

From crayons to careers

Department of Education, Training and Employment



Far North Queensland
Service Commitment
for State Education

Far North Queensland Education
and Training acknowledges the
Traditional Custodians of the
land and pays respect to their
Elders past and present

Great state. Great opportunity.



From crayons to careers – Far North Queensland's Service Commitment



Clive Dixon

Far North Queensland (FNQ) State Schools are committed to delivering education, training and skills needs of students as well as industry and the diverse FNQ community.

If you would like to receive this document in an alternative format contact **07 4046 5287**.

Four years ago Far North Queensland Education made a bold 'Service Commitment': **100 per cent of students in our state schools will graduate as confident and healthy young Australians and achieve:**

- an Overall Position (OP) and enter university, or
- a Vocational Education and Training (VET) pathway to employment, or
- paid employment of 25+ hours per week, or
- alternative pathways for some students with special needs.

Since the introduction of our Service Commitment there has been:

- an 18 per cent increase in students achieving the Queensland Certificate of Education
- improvement to Far North Queensland's NAPLAN scores across all areas – particularly in the early years where scores have increased by 10 per cent
- dramatically improved Indigenous NAPLAN scores – in some instances scores have improved by 18 per cent.

A key to these student improvements has been the introduction of explicit teaching which is often referred to as: I do (teacher demonstrates), we do (class participates), you do (individual student does activity).

State school education in the Far North covers over 273,000 square kilometres from Cardwell to Thursday Island. There are over 100 state schools providing services ranging from early childhood and primary school, to distance education, high school and college where a range of vocational and academic pathways are offered, such as TAFE and university subjects.

As part of the region's strategy to ensure our 34,000 students have the best opportunity to achieve real life outcomes we have developed a Charter of High Expectations. Additionally we have done a lot of work with school leaders, asking the question, 'What can we do better?' One of the outcomes of this was the development of management tools to help us run our schools more effectively and efficiently.

We are on a journey of improvement and I am proud of the significant progress we have made in a short time. I encourage the whole community: parents, carers and service providers to join us on this journey to continue improving the education and job opportunities of our young people – our future.

Clive Dixon



Early (crayon) years

Research shows investing resources and energy into children's early years, when their brains are developing rapidly, will bring lifelong benefits to them and the whole community.

The Far North has recently made significant investments: creating over 200 additional kindergarten places with plans for more early childhood services to follow.

Other early childhood services we provide include long day care, family day care, kindergarten, outside school hours care, and pre-prep programs.

This means there are now more services and facilities than ever before available to families wanting to give their child the best start in life. This includes our award-winning Families as First Teachers (FAFT) program where children aged 0-4 years develop literacy and numeracy skills.

What makes our FAFT program unique is it actively involves parents, grandparents, uncles and aunties who learn new ways to teach their children – this comprehensive approach provides a great introduction to formal learning and assists children being 'school ready'.

When you visit our primary schools you will see a bright, vibrant learning environment where our students thrive – they are regularly recognised across the state for winning awards in maths, science and English.





In our schools

School curriculum

Students are benefiting from the introduction of the new Australian Curriculum which has a focus on maths, science and English. The new Queensland Education Curriculum to Classroom (C2C) and innovative information technology resources mean our students can receive the same high standards as anywhere else in Australia.

More students are receiving personalised, effective learning support through our improved approach.

Teachers now have more options to implement a tailored program specifically designed for where an individual child is at; whether they are in the gifted program, have a disability, English is their second or third language, come from diverse, multicultural backgrounds, or live in a rural or remote area.

Our improved resources incorporate our 'I do, we do, you do' explicit teaching method. These resources have been so well received, they are now in demand from other regions across the state and Australia.

School wide positive behaviour program

Successfully implementing the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) program is a high priority. SWPBS is about teaching social and behavioural skills so the focus can be on teaching and learning.

