

# Brisbane School of Distance Education (3605)

## Queensland State School Reporting

### 2012 School Annual Report



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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Brisbane School of Distance Education provides quality education to over 4000 Queensland students throughout the state and around the world.

The 2012 School Annual Report provides an overview of the Brisbane School of Distance Education (BSDE) for the 2012 school year. It outlines the particular characteristics that make this school unique and at the forefront of delivering quality educational programs in a distance mode of delivery. Student performance data in the form of key outcome in the Early, Middle and Senior Phases of learning is included. Data relating to the school's staff profile and professional development priorities for 2012 is also included.

### School progress towards its goals in 2012

During 2012 the school had three major focuses

#### People and partnerships

#### Focus of learning

#### Maximise Success

### Future outlook

During 2013 the school will continue to implement plans and strategies to meet the goals established in 2012.

### People and Partnerships

During 2013 several programs will be enhanced:

Implement a weekly information session to support Home Tutors and parents.

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Forge links with P&C to implement parent networks.

Enhance pastoral care programs in the school by introducing Welfare Head of Department and Year level Coordinators. These enhancements to the welfare program to commence in semester 2 of 2013.

### **Focus on learning**

Develop a pedagogical framework using IMPACT as an organiser.

Review reading program in the Junior school.

Maintain and augment partnerships with Universities to offer extension opportunities for Senior students.

Review delivery of teaching across the school to reflect the school ethos.

### **Maximise Success**

Continue to develop and implement practices to track student achievement.

Implement goal setting for all students.

Review subject offerings to enable all students to have viable pathways to learning success.

Implement an Advanced Learners course. Commence with English in semester 1. Review to establish expansion of program into semester 2.

## School Profile

**Coeducational or single sex:** Coeducational

**Year levels offered in 2012:** Prep - Year 12

**Total student enrolments for this school:**

	Total	Girls	Boys	Enrolment Continuity (Feb – Nov)
2010	1231	676	555	71%
2011	1204	636	568	67%
2012	1245	669	576	63%

Student counts are based on the Census (August) enrolment collection. This census only recognises those students who are full time students in the school. 62% of students enrolled at BSDE are part time students. The majority of these students are enrolled at other schools and completing one or two subjects at BSDE. There are presently over 4400 students enrolled at BSDE on a full time or part time basis.

### Characteristics of the student body:

Historically our original purpose was to provide education to students who were geographically isolated or medical students. Now due to technology and our inclusive and flexible curriculum, BSDE provides high equality online learning programs to many more students with varied and diverse needs and backgrounds.

A substantial number of students accessing BSDE are school based students and many live in the suburbs of Brisbane, Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast

#### Medical Students (approx 29%)

This is BSDE's most rapidly growing group. The flexibility of our programs are tailored to meet students' needs and accessibility from hospital or home sees students with medical conditions being able to engage well with our programs.

#### School Based Students (approx 27%)

BSDE has partnerships with over 500 state and non-state schools in Queensland. Our programs are used to enhance subject selection in small to medium sized schools, solve individual student timetable clashes, and increasingly provide extension opportunities to students looking for accelerated programmes including the option to undertake university subjects.

#### Overseas and Travelling Queenslanders (approx 10%)

To ensure our families who travel with work or for holidays can continue with a solid education program, BSDE delivers its online learning programs around the world.

#### By Choice (approx 29%)

As another growth area in the school, we support parents' decision to seek the most suitable learning environment for their child; many now see BSDE as their first preference.

#### Distance Students (approx 4%)

Our blended curriculum; allows our rural families to access programs and work around the significant daily chores and demands of running a property or farm.

#### Centre Based (approx 1%)

BSDE works with other centres to support the disengaged youth by delivering programs into their flexi-schools/centres. This is often a last resort to provide these students with opportunities for success in

# Our school at a glance

learning centred particularly in numeracy and literacy.

## Average Class sizes

Schools of Distance education are staffed on a different ratio than main schools. This is reflected in the information provided below.

Phase	Average Class Size		
	2010	2011	2012
Prep – Year 3	12	12	12
Year 4 – Year 10	14	14	14
Year 11 – Year 12	11	12	12

## School Disciplinary Absences

Disciplinary Absences	Count of Incidents		
	2010	2011	2012
Short Suspensions - 1 to 5 days		1	0
Long Suspensions - 6 to 20 days		0	1
Exclusions		0	0
Cancellations of Enrolment		0	0

## Curriculum offerings

### Our distinctive curriculum offerings

BSDE offers a broad curriculum to meet the needs of the student body. The school has 14 year levels commencing with eKindy through to year 12. There are over 50 subjects offered in years 11 and 12. Strong links to Universities are developing. A range of subjects are offered that provide a pathway to University.

