


Longreach School of Distance Education

Providing Excellence In Education For Isolated Families

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Principal's foreword

Introduction

Longreach School of Distance Education provides excellence in education for isolated families.

The 2009 School Annual Report provides an overview of the Longreach School of Distance Education (LSODE) for the 2008 school year. It describes the unique characteristics of our school and its delivery of quality educational programs in a distance educational setting. Student performance data in the form of key outcomes in the NAPLAN and early and middle phases of learning is included. Data relating to the school's staff profile and professional development priorities for 2008 is also included.

Future outlook

Our school will continue to provide comprehensive instructional materials and on-line learning to ensure our students' educational opportunities are maximised. Queensland's Schools of Distance Education continue their agenda to replace the paper-based materials with digital resources. Years 1 and 2 will make the transition from paper-based to on-line. Future directions to increase the focus on the incorporation of information and communication technologies in the delivery of programs to students will continue. As a result, staff will be provided with numerous opportunities for professional development in the area of information and communication technologies. Restructuring of telephone reading and micro telephone teaching will improve the school's literacy focus.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

The Longreach School Of Distance Education has a catchment area that stretches from the Northern Territory and South Australia borders in the West, Hughenden in the North, Alpha in the East and Tambo in the South. This catchment area represents an area approximately twice the combined area of Victoria and Tasmania.

LSODE offers a quality co-educational program for predominately geographically isolated students from Preparatory Year to Year 10. Enrolment trends over the past two years remain at approximately 160.

Specialist teachers and ancillary staff support our dedicated teaching staff, all of whom exhibit a willingness to be involved in the school and community based activities. The professional development focus for teachers in 2008-09 has been Information Technology, Numeracy and Literacy.

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

- Our school provides our students with their curriculum through a combination of paper and on-line materials, daily on air lessons incorporating blackboard courses and data conferencing, daily telephone reading lessons and our comprehensive field service program.
- Our field service program offers a range of events including clusters, minischools, sports skills days, camps and carnivals where students, home tutors, parents and staff are able to meet and engage in a range of academic, sporting and social activities. These occur throughout the year in a range of district locations.
- Our school is unique in that every geographically isolated student has broadband internet access and access to the school's computer hire scheme.

Extra curricula activities

- The school community offer an extensive range of extra-curricular activities which include Opti Minds, Chess, Project Club, Music, Recorder, Lone Guides, Youth Leadership, Religious Education, Poetry and Speech and Drama. All of these activities add significant value to the lives of participating students who live in isolation to their peers.

How computers are used to assist learning

- The use of computers and associated Information Technology continues to play an increasingly significant role in the delivery of Distance Education programs. All students enrolled at LSODE are encouraged to own a computer.
- Within four years all of our primary school programs will be delivered on-line bringing an end to the use of paper-based materials which have been used for decades.
- With on-line real time delivery of interactive learning opportunities the school will have successfully succeeded in migrating from the traditional School Of The Air to a School of the Future providing students and home tutors with world class educational services.

Social climate

Our school is a very friendly school which is characterised by traditional values and progressive thinking. Data collected in the Annual Opinion Surveys indicate that 100% of parents and students think that this is a "good school."

We have an active, supportive and caring school community that recognises and values the strength of the partnership which exists between students, home tutors, parents and the staff.

Our school at a glance

Involving parents in their child's education.