Guiding elements of the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) Program which are applied to all students in all settings include:

- a focus of discipline to bring about success: academically, socially and emotionally
- focus on prevention
- an evidence-based approach to decision making
- clearly defined expectations of students that are consistent.

Contact your school if you would like a copy of their responsible behaviour plan.

Community involvement with our schools

The role of community and embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in schools is important to the success of Far North Queensland Education.

Our programs include: Ready Reader, Parent and Volunteer Initiatives, Indigenous Leaders of Tomorrow, Crossing Cultures and Hidden History as well as our active Parents and Citizens Associations.

We strongly encourage and value the role parents, guardians and volunteers play in our schools. Connecting parents and caregivers with students' education is a regional priority.

Future pathways

Our Service Commitment goes beyond the school gates. In addition to award-winning pathway programs throughout senior schooling, every Far North Queensland Year 12 school leaver is offered support to take their next career step – be it academically, getting a trade or securing a job.

Training opportunities

Accessible, relevant training opportunities are strongly linked to the long term success of the Service Commitment. We have designed our training programs to match the Far North's economic needs. Additionally we offer a career training service to help people determine their pathway to success.

We work with industry, community and registered training organisations to deliver:

- apprenticeships and traineeships
- a range of courses:
 - agribusiness
 - automotive
 - business administration
 - childcare
 - engineering
 - hair-dressing
 - hospitality
 - manufacturing
 - retail and more.

Recruitment Officer for One Harvest, Helen Pakhomov, who offers apprenticeships, said they

have been impressed with the level of maturity, focus, and experience of participants in the Far North's [School] Agribusiness Program.

'The Queensland Government Agribusiness Program involving students, schools and industry is such a good model I recommend it to people in other states,' Ms Pakhomov said.

University opportunities

Unique courses offered to state school students include university accredited astrophysics subjects, the International Baccalaureate (academic program recognised internationally), marine technology, and other university subjects offered through James Cook University.

Following the successful completion of Year 12 state school students pursuing a university pathway are focused and well positioned to take up university places here in the Far North, as well as through-out Australia and the rest of the world.

For more information about pathways for school leavers visit www.myfuture.org.au





What our students, parents and principals say...

John Bond, Year 7 student at Western Cape College residential campus



'At school I like science. When I grow up I'd like to play footy for Weipa and work on the mines.'

I like sharing with the other kids – they look out for me and we play games.'

Anna Bezuglova, Year 12, International Baccalaureate (academic program recognised internationally)



'I love the International Baccalaureate Program! Not only will my studies be recognised by every uni in the world, I'm learning more about global issues. Since starting the program I feel I'm becoming a better, more rounded person.'

Jenny Sweeney, Parents and Citizens Queensland (formerly Queensland Council of Parents' & Citizens' Associations – QCPCA)



'I love the respect and value education staff have for parent engagement – they recognise the positive impact this has on our children's education experiences.'

Barry Courtney and Matt Denzin – drivers of academic success at Smithfield State High School and Trinity Beach State School



'This is an exciting time for students in the Far North. For the first time students will have access to a seamless pathway from school to James Cook University.'

This means there will be more opportunities to excel: academically, gifted programs, music, sport, robotics, arts, marine biology as well as the many, practical vocational options.

As primary and secondary state school principals we are here to ensure our children are ready for their next step, whether it's moving from grade two to three, beginning high school or going to university.

We are on track for the smooth transition of Year 7 students moving from primary to secondary. This transition work is just one aspect of our commitment to all our young people having the best environment for their academic, emotional and social development.

Smithfield and Trinity Beach Schools are committed to a learning culture of: high expectations, positive approaches to learning and behaviour, fostering aspirations, and success.'

To find out more about our Service Commitment or to see first-hand how our revised teaching methods are working to improve the real life opportunities of young people contact your local state school.

> 34,000 students > 100+ schools > over 270,000+ sq km

**Far North Queensland State Schools:
Better education opportunities for a brighter future**

education.qld.gov.au

