Parents, Staff and Students

It is with sadness that I report that the Founding Principal of A.B. Paterson College, Mr Robert James (Rob) Nicholls, passed away on Monday this week after a lengthy battle with cancer. Rob was Principal from January 1991 to February 1994.

After a career in independent education at many levels of management, Rob saw the need to establish the first co-educational, independent school at the northern end of the Gold Coast. He worked closely from 1989 with Founding Board Chairman, Mr Alan Rickard, and a small team to bring this dream to fruition two years later. The enormous growth of this area of the Gold Coast shows how pertinent his vision was.

Rob and wife Maureen’s son, Ben attended the College, while sons Chris and Luke graduated from another independent school. Maureen Nicholls was a great support for Rob in those busy, early days, collaborating in the design of the original College uniforms and assisting in the fledgling Tuckshop and Uniform shops.

While current students will not have known Mr Nicholls as Headmaster, the values the Board established and he initially implemented have been carried forward to today. Rob was a dedicated educator and a kind and caring person committed to the values of independent education. He went on to establish Tamborine Mountain College and continued there as Chairman of the Board.

Members of our College community using the stairs in the main foyer of the Rickard Building will be familiar with the painting of our Founding Headmaster, and this is currently on loan to the family along with photos of the College during its establishment phase – reminders of Rob’s vital role in the development of this part of the Gold Coast and independent education. We send our prayers and thoughts to his family.

The funeral will be held on Monday, 9 May at the West Chapel, Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens, Nursery Road, Holland Park at 11.30am.

Vale Rob Nicholls.

Mrs Dawn Lang – Principal
Mother’s Day

The most difficult job of all is parenting. We worry because we care so much; because the right decision is not always obvious; because there are so many other influences ‘out there’ that can undermine what we hope for with our children.

Mothers in particular can go from being the centre of the universe for their baby and little child to being the source of all knowledge during childhood – ‘my mother says so’; and then almost overnight, a person to be ignored as a possible embarrassment in front of teen friends – someone whose view of the world is so outdated as to be beyond prehistoric; then an over involved worry wart in the background of the young adult; gradually returning once again to someone highly valued and knowledgeable in their child’s adult phase.

However, of course, through all of this time a mother’s love does not change – they just learn to deal with the swings and round-a-bouts of their child’s development.

As Edward Hallowell puts it in his book, The Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness, ‘A parent’s love is like the favourite stuffed animal our children carry around when they are young. Over the years it loses an ear or perhaps an eye, gains a few gashes that get repaired with Band Aids or tape, becomes faded and floppy, develops amazing flexibility, and all the while becomes stronger and stronger in the hold it exerts over our hearts.’

I realise for too many young people their parents have not been the source of support and care that children should be able to expect. But for the majority of young people, mums and dads do a great job in a tough line of ‘work’. Apart from the fact that children should be respectful of parents because without them the child does not exist – it is important to honour the sacrifices and love we do receive and Mother’s Day is a time to remember and acknowledge. This does not mean huge presents – doing something especially for mum is far more thoughtful.

The Importance of Reading to Children

For parents of little children bored with reading the same stories over and over as their child says, ‘I want this one again’, this research below should be some comfort (from Richard Garner, Education Editor, Independent, Monday, 21 February 2011 in Principals Digests May 2011).

Never-ending story: how repetition helps a child’s vocabulary

It may be boring for parents but reading the same book over and over again to children is the best way to develop their vocabulary. Researchers at Sussex University have found that repetition is more likely to help them improve their reading skills.

Each time a child hears the book, they are picking up new information. The researchers devised an experiment with three-year-olds in which they were exposed to two new words to test the theory.

Each word was a made-up name for an unfamiliar object – such as a "sprock", a hand-held device for mixing food. Over the course of a week, one group heard three different stories with the same new words. The second heard only one story with the words. Each contained a drawing of the new objects.

What happened was that those who had heard just one story were much better at remembering and recalling the new words when tested at the end of the week compared with those who had been read the three different stories.

We know that the more books you have at home, the higher the academic achievement, and this research shows that it's not the number of books but the repetition of each book that leads to the greater learning.

Helping children build a good oral vocabulary and comprehension is essential for success later in reading. Associate Adjunct Professor at Northwestern University, Dr Burns, said, ‘…As far as the brain is concerned, reading is language, so if a child’s language abilities can be improved, they’ll find it easier to learn to read…”

Mrs Dawn Lang
Principal

ROSTRUM VOICE OF YOUTH

Congratulations to Portia Gunthorpe of Year 11 who won the Senior Division in the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition on Saturday, 30 April, held at Marymount College.

Congratulations also to Brock Gunthorpe of Year 12 who achieved runner-up/reserve in the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition.

Well done Portia and Brock!

Mr Ian Taylor – Director of Activities
CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Poem from Peppers – free verse by Erin Cronin of Year 6.

Sitting here in Peppers Hidden Vale, 
words can’t describe how I feel. 
Surrounded by mountains, hills and valleys, 
as far as the eye can see. 
I stare at thousands of acres of land, 
each covered up with luscious green trees.

Water trickles and falls, 
from stone to stone at the waterfall. 
I want to do nothing, 
but lie back on a chair and relax. 
I sink into my sun lounge, 
feeling the sun warm my body. 
A gentle breeze blows my hair, 
from side to side.

A bird chirps in the background, 
A song from heaven in disguise. 
Easter chocolate melts in my mouth, 
as ice-cream melts in the sun.

A bee buzzes noisily, 
echoing around my ears. 
It collects nectar 
from some of the most beautiful flowers 
that you will ever see.

An old tree stump lies deserted, 
as a reminder of just 
How old 
How precious 
This hidden vale really is.

