operation as a registered Non-State School in 2006 and is part of a national association (EREA) of forty schools which includes, in 2013, fourteen flexible learning centres.

Deception Bay FLC is a co-educational Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition. The philosophy of the Deception Bay FLC draws on the spirit and vision of Edmund Rice Education Australia. It has a clear commitment to social justice and stands in solidarity with disenfranchised young people of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds. The philosophy also has a practical focus, based in the application of four core principles of “Respect” (for self, others and environment), “Safe and Legal” environment, “Participation” (have a go) and “Honesty” (being ‘fair dinkum’) among all participants of the Deception Bay FLC. This is evident in the ways the organisational culture and practices are shaped through the application of these principles. In essence, the principles establish a “common ground” among staff, young people and parents; a collective forum, where the means to resolve conflict, negotiate learning, recognise rights, responsibilities and consequences are modeled and explored, within the group, individually, and as members of the broader community.

The 2008 Melbourne Declaration on the Education Goals for Young Australians states that “Australian Governments commit to working with all school sectors to

- Close the gap for young Indigenous Australians
- Provide targeted support to disadvantaged students
- Focus on school improvement in low socioeconomic areas”

Deception Bay FLC works with young people who are vulnerable and experience a complexity of inter-related needs. As discussed above, participation and retention are key elements in the philosophy of Deception Bay FLC and the development of moral reasoning through the application of the four principles prepares students for responsible citizenship. The learning experiences also build self-confidence and esteem in young people, promote an optimistic view of their potentialities and future, and assist them to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to enjoy a healthy and fulfilling life.

Deception Bay FLC offers an inclusive and non-discriminating learning community to young people, who for a variety of reasons, are disenfranchised from mainstream education. Young people are enrolled from both genders, from a variety of language, cultural and religious backgrounds, with particular sensitivity to Indigenous culture, and from backgrounds of socio-economic disadvantage. Young people are exposed to learning experiences that develop understanding and appreciation of diverse cultural values that constitute Australian society. Learning is focused around the individual needs of students and progress is carefully documented and monitored. Young people, in conjunction with their teachers, youth workers and wellbeing staff, draft learning plans with articulated education pathways.

YOUTH+ FOUNDATION STATEMENT

Youth+ seeks to respond to the needs of young people disenfranchised and disengaged from education. Youth+ provides a place and an opportunity to re-engage in a suitable, flexible learning environment.

Youth+ seeks to build honest and authentic relationships with young people, their families and communities, supporting and celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person.

Youth+ is guided by the vision of Edmund Rice about the empowering service of education, to achieve personal and community liberation through educational experiences that enable transformation.

BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Deception Bay FLC identifies a number of best practice guidelines supportive of meaningful socially inclusive educational experiences. While not exhaustive, the following provide a basis for programming and young person support.

Individualised Education Program

Education programs need to be attuned to the individual young person by an assessment of need and delivery within a supportive environment that will re-engage the young person with learning and encourage a sense of community. Personal Learning Plans are developed and negotiated with young people and form an integral part of daily learning programs.

Negotiated and Articulated Goals

Education programs will negotiate goals and the methods of achieving those goals. Such goals will be tailored to the identified needs of the individual.

Professional and Community Driven

Education programs should be characterised by a high degree of professionalism, and supported by a close relationship with communities in which they are located.

Young Person Support

Young People are encouraged to make a commitment to the program and its principles. Young Person achievement is valued and celebrated with appropriate recognition given to the uniqueness of adolescent development.

Family/Carer Involvement

Families are viewed as partners in their children's educational experience. While family circumstances may be related to young people's alienation, the importance of building positive family relationships is a priority.

Learning Choices

Diagnostic assessment is important to provide guidance in planning individualised programs. Effective programs will engage young people in learning toward defined literacy and numeracy outcomes and other areas of knowledge relevant to real life situations. Young people experiencing risk will be provided with programs that cater for their spiritual, physical, social, psychological and intellectual development. As

well, they will be provided with learning choices both in and beyond the school and with programs that are effectively linked to community agencies and vocational pathways.

