

# DISCIPLINE AUDIT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - CALLEN DISTRICT SC

### DATE OF AUDIT: 8 OCTOBER 2014



#### Background:

Calen District SC is a small Prep to Year 12 college catering for the farming district north of the regional centre of Mackay, within the Central Queensland education region. The college has a current enrolment of approximately 177 students. The current Principal, Brian O'Neill, has led the college since 2000.

#### Commendations:

- The school has benefited from the leadership of the current Principal over the last fifteen years. This leadership has been supported by a very experienced and long serving school staff that work well together and maintain ownership of the high quality of the college educational experience.
- The school's high expectation learning culture provides students with a very supportive and yet demanding environment to grow and learn.
- The school has improved student results through a school wide student monitoring program. Regular diagnostic and standardised testing, along with pre and post testing provides teachers with detailed knowledge of individual students learning strengths and weaknesses. This data informs teacher's cooperative planning and teaching, ensuring a strong focus on closing identified learning gaps.
- Individualised Learning Goals (ILG) and Individual Learning Plans (ILP) involve students, teachers and parents on identified learning tasks necessary for students close learning gaps.
- All teachers are aware of the need to provide differentiated learning experiences to meet individual learning needs. There is evidence of very successful and substantial effort to include students with challenging and diverse behaviours.
- Small class sizes and the P - 12 formats have created well established, very respectful and family oriented relationships between student and teachers. Students and teachers appreciate these special relationships and the teaching opportunities which are available to support student excellence.
- The school has formed strong partnerships with local community, education and government organisations to provide opportunities for students to realise extension, vocational and employment placement. *Radio Rocks* and the *Different Strokes* programs are excellent examples of school community partnerships engaging students and enriching life choices.
- There is a school wide recognition and reward system appropriately tailored to the age and interest of students which has been effective in encouraging pro-social choices, better learning choices and the engagement of parents.

#### Affirmations:

- The *Calen Junior Secondary Education Certificate* is a local innovation which provides additional motivation for Junior Secondary students to strive for achievement and excellence in their small community.

#### Recommendations:

- Review the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students (RBPS) investigating a values-based learning culture that ensures students and parents along with staff members share ownership of creating the unique learning culture of the school.
- Explore current research on values-based programs and the supporting positive strategies which support the development of a desired learning culture
- Consider providing professional development for all staff members, updating and refreshing teacher's use of preferred classroom management practices to build consistency across the school.
- Continue to develop teacher's capability in extending, challenging and enriching the learning of more able students in everyday classroom programs.