

# Strategic Plan 2015—2019

Non-State Schools Accreditation Board and

Non-State Schools Eligibility for Government Funding Committee

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Queensland  
Government

# Strategic Plan 2015—2019

## Non-State Schools Accreditation Board and Non-State Schools Eligibility for Government Funding Committee

### 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, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games.

### 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.

### Queensland Government's broad 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.

### Contribution to government objectives

The Board and the Committee contribute to government objectives 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.

Whilst the new Australian Curriculum is yet to be fully implemented, the Australian Government has undertaken 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.

In terms of reviews of legislation relevant to the Board and Committee, the Board's Chairperson was a member of the 2014 reference group which was assisting a review of regulatory regimes, including the Accreditation Act, and its attendant regulation.

The *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* Report of Case Study No. 6 (Finding 15) and the Auditor-General's *Performance audit on the oversight of recurrent grants to non-State schools*. (Recommendations 1 and 2) are matters that will be addressed in 2015–2016.

### 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 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;
- ensuring the accuracy and validity of school survey data; and
- the ability to meet increasing demands within existing resources.

**PART A — Achieving our vision**

Objectives	Strategies	Performance indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop enhanced monitoring of child protection policies, written procedures and their implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and enhance the Board's current monitoring system for child protection policies</li> <li>Strengthen the assessment and cyclical review processes in terms of child protection</li> <li>Provide on-going training for Secretariat staff, Board members and assessors in current child protection legislative requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation completed of all initiatives arising from the review</li> <li>Number of non-compliant child protection written processes addressed by Board</li> <li>Percentage of Secretariat, Board members and assessors who participated in training</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure students enrolled in Queensland non-State schools receive a quality educational program consistent with Queensland Standards of Learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage schools to offer the Australian curriculum or to seek recognition by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) of alternative curriculum approaches</li> <li>Work with the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) to ensure all schools meet Queensland Standards of Learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of non-State schools offering curriculum not recognised by ACARA in grade levels where the ACARA curriculum is available</li> <li>Percentage of non-State schools offering the Australian curriculum or an ACARA recognised alternative curriculum</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the robustness of the cyclical review process as the mechanism for ongoing accreditation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and strengthen the current cyclical review process to ensure rigorous and valid compliance data are produced</li> <li>Develop revised guidelines on the conduct of reviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation completed of all initiatives adopted by the Board</li> <li>Percentage of review reports that satisfactorily address all criteria on initial submission</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure school survey data are accurate and valid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of the current enrolment verification process to further strengthen data reliability and validity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation completed of all initiatives adopted by the Board</li> <li>Implementation completed of all recommendations and relevant finding of the Auditor-General's performance audit on the oversight of recurrent grants to non-State schools</li> <li>Percentage of audit reports demonstrating an unqualified assessment of data validity</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake regular workforce planning to determine how best to utilize available resources and manage stakeholder expectations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify, and respond to, the needs of stakeholders for Board advisory services — bearing in mind the constraints in this regard on the Board by dint of its regulatory role</li> <li>Determine future areas of expertise and staffing needed to carry out the Board and Committee functions</li> <li>Apply technology to provide innovative solutions in managing the expanding workloads of the Board and Funding Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation completed of all initiatives adopted by the Board</li> <li>Workforce plan developed</li> <li>New ICT Business System for Board and Committee is implemented</li> <li>Board, Committee and stakeholder satisfaction levels with new ICT Business System</li> </ul>

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

Objectives	Strategies	Performance indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply the principles of best practice and continuous improvement to fulfil Board and Committee functions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operate a fair, efficient and robust accreditation and funding eligibility scheme</li> <li>Seek high-quality legal, audit and compliance management information from appropriate sources</li> <li>Monitor continuing suitability of non-State school governing bodies</li> <li>Monitor compliance of non-State schools with the requirements of the legislation</li> <li>Monitor and improve Board and Committee policies, processes and guidelines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous improvement in client satisfaction with processing and timeliness of decisions on applications</li> <li>Time taken to respond to complaints about schools</li> <li>Percentage attendance at meetings</li> <li>Annual Board and Committee self-review of effectiveness</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the coordination of decision making by Board and Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain efficient workflow procedures between the Board and the Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time taken to determine applications for accreditation</li> <li>Time taken to determine applications for eligibility for government funding</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote openness and transparency of decision making through the provision of information to stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Maintain accurate and reliable data on all non-State schools</li> <li>Maintain reliability of record keeping tools</li> <li>Meet regularly with key stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usage data on Board website shows increased numbers of visits</li> <li>Continuous improvement in client satisfaction monitored through survey data</li> </ul>