

# Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023

## Non-State Schools Accreditation Board

The Non-State Schools Accreditation Board was established on 21 September 2001 under the now repealed *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001*. From 1 January 2018, the Board continued operation under the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017* (the 'Accreditation Act').

### Vision

Quality education offered in non-State schools.

### Purpose

- Uphold the standards of education in non-State schools
- Maintain public confidence in the operation of non-State schools
- Foster educational choice in Queensland

### Contribution to government objectives

The Board contributes to the Queensland Government's objectives for the community, particularly in regard to being a responsive government agency in respect of achieving better education outcomes.

The Board's functions include:

- Assessing and deciding applications for accreditation of non-State schools
- Determining eligibility for government funding
- Monitoring whether non-State schools continue to comply with the prescribed requirements of accreditation
- Monitoring whether governing bodies of accredited schools are suitable
- Monitoring compliance with the Accreditation Act
- Conducting investigations about contraventions of, or noncompliance with, the Accreditation Act

### Key Strategic Risks

- Monitoring of child protection policies and written procedures, and their implementation, to ensure schools' compliance with legislation
- Assessment and monitoring schools' educational programs for consistency with the Australian Curriculum; Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) syllabuses subject/s; and alternative curriculum approaches as recognised by Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)
- The efficacy of the non-State schools' review program as the key mechanism by which schools maintain ongoing accreditation and Government-funding eligibility
- Accuracy, validity and integrity of school survey data submitted by governing bodies

### Key opportunities and challenges

- Oversight of governance and financial management of non-State schools
- Ensuring educational programs in all non-State schools maintain standards in an environment that values diversity in educational choices
- Managing an ever increasing workload for the Board and its Secretariat
- Designing effective technological and operational solutions to enhance Board efficiency.
- Investigating allegations of unaccredited education sites operating as schools
- Challenges associated with ensuring compliance in a broader changing legislative environment

| Objectives  | Strategies  | Performance indicators  |
|---|---|---|
| To ensure Queensland non-State schools comply with accreditation criteria   | Continue to review and strengthen application and monitoring processes to ensure compliance of Queensland non-State schools with accreditation criteria   | Number and percentage of valid applications for accreditation and government funding considered and decided within legislated timeframes  |
| To continue monitoring of child protection policies and procedures and their implementation in Queensland non-State schools   | Continue to review and enhance the Board's current monitoring system for child protection policies<br>Continue to enhance the assessment and review processes in terms of child protection<br>Follow through on recommendations from government agencies on matters related to child protection | Percentage of child protection written processes assessed (as a percentage of total schools)  |
| To ensure Queensland non-State schools provide a quality educational program  | Monitor non-State schools' compliance with standards of education consistent with QCAA frameworks, the Australian Curriculum and alternative curriculum frameworks recognised by ACARA  | Compliance Reviews are scheduled to meet legislated timeframes<br>Assessments are scheduled and conducted within legislated timeframes  |
| To ensure school survey data are accurate and valid   | Continue to review and refine the current enrolment verification process to further strengthen data reliability, validity and integrity<br>Continue to review and refine census supporting materials  | Percentage of over-counts of full-time students in census   |
| To apply the principles of best practice and continuous improvement to fulfil Board functions and enable them to regulate the Queensland non-State sector effectively | Operate a fair, efficient and robust accreditation and funding eligibility scheme<br>Conduct periodic self-review of effectiveness of processes and guidelines<br>Monitor and improve Board policies, processes and guidelines  | Rates of client satisfaction with processing and timeliness of decisions on applications<br>Actions taken to improve processes and functions of the Board as appropriate and as recorded in meeting minutes<br>Attendance at meetings monitored |
| To identify and respond to the needs of stakeholders for accreditation and Government funding eligibility information   | 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.  | Rates of client satisfaction monitored through survey data  |
| To investigate allegations of unaccredited education sites operating as schools   | Conduct investigations into possible contraventions of the Act  | All allegations investigated  |
| Implement the <i>Human Rights Act 2019</i> ('HR Act')   | Audit and review existing policies, procedures, forms and practices to be compliant with the HR Act on 1 January 2020   | HR Act implemented  |