Multi Professional and Multi Disciplinary Teams

Team members use a multidisciplinary, multi-professional approach to provide health, educational, cultural, social and emotional support for young people. Multi professionals are encouraged to develop supportive relationships with young people, and assist them with their basic life needs. Multi-professionals are encouraged to develop links with external support agencies (e.g. Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Drug & Alcohol services, accommodation services, counseling services). Staff selection processes should identify staff members who are flexible, are able to relate to young people, are willing to negotiate, be clear about operation by principles, as well as being clear about the responsibilities and the rights of all.

SCHOOL PROFILE AS AT AUGUST CENSUS 2013

The total 2013 enrolment of the Deception Bay FLC in full time equivalent students is shown below.

Gender/Year	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Male	0	4	8	16	18	17	63
Female	0	2	7	10	19	12	50
Total	0	6	15	26	37	29	113

YOUNG PERSON SUPPORT

Each young person at Deception Bay FLC has a Pastoral Care team. This team comprises a “Big Ears” staff member and a Community Group staff member in addition to classroom teachers and youth workers. The role of the team is to establish a close relationship to the young person, to monitor their progress, to advocate on their behalf, to provide advice, direction and support during difficult personal issues, and overall to support the young person to achieve their stated personal and educational goals. The role of this team is broad in scope, in-depth in its substance, and long-term in relationship. It includes:

- In-house mentoring and advocacy;
- Supporting the young person and their families in times of emotional crisis or practical need;
- Maintaining the close partnership between school, student and parent/carer;
- Working in partnership with other agencies who are involved with students e.g. Department of Child Safety, Youth Justice, Indigenous Health services, Community Agencies etc;
- Supporting and mentoring young people who live independently;
- Helping students to build capacity and resilience in social and emotional aspects of their lives;
- Informally helping young people develop positive self-concept;
- Supporting young people with issues of drug misuse and self-harm.

The Pastoral Care program also includes the support of the School Counsellor, Campus Minister, Child Protection Officers and the Head of Campus.

CURRICULUM

The Deception Bay FLC provides holistic learning experiences that address the social needs of young people, and promotes their emotional, cognitive, spiritual and academic development. The purpose of the learning experiences is to empower young people to take personal responsibility for their actions and learning, achieve greater autonomy and self-reliance and to engage in the transition to further education and/or employment.

Learning experiences address curriculum areas of literacy, numeracy, study of society and environment, vocational training, information technology, music and technology, outdoor education, Indigenous education, relational and spiritual education and science.

Subjects offered at various year levels include:

YEAR LEVEL	CORE	ELECTIVE
Years 8-10	Literacy Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Education Certificate I • Sport • Manual Arts • Service Learning • Community Access • Music • Life Skills • Creative Arts • PEASOUP (Peaceful Environmental Action Supporting Our Unique Planet) • Program Electives

YEAR LEVEL	Authority Registered Subjects	Certificate Courses
Years 11 - 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Communication • Pre Vocational Maths • Social and Community Studies (SACS) • Religion and Ethics • Industrial Technology • Senior Recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Education Certificate 1 • IT Certificate 1 • Business Certificate 1 • Fitness Certificate III

At the Deception Bay FLC young people are encouraged to make choices regarding their participation in the school curriculum. The program consists of the following activities:

- Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings are set aside for Literacy and Numeracy
- Wednesday enables Seniors to work on their other subject areas and young people in years 8-10 travel offsite for Community Access programs.
- In the afternoons, and on Friday mornings, young people participate in electives including, but not limited to: Fishing, Sport, Craft, Skate, Cooking, Gardening, PEASOUP, Instrumental Music, Model Making, Art, Service Learning and Sand Sculpture.

OUTCOMES

National Assessment Program Literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN) results.
Reading Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy in Year 9.

No young people at Deception Bay FLC participated in the NAPLAN testing in 2012.

APPARENT STUDENT RETENTION RATE

Senior cohort Year	Year 8 Base	Year 12 at exit	Retention Rate %
2011	10	17	170%
2012	4	14	350%
2013	6	29	483%

In 2013 Deception Bay Flexible Learning Centre has an apparent student retention rate of 483% as most students access our services after year 8 level.

