



Annual School Report

2021

Principal's Report

Rossbourne School continued to build on its culture and mission in nurturing our students as they develop self-worth and confidence. Empowering them to realise their strengths so they will build foundations for personal achievements and creating opportunities to define their own success in making a positive contribution to our community.

With a focus on student wellbeing, Rossbourne aims to enhance the life chances of its students by putting them at the centre of learning, and creating opportunities to develop independence, social connection, resilience, and respectful relationships.

Our commitment to co-education for students with unique learning needs dates back to 1967 and we continue to support a wide range of neuro-diverse students, embracing them for who they are and providing a breadth of curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students to explore their world, develop interests and to learn and refine their knowledge and skills.

Notwithstanding another year of lengthy lockdowns, we continued with our process of significant curricular adjustments to facilitate remote teaching and learning. Although many of our co-curricular activities were cancelled or curtailed, students did engage in many learning opportunities that made 2021 a rich experience for our students as they continued to adapt to rapid change and develop resilience. Among the learning opportunities that students engaged in over the 2021 school year were modified outdoor education programs, online theatrical performance, a number of sporting events and competitions and a range of independent learning opportunities that were designed for students to engaged with at home. We were also able to celebrate the achievements of our graduating students with a formal Graduation dinner and ceremony.

Governance of Rossbourne School continued to be strong in 2021 led by our School Board Chair, Ms. Lee Wills. The school is very grateful for the dedication of its Board members and the range of knowledge and skills that makes for a robust School Board, supportive of the School's leadership team and making sure that the best interests of the school are held paramount.

Our community continues to thrive and we look forward to embracing the future and developing the life chances of our students as they move towards adulthood.

Shane Kamsner
Principal, Rosssbourne School.

Our Vision

To be a world leading school known for its unique and innovative neuro-diverse educational programs where students' potential is unlocked so they can achieve their best as global citizens.

Our Students

Because Rossbourne School is unique and one of kind across Australia, our student community comes from a broad range of areas including some, whose families have moved to Melbourne from interstate so a child can attend Rossbourne School.

Attendance

Rossbourne School's priority is the wellbeing and welfare of its students and our processes and protocols are designed to support the safety of our students and know where they are at all times throughout the school day. Parents are required to notify Homeroom teachers by phone or email if their child will be late or absent from school for any part of the day by 8.15am. When arriving late to school or leaving early, students must sign in/out at the main school reception area. The table below provides the attendance levels for 2021. The figures not only reflect the fact that a number of our students do have regular appointments with external professionals in support of a range of neuro-developmental challenges, but for some students COVID 19 and remote learning took a toll on mental health and school attendance.

Attendance 2021 *			
Equivalent Year	Female	Male	Overall
Year 7	96.5%	96.2%	96.3%
Year 8	94.2%	91.1%	92.1%
Year 9	95.3%	95.4%	95.4%
Year 10	93.8%	89.2%	92.8%
Rossbourne			

*Reportable Attendance 2021 – Semester 1 & Term 3, full time students Year 7-10 or equivalent

Student Outcomes

Rossbourne is a Specialist School, and as such we have the flexibility to provide personalised curricular that is based on the specific needs of our students. Our holistic approach in providing education is very much integrated, combining academic programs with life skills as well as supporting students to develop independence and social capacities that will enhance their chances of achieving their defined success in school and socially as they mature into young adulthood. Students' learning outcomes are based on specific goals that relate to a student's neuro-developmental difficulties and these goals are set within

Individual Learning Plans that are reviewed and adjusted as a student progresses through the year.

Student Pathways

Rossbourne aims to prepare our students so they can make a meaningful contribution to our society. The vast majority of our graduates moved to the TAFE sector, either by enrolling in VCAL courses or other TAFE courses. Below is a table showing the percentage of 2021 Rossbourne graduates and their destinations for 2022.

Type of Course	% Graduates Attending
VCAL (supported TAFE)	62%
TAFE courses (mainstream)	14%
Mainstream secondary school	24%

Staff

Rossbourne staff are dedicated professionals, motivated to deliver high quality and meaningful curricular, administrative and practical enterprise to the school and its students. Rossbourne staff are part of a strong and supportive culture, where they access significant professional development opportunities, mentorship, career advancement opportunities and where staff contribute to the development and direction of the school and its programs.

Rossbourne can be considered an employer of choice as staff turnover is low and there are consistent enquiries from prospective staff about the possibilities of joining Rossbourne School.

The table below provides a break-down of Rossbourne staff numbers by category.

Department	Staffing
Administrative Staff	4
Teaching Staff	27
Specialist support staff	3
Maintenance/Canteen Staff	2

Finances

Operating Revenue & Expenses for the Year Ending 2021

Rossbourne's combined revenue for 2021 was \$8,523,649, primarily made up of State and Commonwealth funding grants and tuition fees. Parents received fee rebates in 2021 based on costs the school did not incur as a result of cancelled activities and a reduction in some material resource costs due to COVID-19. Graphs below provide a percentage breakdown of revenue and expenditure for the 2021 year.

