

# Croydon Community School 7757

## 2008 Annual Report to the School Community



## School Overview

Croydon Community School is a co-educational Year 7-12 school that specifically aims at attracting students who are at significant risk of not completing secondary education. In 2008 approximately 25% of the student cohort was included on the Program for Students with Disabilities and many of the remaining 75% are noted to have undiagnosed learning disabilities, mental health issues and/or family backgrounds that have impacted on their success at school.

Students travel from a wide range of suburbs across the Eastern Metropolitan Region to attend Croydon Community School. Enrolment enquiries are commonly received from other schools, parents and community welfare agencies, including the Department of Human Services.

In 2008 Croydon Community School also commenced management of the Student Development Centres in Eastern Metropolitan Region – Leaps & Bounds, Reconnecting Youth, Primary Donvale and Primary Woori Yallock. The year was one of transition into this new arrangement and the formation of a new entity, EMR OPTIONS as the manager of at-risk programs across the region.

### Student enrolments – total students enrolled

| 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|------|------|------|
| 99   | 104  | 107  |

Student enrolments increased minimally in 2008. The school site is now slightly over its capacity to cater for student numbers.

**Parent Satisfaction** - The general satisfaction variable from the Parent Opinion Survey is 5.42. This is a minimal improvement from 2007. When plotted against all other secondary schools in Victoria, it places our school in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile.

- **Teacher Satisfaction** - The average score for teacher satisfaction (morale) at this school was 57.8 on a scale from 0 to 100 where 100 is the best possible score.
- **Teacher Absence** - The average number of days absent per teacher was 7.64 days. This is slightly below state average (8.09 days). It is also a decrease of 4.5 days per teacher when compared to 2007.
- **Teacher Retention** - Of the 16 teaching staff at Croydon Community School at June 2007 (including those on leave without pay), 14 or 88% were still at the school at June 2008. This figure across all Government schools was 87%.
- **Teacher participation in professional learning** –All teaching staff have participated in professional learning throughout the year, such as the Teacher Professional Leave Program, Australian Government Quality Teacher Program and the Induction / Mentoring for Beginning program for teachers. The school also provided a range of in-house professional learning opportunities for all staff.
- **Teacher Qualifications** All teachers in Victorian Government schools are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. The requirements for registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching can be found at; [http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/content.asp?Document\\_ID=241](http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/content.asp?Document_ID=241)

### Commonwealth Requirements

## Principal's Report

2008 was a year of multiple highlights for our students, including indigenous-based camps, excursions to Sovereign Hill, Melbourne CBD, Science Works, the Motor Show and other venues in our wider community.

We also commenced 'Rock School', an after school program where students rehearse performance-quality music in bands and then perform at the end of each term. This program has been an outstanding addition to our wide range of opportunities.

The entire school was excited when one of our Year 11 students won the Snippets Film Festival with his 3D creation called Flab Jesus Goes to Town, particularly because the competition included all government and private schools in Maroondah.

Martial Arts Therapy continues to be a beacon program at Croydon Community School, and we have now run the program at over 100 other schools spread across Melbourne. Our students participate as peer educators, assisting others to learn the code of 'Be Strong, Be Calm, Be Kind, and Try Hard'.

The school was recognised as a leading provider of programs to other groups beyond our own area when we were named as the winners of the Eastern Metropolitan Region's Partnerships with Parents and the Community Award for our Empowering Girls program, run by Social Worker Ree Bucci.

Integration of the four Student Development Centres into the management structures of Croydon Community School has at times been problematic in the transitional stages but I believe the incredible progress made throughout 2008 leaves us in a strong position to expand our influence in 2009.

**Bronwyn Harcourt, Principal**

## Student Progress & Achievements

### Student Learning

Whilst student learning outcomes are our core business, the required indicators do not always reflect the successes that we achieve. The majority of our student cohort has been disengaged from learning for extended periods of time throughout their time at school. The longer this situation has continued unaddressed, the longer it takes us to unravel. Many students have significant deficits in their learning due to severe language disorders, severe behaviour disorders, diagnosed learning disabilities and mental health issues. It may take more than 12 months for students to develop trust in themselves to participate in learning activities but it is a strength of our programs that we persist until they are willing to try things that have caused them anxiety in the past.

It is also worth noting that despite improvements in learning outcomes, it is likely that many of our students will remain significantly behind expected achievement levels due to their original deficit position.