### Extra curricula activities

Our school runs many opportunities for our students to come together, including sports carnivals, swim schools, X-country, excursions and camps, end of year activities and individual subject extension activities.

### How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

The use of ICTs underpins all programs. Teachers use technologies for the delivery of all programs and students are required to access and use computers to engage in the learning activities provided.

# Our school at a glance

## Social climate

Many students are enrolled with BSDE due to the flexibility of delivery of the curriculum. The flexibility enables students to engage in learning using technology that does not require them to physically attend a school. The technology still enables students to converse with teachers and their peers. This mode of learning as well as "paper base" enables student to participate from all around the world. Social issues such as 'bullying' are minimal within the school. Students are provided with programs that encourage them to interact with others in a socially acceptable manner.

## Parent, student and staff satisfaction with the school

Satisfaction with the school is always rated highly by parents, students and staff. There is a strong sense of pride in the school that is reflected in the results below. The school is recognised for continually looking for ways to improve learning for students.

### Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown\*)

Percentage of parents/caregivers who agree that:	2012 <sup>#</sup>
their child is getting a good education at school	85.7%
this is a good school	100.0%
their child likes being at this school*	92.9%
their child feels safe at this school*	100.0%
their child's learning needs are being met at this school*	92.9%
their child is making good progress at this school*	100.0%
teachers at this school expect their child to do his or her best*	100.0%
teachers at this school provide their child with useful feedback about his or her school work*	100.0%
teachers at this school motivate their child to learn*	92.3%
teachers at this school treat students fairly*	100.0%
they can talk to their child's teachers about their concerns*	100.0%
this school works with them to support their child's learning*	100.0%
this school takes parents' opinions seriously*	100.0%
student behaviour is well managed at this school*	100.0%
this school looks for ways to improve*	92.3%
this school is well maintained*	100.0%

### Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown\*)

Percentage of students who agree that:	2012 <sup>#</sup>
they are getting a good education at school	97.2%

## Our school at a glance

they like being at their school*	94.3%
they feel safe at their school*	100.0%
their teachers motivate them to learn*	91.9%
their teachers expect them to do their best*	100.0%
their teachers provide them with useful feedback about their school work*	94.4%
teachers treat students fairly at their school*	97.2%
they can talk to their teachers about their concerns*	94.3%
their school takes students' opinions seriously*	93.8%
student behaviour is well managed at their school*	100.0%
their school looks for ways to improve*	97.2%
their school is well maintained*	96.7%
their school gives them opportunities to do interesting things*	94.4%

### Performance measure (Nationally agreed items shown\*)

Percentage of school staff who agree:	2012 <sup>#</sup>
that they have good access to quality professional development	85.5%
with the individual staff morale items	90.7%

\* Nationally agreed student and parent/caregiver items were incorporated in the School Opinion Survey in 2012.

<sup>#</sup> Percentage of respondents who Somewhat Agree, Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement. Due to changes to the School Opinion Surveys in 2012, comparisons with results for previous years are not recommended.

DW = Data withheld to ensure confidentiality.

# Our school at a glance

## Involving parents in their child's education

Typically our parents are very involved in the education programs. This is mainly due to the nature of the parent role, often as a 'home tutor' particularly in the junior and middle years. Our parents who choose to become home tutors are trained and updated regularly in web conferencing and other e-learning tools. Our school has an active P&C which operates using teleconference and emails.

## Reducing the school's environmental footprint

Data is sourced from school's annual utilities return and is reliant on the accuracy of these returns.

BSDE relocated in 2011. The new campus conforms to the latest environmental initiatives in a concerted effort to reduce the school's environmental footprint. Reviews of our use of materials are constantly occurring.

	Environmental footprint indicators	
	Electricity kWh	Water kL
2009-2010	763,401	1,885
2010-2011	779,911	1,193
2011-2012	1,013,942	5,435

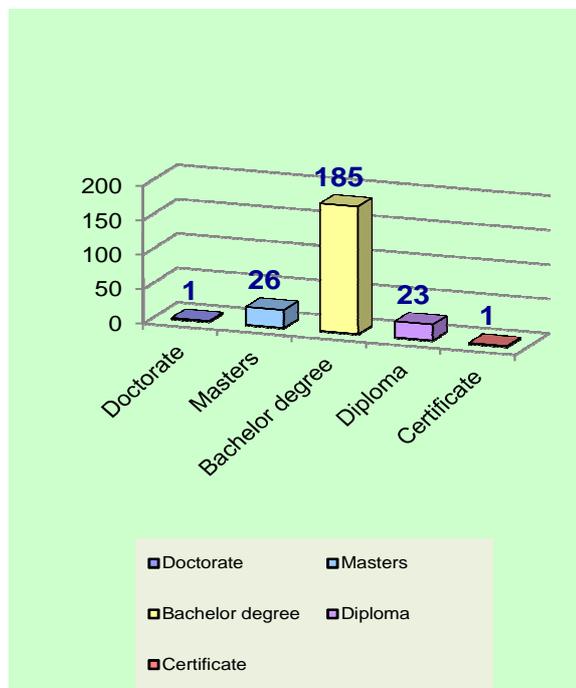
# Our staff profile

## Staff composition, including Indigenous staff

2012 Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff	Indigenous Staff
Headcounts	237	89	5
Full-time equivalents	219.8	79.2	3.7

## Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	1
Masters	26
Bachelor degree	185
Diploma	23
Certificate	1



## Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2012 was \$130,647.00.