A percentage greater than 100% indicates greater numbers of students enrolled in the upper or senior years than in year eight.

ATTENDANCE RATE

The average student attendance rate for 2013 was 85%. This number excludes students who terminated enrolment during the year or who were absent for extended explained absences.

Outcomes for Year 12 Students	
Total number of Senior Certificates awarded	2
Percentage of Overall Position (OP) – eligible students with OP 1 – 15	NA
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates and awarded a Vocational Education and/or Training (VET) qualification	55%
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates with OP – eligibility or awarded a Vet qualification	NA
Percentage of Queensland tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer.	NA
The median score for OP - eligible students	NA

SPECIAL PROGRAMS THAT PRODUCE IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Deception Bay FLC provides a number of programs that improve outcomes for young people at our centre. The programs include the following:

- Employment of a part-time guidance counselor to support young people.
- Work Education program that enabled increasing numbers of young people to effectively engage in work experience
- Peaceful Environmental Action Supporting Our Unique Planet (PEASOUP) was funded through a financial grant and involved staff and young people investigating and implementing practices to make the school more self sufficient
- Designing, painting and installing of murals in the school space that has not only given the young people tremendous pride and confidence it has also brightened our school community
- Regular community meetings run by young people to establish practices, discuss current affairs and reflect on young people’s achievements.
- The provision of socially engaging afternoon programs encouraging skill development and social interaction in a less formal setting.
- Service Learning program involving partnership with local schools and community agencies.
- Community Groups with two staff facilitating the development of strong interpersonal relationships giving young people a voice and chance to be heard.
- Specialised whole school “Literacy and Numeracy” program to better support the diverse learning needs of young people.
- Junior Life Skills program to improve self esteem, resiliency, and social coping strategies.
- Provision of a parents’ room to help pregnant young women/young parents achieve their educational goals in a supportive environment
- The Community Access program saw young people visiting a number of work places and community organisations exposing them to a wide variety of opportunities and potential career paths.

- Awards were distributed to young people in the following areas: Learning/Subject Awards; Participation; Service Learning; Working with the Principles; Encouragement Awards; Community Leadership; and ADF Exemplary Leadership Awards.
- Certificate III in Fitness in partnership with the Australian Indigenous Youth Academy

YEAR 12 COHORT 2013 POST SCHOOL DESTINATION

At the time of publishing this Annual School Report, the results of the 2013 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about the post school destinations of our students will be posted to our website by 30 September, 2013. The following interim data reports the destinations of students as accurately as the school is able to ascertain at this point.

School Year – 2013	Number of Young People in each category	Percentage of Young People in each category
University (degree)	0	
VET total (Cert IV+ III, I-II, apprenticeship, traineeship)	5	17%
Working full-time	7	24%
Working part-time/casual	8	28%
Seeking work	9	31%
Not studying or in the labour force	0	0%

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Centre provides extensive opportunities for young people to participate in co-curricular or non-classroom activities at their level and within their areas of interest. Participation is encouraged. The broad range of opportunities or choices for young people includes activities that are described as cultural, sporting, intellectual and/or service related. The table on the next page provides details of co-curricular programs offered at Deception Bay FLC during 2013.

Cultural	Sporting	Intellectual	Service
Sorry Day	Ten Pin Bowling	Try-a- trade	Clean Up Australia Day
RESPECT Day	Ice Skating/ Rock Climbing	White card Construction	SHE Rescue Project
Edmund Rice Day	Skate, Scoot BMX	First Aid Certificates	Save a Mate
Princess Party	South Passage Sailing Camp	Mental Health First Aid	PEASOUP

FIER Festival	Carnarvon Camp	Career Preparation	Community BBQ
Close the Gap	Kayak Camp	ACU Excursion	Murriajabree Kids Challenge Day
Culture Connect	GFG Horse-riding Camp	"Making Me" Doll Project	ERA For Change
Noosa Bush Tucker Tour	Beach Activities	Amazing Race	Shave for a Cure
Detention for Detention	Interflexi Sport	"School Dance" Excursion	'Avago