#### **Percentage of students achieving at or above the National Minimum Standards –**

At Year 7 level 50% of students achieved NAP Band levels expected in Reading and Numeracy. 0% of students achieved expected NAP Band levels in Writing.

AT Year 9 level 20% of students achieved NAP Band levels expected in Reading and Numeracy. 10% of students achieved expected NAP Band levels in Writing.

#### **VCAL**

100% of Year 11 & 12 students were enrolled in VCAL.

#### **VET median study score**

In 2008 94.7% of Year 11 and 100% of Year 12 students were enrolled in VET studies. This number is well above state averages.

#### **Satisfactory completion rates**

- VET - 76.7% of Year 11 & 12 students satisfactorily completed their Units of Competency.
- VCAL – 75.8% of Year 11 & 12 students satisfactory completed VCAL credits.

#### **Reporting on PSD students –**

Croydon Community School had 21 students funded under the Program for Students with Disabilities in 2008. Very few of these students achieved little or no progress against individual goals. Approximately 85% of students achieved satisfactory, good, very good or excellent progress against individual learning goals.

## Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Croydon Community School has an extremely strong Wellbeing support team, comprising a fulltime Social Worker and Youth Worker, a part time Speech Therapist and Adolescent Health Nurse, and a school structure that centres on a system of Core Teachers who take responsibility for a small group of students. We also utilise strong partnerships with community welfare agencies such as Anglicare and Harrison's Family Services, Department of Human Services (DHS) and Eastern Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

### **Average number of absent days per student**

The average number of absent days per student across the school in 2008 was 60. This is a decrease of 5 days per student when compared to 2007. Absence rates at the school are adversely affected by extended absences by a small percentage of students for reasons such as placement in secure welfare, adolescent psychiatric units and/or youth detention. Other students may be absent due to mental health or substance abuse issues. However, over 50% of our students are rarely absent from school. This includes students who have displayed irregular attendance patterns at their previous schools.

### **Students' school connectedness**

Data from the Student Attitudes to School Survey places the school at 3 on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is the best possible score. The Student Survey information records that Teacher Effectiveness, Teacher Empathy and Stimulating Learning are seen as strengths by our students, but that they also do not feel strong links to their peers, have extremely low morale, low Student Motivation and Learning Confidence. The data always presents us with more questions than answers as students and their parents tell us that they are happier here than they have been in any other school, yet the data does not reflect this.

## Student Pathways and Transitions

Student Pathways and Transitions are strong programs at Croydon Community School. The focus on individual pathways is a management challenge as no two students have the same program each week. The success of this approach can be directly credited to the hard work of the VCAL team, under the leadership of Coordinator Pauline McNamara.

Year 10 students participated in work preparation programs such as OHS training, work experience, preparation for interviews, application writing. Some were also involved in TAFE Taster and/or school-based apprenticeships as part of their program.

Year 11 & 12 students participated in VCAL units that included school-based apprenticeships and traineeships, TAFE certificate courses, work placements, work experience, mock interviews and work preparation programs. Our involvement as a Beacon Foundation school strengthens this diverse range through strong connections with local business and trader groups.

The school ran a successful Charter Signing Day in May with most Year 10-12 students pledging to be in fulltime education, employment or training on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 and all those who signed met this commitment.

In 2008 Croydon Community School also received a Financial Literacy Grant from the Commonwealth Bank Foundation. This grant was used by students to establish a successful business model to operate our school canteen, including the preparation of foods for sale.

### Student destination data –

The On Track survey of Year 12 completers conducted in April and May of 2009 indicates the following:

| Destination      | Females | Males | Total |
|------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| VET Cert IV+     | 1       | 0     | 1     |
| Working fulltime | 1       | 0     | 1     |
| Looking for work | 0       | 1     | 1     |
| Total            | 2       | 1     | 3     |

Several 2008 Year 12 students who did not have pathways clearly planned have returned to Croydon Community School in 2009 to complete VCAL studies. No Year 12 students left the school in 2008 prior to completing their studies.

**Retention rate between Years 7 & 12** – It is not possible to determine the number of Year 12 full-time equivalent students enrolled in August expressed as a percentage of Year 7 enrolments in February five years earlier. This is because Croydon Community School was a campus of Pembroke SC in 2004 and individual data is not available.

## Future Directions

The most pressing and obvious goal for Croydon Community School in 2009 is the successful integration and expansion of EMR OPTIONS. Full integration of the four Student Development Centres and Farm School facilities under a plan with clear objectives and goals is essential. Financial management of these sites is also essential to ensure that the programs are sustainable.