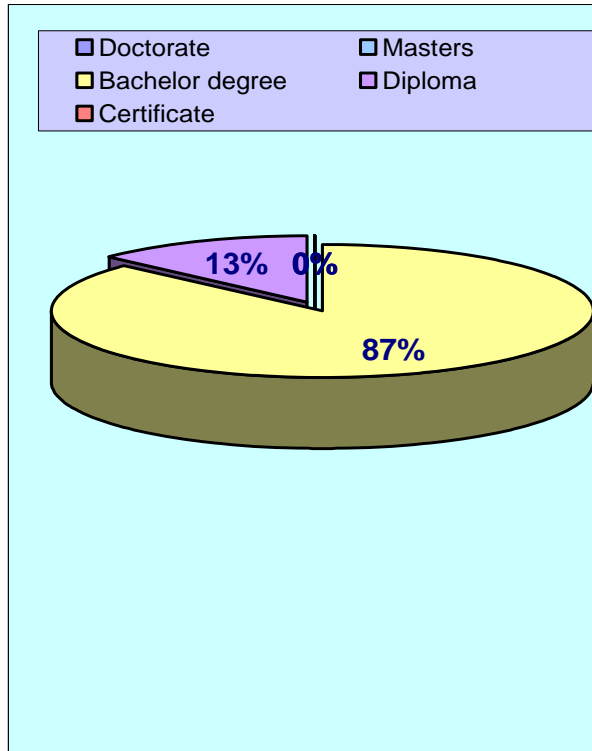
Because of the nature of Distance Education, parents are directly involved in delivering their child's education. Home Tutors facilitate an effective and safe learning environment and teach their students in partnership with the school based teachers whom in turn support the Home Tutors.

The school community is incredibly strong with an enthusiastic and active P&C association who develop their own programs and agendas to support the school. Our school also has a very effective School Council with open channels of communication between parents and staff.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers.

| Highest level of attainment | Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Doctorate | 0 |
| Masters | 0 |
| Bachelor degree | 20 |
| Diploma | 3 |
| Certificate | 0 |



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$21 843 .
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - CPR/First Aid
 - Interactive Whiteboard Training
 - Materials Development
 - Thinking Digitally Conference
 - Dreamweaver Introductory Training
 - AADES Conference
 - Workplace Health & Safety
 - QCAR Framework Conference
 - Student Protection Training
 - Code of Conduct
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100 %.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 86 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 100 %.

Key outcomes

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results - our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

| Domain | Measures | Yr 3 | Yr 5 | Yr 7 | Yr 9 |
|-------------------------|--|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Reading | Average score for the school | 346 | 487 | 604 | |
| | Average score for Queensland | 371.1 | 466.1 | 528.1 | 568.2 |
| | For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard. | 2008 75 % | 90 % | 100 % | |
| Writing | Average score for the school | 402 | 487 | 561 | |
| | Average score for Queensland | 391.8 | 468.9 | 522.7 | 555.3 |
| | For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard. | 2008 100 % | 100 % | 100 % | |
| Spelling | Average score for the school | 374 | 450 | 550 | |
| | Average score for Queensland | 366.7 | 462.0 | 528.0 | 567.8 |
| | For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard. | 2008 100 % | 100 % | 87 % | |
| Grammar and Punctuation | Average score for the school | 359 | 502 | 604 | |
| | Average score for Queensland | 370.4 | 476.6 | 518.0 | 563.2 |
| | For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard. | 2008 81 % | 91 % | 100 % | |
| Numeracy | Average score for the school | 392 | 473 | 592 | |
| | Average score for Queensland | 367.9 | 458.2 | 539.0 | 570.7 |
| | For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard. | 2008 94 % | 100 % | 100 % | |

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

| | Percentage of students not requiring additional support |
|---------|---|
| Reading | 97 |
| Writing | 97 |
| Number | 83 |

Performance of our students

Value added

In 2008 our school was awarded a highly commended for the Australian Government National Award for Quality Schooling for excellence in family-school partnerships.

Purchasing of new software 'Easiteach' to enhance on-line lesson delivery.

Student participation in representative sport and a in a range of competitions including Winton Poetry and Opti-minds.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Parent satisfaction levels with the school are very positive with 100% of parents considering this school to be a good school. Other areas where parent satisfaction was 100% included the school climate, the curriculum – preparing students for the future, staff approachability and responsiveness, school-community relations and school grounds, resources and facilities.

Students also indicate very high satisfaction in all areas with all results being well above state data and like schools data.

In every measure of staff satisfaction our school results were well above the state average. The measures included physical work environment, relationships, school operations, staff morale, support, resources and training, work roles and work value and recognition.