STAFF DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES 2013

Deception Bay FLC is committed to the ongoing professional development and formation of staff. This continues to enrich the educational opportunities provided for our young people and models to our young people the modern reality of lifelong learning. The following priorities were identified in the Centre's 2013 Operational Plan:

- Whole Staff Formation Days
- Child Protection Training
- Operational Planning
- Strategic Planning
- New Staff Induction
- Curriculum Planning and Learning Choices Development
- Critical Reflective Practices
- First Aid and Training
- Spiritual Director Training
- Campus Minister Training Days
- SAS Moderation
- QSA Reporting Practices
- Head of Campus Meetings and Conferences
- Mental Health Training
- Restorative Justice Training
- TOP Facilitator Training
- Cert IV Trainer and Assessor training

The average amount spent/teacher in 2013 on professional learning was \$1,100.

THE SOCIAL CLIMATE OF THE CENTRE

One hallmark of Deception Bay FLC is the very real climate of compassionate care that is evident. This is expressed through:

- A commitment by all to operate by the principles of respect, honesty, being safe and legal, and participation;
- Valuing the rights and dignity of all individuals within our community. belief that conflicts and problems can be resolved by talking and negotiation;
- An understanding by all that bullying and misuse of power by anyone in the school community is not acceptable;

- Solution focused processes that encourage young people to take responsibility for their actions, empowering them to control their future;
- Regular transport assistance to those young people who find it difficult to attend school by public transport;
- Encouragement of young people to take initiative; to raise issues of concern to them; to challenge other young people and staff in working with the four principles; to negotiate what they learn and how they want to learn it; to be active participants in all that they experience in their time at Deception Bay FLC;
- Regular “Big Ears” sessions provide young people with direct access to a willing listener on a daily basis to help them face life’s challenges;
- Community Groups that enable young people to connect with a range of young people and staff from the community;
- Community meetings that give young people the opportunity to safely discuss any concerns they may have and to give thanks to other community members;
- Fundraising events to support people in crisis (A full time youth worker assists young people in dealing with difficult family and social issues);
- A relationship-based approach to learning and interacting.

STRATEGIES USED FOR INVOLVING PARENTS / CARERS IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR YOUNG PERSON.

Deception Bay FLC recognises that parents/carers are the primary educators of their young people. Some young people live independently. The work of the school is most successful when it collaborates effectively with parents/carers. The FLC supports and encourages this role of parents/carers through:

- Parent surveys;
- Newsletters and Yearbooks;
- Community barbecues and celebrations;
- Parents and carer support meetings;
- Personal Learning Plan meetings with young people and parents/carers;
- Parental information sessions;
- Advisory group meetings;
- Invitation to celebration days and events;
- Distribution of information letters;
- Regular phone contact;
- Annual Awards Ceremony;
- Senior Graduation Evening and
- Fundraising events and Social celebrations.

Parents/Caregivers are also included in the education of our young people via formal and informal meetings and regular phone conversation. The contributions of the parents/caregivers in our community are gratefully acknowledged and celebrated.

STAFF

Total number of teachers	8
Total number of Support staff	7
Total Number of Staff	15

The staff of Deception Bay FLC is a highly qualified, experienced and generous group of professionals who consistently contribute more than would otherwise be expected both within the classroom and beyond. The distinctive skills/qualifications and experience of our staff include:

Teaching Staff Qualifications	Number
Certificate	3
Diploma	8
Post Graduate Diploma	1
Masters Degree	1
Doctorate	0
Other	0

The average attendance rate for teachers in the 2013 academic year was 92%. This figure reflects a low rate of sick leave among the staff. This figure does not include staff absent from classes attending professional development activities or who would have been replaced whilst on other forms of leave such as long service or maternity leave.

The teaching staff retention rate expressed as a percentage is 100%. This indicates the percentage of teachers who have continued service at the school from 2012 into 2013.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

In recent times, substantial change has occurred in the provision of computer hardware and software for young people and staff. Professional development continues to enhance the skills of staff in this important facet of learning. Information management has become a critical literacy. Integration of technology within all learning continues to evolve across the variety the school's subject offerings.

