

Strategic Plan 2014–2018

Non-State Schools Accreditation Board and

Non-State Schools Eligibility for Government Funding Committee

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Non-State Schools Accreditation Board

The Non-State Schools Accreditation Board (the “Board”) was established on 21 September 2001 under the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001* (the “Act”). The Board’s statutory responsibilities include the accreditation of new non-State schools in Queensland and the monitoring of the ongoing compliance of non-State schools with the prescribed accreditation criteria.

Non-State Schools Eligibility for Government Funding Committee

The Act also provides for the establishment of the Non-State Schools Eligibility for Government Funding Committee (the “Committee”), which is a Committee of the Board. The Committee has statutory responsibility for assessing applications for Government funding and making recommendations to the Minister for Education, Training and Employment on funding eligibility.

The Minister is responsible for deciding whether a non-State school’s governing body is eligible for Government funding for the school.

Vision

The Board

Promoting excellence in education in the non-State schooling sector by the upholding of standards, the maintenance of public confidence and the fostering of educational choices.

The Committee

Upholding the principles on which Government funds are distributed to non-State schools by applying the legislated criteria for eligibility for Government funding in a just and impartial manner.

Purpose

To promote excellence in education in the non-State schooling sector through a range of strategies and activities that assess and decide applications for accreditation, monitor continuing compliance of non-State schools with the requirements of legislation, assess and make recommendations on applications for eligibility for government funding and overall to provide quality advice and information to the Minister and all stakeholders.

Contribution to government objectives for the community

The Board and the Committee contribute to government objectives for the community – restoring accountability in Government by:

- (a) upholding the standards of education in non-State schools;
- (b) maintaining public confidence in the operation of non-State schools;
- (c) facilitating educational choice in Queensland; and
- (d) providing the basis for sound decisions about Government funding for non-State schools.

Challenges and priorities

The Board and Funding Committee are operating within a dynamic environment. Changing demographics, population and educational needs of the young people of Queensland as well as the education agendas of the Australian and State governments, all require effective responses.

Whilst the new Australian Curriculum is yet to be fully implemented, the Australian Government has announced a review that could bring further significant changes. Some of the alternative curriculum frameworks currently in use in Queensland schools are yet to be recognised as meeting the requirements of the Australian Curriculum. The role of the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) is still in a state of change with the move to the new Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

The Queensland Schools Planning Commission provides valuable information to state, Catholic and independent schools sectors as well as the work of the Funding Committee to assist with the identification of school infrastructure needs across the state. Its intersections with the Board functions are being determined.

Whilst a review of the Board and Funding Committee and its underlying legislation has been foreshadowed for several years, the timeline and terms of reference for such a review have not yet been announced.

The transition of year 7 to secondary education in 2015 and the Queensland government’s open data initiative also pose ongoing challenges regarding working within existing Board and Funding Committee resources. Processes and systems need to be in place and human resources available to accommodate the increased demands these two initiatives call for.

Key strategic risks

Elements of the dynamic context within which the Board and Funding Committee are operating have led to the identification of several key strategic risks, which the Board and Funding Committee will need to address, whilst maintaining a high level of performance of all Board and Funding Committee functions. The key strategic risks are:

- Adequate monitoring of child protection policies and written procedures to ensure schools’ compliance with legislation;
- Evaluation of educational programs- particularly those that do not carry QSA or Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) recognition;
- The efficacy of non-State schools’ self-assessments as the key mechanism by which schools maintain ongoing accreditation;
- Ensuring the accuracy and validity of school data;
- The ability to meet increasing demands within the limitations of Board human and fiscal resources

PART A - Addressing Key Strategic Risks

Objectives	Strategies	Performance indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop enhanced monitoring of child protection policies, written procedures and their implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the Board's current child protection monitoring system Develop a checklist to use as new schools submit policy and written procedures on child protection Provide training for Secretariat staff, Board members and assessors in current child protection policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review completed with recommendations for strengthened monitoring Checklist developed and in use by Board and Secretariat Percentage of Secretariat, Board members and assessors who participated in training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure students enrolled in Queensland non-state schools receive a quality educational program consistent with Queensland Standards of Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage schools to offer the Australian curriculum or to seek ACARA recognition for alternative curriculum approaches Work with the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) to ensure all schools meet Queensland Standards of Learning Develop a statement with ACARA and QCAA outlining a joint position on alternative curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of non-state schools offering ACARA non-recognised alternative curriculum in grade levels where the ACARA curriculum is available Percentage of non-state schools offering the Australian curriculum or an ACARA recognised alternative curriculum Position statement developed and in use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen further the robustness of the cyclical review process as the mechanism for ongoing accreditation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the current cyclical review process to ensure rigorous and valid data is produced Develop revised guidelines on the conduct of reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review completed with recommendations and an action plan for strengthened cyclical review processes Percentage of review reports that satisfactorily address all criteria on initial submission
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure school survey data are accurate and valid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the current auditing process to further strengthen data reliability and validity Develop tools to utilise other data sources to support more robust checking of enrolment data supplied by schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review completed with recommendations and an action plan for strengthened data reliability and validity Percentage of audit reports demonstrating an unqualified assessment of data validity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake regular workforce planning and work pattern analysis to determine how best to utilize available resources and manage stakeholder expectations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a clearer position on the role of the Board in providing advice versus its primary responsibility as a regulatory body Determine future areas of expertise and staffing needed to carry out the Board and Funding Committee functions Apply technology to provide innovative solutions in managing the expanding workloads of the Board and Funding Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion paper on current and future Board and Funding Committee roles circulated to key stakeholders Workforce plan developed in response to discussion paper Continued upgrading of technological innovations to support work of Board and Funding Committee

PART B – Maintaining a high level of performance in Board and Committee functions

Objectives	Strategies	Performance indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply the principles of best practice and continuous improvement to fulfil Board and Committee functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate a fair, efficient and robust accreditation and funding eligibility scheme Continually monitor the operation of the accreditation process, and work to further strengthen the statutory and administrative arrangements underpinning that scheme Seek high-quality advice and information from appropriate sources Monitor continuing suitability of governing body Monitor compliance of non-State schools with the requirements of the legislation Monitor and improve Board and Committee policies, processes and guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous improvement in client satisfaction with processing and timeliness of decisions on applications Time taken to respond to complaints about schools Percentage attendance at meetings Annual Board self-review of effectiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the coordination of decision making by Board and Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and improve the current workflow procedures between the Board and the Funding Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time taken to determine complete applications for accreditation Time taken to determine complete applications for eligibility for government funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote open and transparent government through the provision of information to stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide clear, current and readily accessible information on accreditation and funding of non-State schools on the Board's website, its publications and in oral and written correspondence Maintain accurate and reliable data on all non-State schools Maintain reliability of record keeping tools Meet regularly with key stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usage data on Board website shows increased numbers of visits Decrease in phone calls and emails seeking information available on website (Number of) newsletters produced annually Data base platform is upgraded Continuous improvement in client satisfaction monitored through survey data