Literacy & Numeracy – over the past 7 years Croydon Community School has researched and implemented numerous programs to improve student outcomes in these critical areas. Despite some pleasing results for some students, it has become apparent to us that none of these programs has achieved success for all of them. In 2009 we will embark on a high level partnership with EMR Language, Literacy and Learning staff to further explore the issues we face with the goal of designing and implementing a program that gains better results for students.

Induction of new leadership team is also a priority area for 2009. A new Assistant Principal and two new Leading Teachers joined us at the start of the year and their expertise will enable the new entity of EMR OPTIONS to thrive.

Croydon Community School is a member of the Maroondah Education Coalition. The priorities for this group in 2009 will be to further the work we do together and continue the required work under the Building Futures program.

## Financial Performance and Position

| <b>Financial Performance –<br/>Operating Statement Summary<br/>for the year ending 31st December, 2008</b>                                                |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                                                                                                                                            | <b>2008 Actual</b> |
| DE&T Grants                                                                                                                                               | 445,158            |
| Commonwealth Government Grants                                                                                                                            | 11,781             |
| State Government Grants                                                                                                                                   | 0                  |
| Other                                                                                                                                                     | 102,020            |
| Locally Raised Funds                                                                                                                                      | 87,260             |
| <b>Total Operating Revenue</b>                                                                                                                            | <b>646,218</b>     |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                                                                                                                        |                    |
| Salaries and Allowances                                                                                                                                   | 73,167             |
| Bank Charges                                                                                                                                              | 0                  |
| Consumables                                                                                                                                               | 55,206             |
| Books and Publications                                                                                                                                    | 3,405              |
| Communication Costs                                                                                                                                       | 21,035             |
| Furniture and Equipment                                                                                                                                   | 123,381            |
| Utilities                                                                                                                                                 | 8,419              |
| Property Services                                                                                                                                         | 128,494            |
| Travel and Subsistence                                                                                                                                    | 5,073              |
| Motor Vehicle Expenses                                                                                                                                    | 8,636              |
| Administration                                                                                                                                            | 3,208              |
| Health and Personal Development                                                                                                                           | 746                |
| Professional Development                                                                                                                                  | 69,830             |
| Trading and Fundraising                                                                                                                                   | 10,542             |
| Support/Service                                                                                                                                           | 74,130             |
| Miscellaneous                                                                                                                                             | 49,634             |
| <b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>                                                                                                                        | <b>634,905</b>     |
| <b>Net Operating Surplus/-<br/>Deficit</b>                                                                                                                | <b>11,313</b>      |
| <b>Capital Expenditure</b>                                                                                                                                | <b>82,703</b>      |
| Please note that the above amounts do not include any credit revenue or expenditure allocated or spent by the school through its Student Resource Package |                    |

| <b>Financial Position<br/>as at 31st December, 2008</b>  |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Funds Available</b>                                   | <b>2008 Actual</b> |
| High Yield Investment Account                            | 29,172.88          |
| Official Account                                         | 6,151.84           |
| Other Bank Accounts( listed individually)                |                    |
| <i>Term Deposit</i>                                      | 33,666.94          |
| <i>(insert)</i>                                          |                    |
| <b>Total Funds Available</b>                             | <b>68,991.66</b>   |
| <b>Financial Commitments</b>                             | <b>2008 Actual</b> |
| School Operating Reserve                                 | 10,000             |
| Co-operative Bank Account                                | 0                  |
| Assets or Equipment Replacement < 12 months              | 34,500             |
| Revenue Received in Advance                              | 25,500             |
| Building/Grounds including SMS < 12 months               | 10,000             |
| Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs < 12 months | 0                  |
| Provision Accounts < 12 months                           | 0                  |
| Repayable to DEECD                                       | 0                  |
| Other Recurrent Expenditure (Accounts Payable)           | 13,477.66          |
| Assets or Equipment Replacement > 12 months              | 0                  |
| Building/Grounds including SMS > 12 months               | 0                  |
| Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs > 12 months | 0                  |
| Provision Accounts > 12 months                           | 0                  |
| Co-operative loan >12 months                             | 0                  |
| Beneficiary/Memorial Accounts                            | 0                  |
| <b>Total Financial Commitments</b>                       | <b>58,991.66</b>   |

## School Contact Information

|                           |                                                                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| School Council President: | Andrea McKenzie                                                                  |
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