2013 saw further rollout of the 1 to 1 computers for secondary students under the federal government's Digital Education Revolution. Deception Bay FLC integrated the use of laptops, notebooks, i-Pads and Apple Macs across the school curriculum. Information Technology (Cert 1) was also offered to young people in 2013. During 2013 staff undertook training in using Interactive whiteboards and i-pads to assist their work with young people.

SCHOOL REVIEW

During 2012 Deception Bay FLC participated in the five yearly Edmund Rice Education Australia School Renewal Process, and has been acknowledged as an accredited school in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS FOR THE 2013 YEAR

The Edmund Rice Education Flexible Learning Network Board and Leadership recognize the value of strategic planning for the long term, sustainable development of programs, capital and human resources, the minimization of exposure to risks and to assist fidelity of operation to mission. Operational goals are set each year in consultation with staff. The following outlines achievements in reaching goals in 2013 articulated in the 2012 Annual Report

- Developed and continue to expand our Work Experience Program;
- Consolidated partnerships with AIYA through the Certificate III in Fitness and participation in the Murriajabree Kids Challenge day;
- Consolidated our relationship with Arethusa and local flexischools through our Interflexi Sport program;
- Reviewed the Associate Head of Campus role and redefined the roles and responsibilities of our staff team;
- Worked with the PCYC through shared use of resources and hosting events;
- Engaged The Smith Family to deliver a Certificate I in Financial Services.
- Worked with other members of the Deception Bay Police force in supporting young people in our community.
- Participated in the Dare to Lead program to identify areas of strength and potential development to better support ATSI young people in our community.
- The PEASOUP (Peaceful Environmental Action Saving Our Unique Planet) Poultry and Produce Project continued with a further \$10,000 grant from BP.

2013 MILESTONES

Sharing in the rich offerings across 2013 from Cultural Connections, “Making Me” Artist in Residence Doll Project, PEASOUP Pillar Painting, ‘Avago, Deck-building, Landscaping, Inter-flexi Sport, RAGE, Work Placements, Skate/Scoot/BMX, Excursions, Learning Choices, Big Brekkies, Diddly Doo Cafe, and Camps to a multitude of Community Events and Celebrations, we have enjoyed a year of unprecedented participation and opportunity.

A significant milestone was to see over 200 young people, parents and visitors celebrating with Petero Civoniceva and special guests at our “Participation Party” as we welcomed our latest recruits. It was also a joy to see the developing relationship and opportunity provided working in partnership with the Australian Indigenous Youth Academy (AIYA), with young people running fitness programs and traditional games at local gyms, primary schools and community events. .

Congratulations to our graduating seniors on their many achievements throughout their time with us. We hope our principles of RESPECT, PARTICIPATION, HONESTY and SAFE & LEGAL, continue to help you face and overcome life’s challenges ahead

Congratulations also to Ben Ebert and Graeme Ellis on their exciting announcements for 2014. After many years of dedicated service, Graeme will be

retiring from teaching at the end of this year, and Ben has been appointed to the position of Head of Campus of St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre, Alice Springs, commencing in 2014. Thanks Graeme and Ben for your tireless contributions to our community and all the best for the next chapter of your lives.

Thank you to all our young people, families, staff and partner organisations for again working with us to help the young people in our community shine.

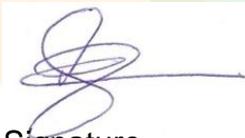
Dave Coghlan

"Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it" Confucius

GOALS FOR THE 2014 YEAR

In 2014 our emphasis will be to:

- Provide young people with a diverse range of learning choices and programs;
- Expand and develop National Curriculum offerings in our junior programs;
- Deliver offsite excursions and camps to broaden young people's horizons;
- Consolidate partnerships/connections with local community organisations;
- Work with the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health to support ATSI young people;
- Establish a reading mentor program with local state school/s;
- Develop transition pathways for young people into the workforce;
- Investigate developing a mentoring program with the local Aged-care facility;
- Offer robust staff professional development opportunities.



Signature
Dave Coghlan
Head of Campus
Deception Bay Flexible Learning Centre

Signature
Paul Flanders
Principal
Marlene Moore Flexible Learning Centre Network