Staff Professional Development has focused on leadership development; Curriculum in C2C implementation and Reading and Technology focusing on upgrading skills for teachers.

	2010	2011	2012
Staff attendance for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders.	95.8%	95.5%	95.7%

# Our staff profile

## Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the previous school year, 97.7% of staff was retained by the school for the entire 2012 school year.

## School income broken down by funding source

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at

To access our income details, click on the *My School* link above. You will then be taken to the *My School* website with the following 'Find a school' text box.

**Find a school**

Search by school name

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector  Government  
 Non-government

Where it says 'Search by school name', type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select <GO>. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the **Terms of Use** and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school's My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting 'School finances' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's entry web page. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of income by funding source.

## Key student outcomes

Student attendance	2010	2011	2012
The overall attendance rate for the students at this school (shown as a percentage).	100%	100%	100%
The overall attendance rate in 2012 for all Queensland state Education Units, Schools of Distance Education and Specific Purpose Schools was 100%.			

### Description of how non-attendance is managed by the school

Non-attendance is managed in state schools in line with the DET policies, SMS-PR-029: Managing Student Absences and SMS-PR-036: Roll Marking in State Schools, which outline processes for managing and recording student attendance and absenteeism.

### 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.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our NAPLAN results, click on the *My School* link above. You will then be taken to the *My School* website with the following 'Find a school' text box.

**Find a school**

Search by school name

Search by suburb, town or postcode

Sector  Government  
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Where it says '**Search by school name**', type in the name of the school whose NAPLAN results you wish to view, and select <GO>.

Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the **Terms of Use** and Privacy Policy before being able to access NAPLAN data.

# Performance of our students

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact the school for a paper copy of our school's NAPLAN results.

## Achievement – Closing the Gap

In 2012 the school had limited number of Indigenous students involved in NAPLAN assessments as demonstrated by the Closing the Gap Report. The school has an active program supporting Indigenous students including an mentoring program.

<b>Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12</b>	2010	2011	2012
Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.	40%	28%	43%

<b>Outcomes for our Year 12 cohorts</b>	2010	2011	2012
Number of students receiving a Senior Statement.	125	110	156
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement.	5	6	18
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	36	30	50
Number of students who are completing/continuing a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	19	16	21
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Educational Training (VET) qualifications (incl. SAT).	71	75	106
Number of students awarded an Australian Qualification Framework Certificate II or above.	49	45	71
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	68	75	118
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	0	0	0
Percentage of OP/IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	83%	93%	88%
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification.	75%	87%	89%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer.	88%	93%	93%

As at 2 May 2013. The above values exclude VISA students.

## Overall Position Bands (OP)

Number of students in each Band for OP 1 to 25.

	OP 1-5	OP 6-10	OP 11-15	OP 16-20	OP 21-25
2010	5	10	15	6	0
2011	9	8	11	2	0
2012	12	16	16	6	0

# Performance of our students

As at 2 May 2013. The above values exclude VISA students.

## Vocational Educational Training qualification (VET)

Number of students awarded certificates under the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF).

	Certificate I	Certificate II	Certificate III or above
2010	42	38	17
2011	49	36	18
2012	77	51	33

As at 2 May 2013. The above values exclude VISA students.

Students can undertake Cert 1 in Information and Digital Media Technology and Cert 1 in Business. SWD students also have the opportunity to enrol in Cert 1 in Work Readiness and Cert 1 in Work Readiness.

## Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2012 Year 12 cohort's post-school destinations survey, *Next Step – Student Destination Report* for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be incorporated into this Report in September.

## Early leavers information

The destinations of young people who left the school in Years 10, 11 and prior to completing Year 12.

The diverse nature of enrolments at BSDE results in a high enrolment turnover during the course of the school year. Some students enrol for short periods of time and then return to mainstream. Some students battling significant medical conditions enrol and then discover that they are unable to contend with the rigour of studies as well as their illness. We do offer a Three Year Senior option, with varying completion rates. There are now TAFE options for students considering tertiary study which can be completed in a shorter time frame than three years. Families seeking to cancel enrolment at BSDE for students under the age of 17 are provided with the legislative requirements of them. BSDE requires confirmation of employment or enrolment in an alternate learning institution at the point of cancellation.