

Strategic Plan 2016—2020

Non-State Schools Accreditation Board and

Non-State Schools Eligibility for Government Funding Committee

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Queensland
Government

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Non-State Schools Accreditation Board

The Non-State Schools Accreditation Board was established on 21 September 2001 under the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001*.

The Board's statutory responsibilities include deciding whether to provisionally accredit and accredit non-State schools, and monitoring whether non-State schools continue to comply with the prescribed requirements for accreditation.

Non-State Schools Eligibility for Government Funding Committee

The Non-State Schools Eligibility for Government Funding Committee was also established on 21 September 2001 under the Accreditation Act.

The Committee has statutory responsibility for assessing applications for Government funding, and making recommendations on funding eligibility to the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events.

Vision

The Board

The Board's vision is for excellence in education offered in non-State schools.

The Committee

The Committee's vision is for fair, impartial and transparent considerations regarding Government-funding eligibility for governing bodies of non-State schools.

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 Committee operate to support the Queensland Government's objectives for the community, particularly in delivering quality frontline services in respect of achieving better education outcomes, as set out in the statement of the Government's broad objectives for the community by:

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

Challenges and priorities

The Board and 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.

Across Foundation to Year 12, eight learning areas have been developed for the Australian curriculum and in September 2015 were endorsed by the Education Council. 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.

In 2014, the Auditor-General undertook a performance audit on the oversight of recurrent grants to non-State schools. As a result of this review, a number of recommendations were made to the Board and were addressed in 2015–2016. These recommendations are being further strengthened in 2016–2017.

Key strategic risks

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

The key strategic risks are:

- adequate monitoring of child protection policies and written procedures, and their implementation, to ensure schools' compliance with legislation;
- evaluation and amendment of educational programs – particularly those that do not carry Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority recognition or the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority recognition;
- the efficacy of non-State schools' self-assessments as the key mechanism by which schools maintain ongoing accreditation and Government-funding eligibility;
- accuracy and validity of school survey data submitted by governing bodies; and
- the ability to meet increasing demands within existing resources.

Achieving our vision and maintaining high performance

Objectives	Strategies	Performance indicators
Develop enhanced monitoring of child protection policies, written procedures and their implementation to ensure the safety of all children in non-State schools	Review and enhance the Board's current monitoring system for child protection policies	Implementation completed of all initiatives arising from the review
	Strengthen the assessment and cyclical review processes in terms of child protection	Decreased number of non-compliant child protection written processes addressed by Board
	Provide on-going training for Secretariat staff, Board members and assessors in current child protection legislative requirements	Percentage of Secretariat, Board members and assessors who participated in training
Ensure students enrolled in Queensland non-State schools receive a quality educational program consistent with Queensland Standards of Learning	Ensure schools offer the Australian Curriculum or are seeking recognition by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) of alternative curriculum approaches	Decreased percentage of non-State schools providing curriculum not recognised by ACARA in grade levels where the ACARA curriculum is available
	Work with the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) to ensure all schools meet Queensland Standards of Learning	Increased percentage of non-State schools providing QCAA endorsed/approved education programs in Years 11 and 12
Ensure school survey data are accurate and valid to enable appropriate distribution of government funding	Review and improve the current enrolment verification process to further strengthen data reliability and validity	Implementation of all recommendations and relevant findings of the Auditor-General's performance audit on the oversight of recurrent grants to non-State schools
	Perform additional validations and integrity checks on incoming survey data	Increased percentage of audit reports demonstrating an unqualified assessment of data validity
	Develop tools to utilise other data sources to support more robust checking of enrolment data supplied by schools	Increased percentage of audit reports demonstrating an unqualified assessment of data validity
Identify, and respond to, the needs of stakeholders for Board advisory services — within constraints of the Board's regulatory role	Undertake regular workforce planning to determine how best to utilise available resources and manage stakeholder expectations	Implementation completed of all initiatives adopted by the Board
	Determine future areas of expertise and staffing needed to carry out the Board and Committee functions	Workforce plan developed and endorsed
	Apply technology to provide innovative solutions in managing the expanding workloads of the Board and Committee	New ICT Business System for Board and Committee is implemented and results in increased Board, Committee and stakeholder satisfaction levels
Apply the principles of best practice and continuous improvement to fulfil Board and Committee functions and enable them to regulate the non-State sector effectively	Operate a fair, efficient and robust accreditation and funding eligibility scheme	Continuous improvement in client satisfaction with processing and timeliness of decisions on applications
	Monitor and improve Board and Committee policies, processes and guidelines	Decreased time taken to respond to complaints about schools Maintain regular attendance at meetings
	Annual Board and Committee self-review of effectiveness	Improved effectiveness
	Maintain efficient workflow procedures between the Board and the Committee	Decrease in time taken to determine applications for accreditation and eligibility for government funding
Promote openness and transparency of decision making through the provision of information to stakeholders	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 communication	Usage data on Board website shows increased numbers of visits Continuous improvement in client satisfaction monitored through survey data
	Review the Open Data strategy and provide additional information on the Board website	Increased datasets and Board information made available