Miss Chantel Cadden
English Teacher

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Smart Arts Performing Arts Workshop Programme

The Smart Arts Performing Arts Workshop Programme which was scheduled to be held on Saturday, 14 May has been CANCELLED. Payments will be refunded to parents. If you have any enquiries, please contact the Performing Arts Faculty on 5561 4171.

Mr Mark Weber
Head of Faculty, Performing Arts

GUITAR LESSONS

Some vacancies are available in the Guitar Programme for Year 3 to Year 12.

Coaching for ensemble playing provides an opportunity to join ensembles. Cost is $30 per lesson.

To book lessons, please contact Wendy Witt on 0438 792 343.

AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION (AMC)

On Thursday, 4 August 2011, the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) will be held for the 34th time and we are pleased to be part of this competition.

The AMC is administered by the non-profit Australian Mathematics Trust, which has representatives on its Board from the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers, Australian Academy of Science and Australian Mathematical Society.

Students in the advanced programme will be entered along with others who may be interested. If you would like your child to be entered, please contact your child’s Maths teacher. A letter with enrolment details will be sent home.

Mr Hemant Prahaladh
Australian Mathematics Competition Convenor

YEAR 8 CANBERRA TRIP

Year 8 students will travel to Canberra this year, as part of their academic programme. The educational road trip departs on Monday, 18 July and returns on Saturday, 23 July.

There will be a meeting to discuss the details of the trip on Tuesday, 10 May at 7pm in the Dawn Lang Performing Arts Centre. At this time, the itinerary will be explained and an equipment list will be provided. All Year 8 parents are encouraged to attend this meeting. This promises to be an enriching experience for our students!

Mr Mark Vorster
Head of Mackellar House
ASTRONOMY NIGHT & INNOVATORS OF THE FUTURE

Astronomy Night this year will be held on Thursday, 12 May from 4pm – 8pm.

Innovators of the Future for Years 8 & 9 will be held on Thursday 26 May; whilst students in Years 4-7 will enjoy exciting workshop sessions on Friday, 27 May.

Registration forms and more detailed information are available to download from the College website: http://www.abpat.qld.edu.au/index.php?page_id=news&id=77

Mr Trevor Redmond
Dean of Maths & Science Education

ICAS SCIENCE COMPETITION

This year it has been decided to offer our students, in Years 7 and 10, the opportunity to enter the ICAS Science competition to be held on Wednesday, 8 June. For over twenty years, Educational Assessment Australia has been conducting this international competition and assessment for schools – all students receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly, and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. This student report is useful for highlighting your child’s strengths and weaknesses in science and thus enabling effective progress to be made in senior science subjects.

If your son or daughter is not in Year 7 or Year 10 and you would like them to take part in the competition, please ask them to collect a letter from their science teacher which has a permission slip that will need to be signed and returned.

The cost of participation in the competition is $6.60 and this amount will be debited to your school account.

Mr Richard Worsley
Head of Faculty - Science

BUS FARE ASSISTANCE & STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Semester 1, 2011, online applications for the Bus Fare Assistance Programme and the Students with Disabilities Scheme will be accepted. To lodge an online application for either programmes go to: www.schooltransport.com.au
Further enquiries to: 3336 9192 or schooltransport@qcec.catholic.edu.au
Applications received after 31 May 2011 cannot be processed.

KEYS 2 DRIVE

helping parents teach their Learner driver

As a parent you may be a good driver; but being able to teach your Learner is not an easy task.

A recent national survey of more than 1,250 parents of Learner drivers found that almost half (45.5%) were nervous or apprehensive when they began teaching their teen how to drive.

keys2drive is a federally funded programme that has been developed by the Australian Automobile Association which aims to take the drama out of learning to drive. It helps parents to prepare for their role as a supervising driver and to ensure that any time spent in the car with their Learner is successful and effective.

keys2drive is a free lesson (involving theory and on-road) delivered by an accredited professional driving instructor to any Learner who is accompanied by their supervising driver – most often a parent.

This programme, the single largest Learner driver safety programme undertaken in Australia, represents a unique and valuable experience for parents and their Learner drivers.

To register for a free lesson or to learn more, visit www.keys2drive.com.au

The Australian Automobile Association constituent members are the motoring clubs in each State and Territory.
2011 Gold Coast Careers Expo – Free Admission

To be held on Thursday, 19 May at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, 9am – 8pm. (Students are to attend after school). It provides a good opportunity to meet with leading universities, private colleges, TAFE and industry representatives.

Visit the website for full details on prizes and seminar timetables: www.gccareersexpo.com.au.

Pathways to Medicine Information Evening

Griffith University is hosting a Pathways to Medicine Information Evening on Wednesday, 18 May from 6 – 7pm at the Gold Coast Campus, for school leavers. Interested participants are encouraged to register as per the website: www.griffith.edu.au/health/medicine/registration-form.

UMAT (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Science Admission Test)

Students interested in studying Medicine at universities other than Griffith will need to sit the UMAT. Registrations close on 3 June, 2011, 5pm AEST.

The UMAT test date is on Wednesday, 27 July 2011. I refer you to the UMAT website www://umat.acer.edu.au for further information.

Winter Rock School

Griffith University will be hosting a Rock School in the winter school holiday period. This is a studio-based programme where the week culminates in a live performance, and students receive guidance in stagecraft and live sound. The focus is on song writing, performance and recording in a studio context.


Griffith University Engineering Information Day

The session will be held on Thursday, 26 May 2011 from 4.30 pm – 6pm. http://www.griffith.edu.au/engineering-information-technology/griffith-school-engineering/news-events/information-evening-registration-form

Architecture Information Evening

The evening includes a presentation about the degree, the opportunity to see our facilities and meet industry advisors and Griffith University staff.

Gold Coast campus
When: Wednesday, 8 June 2011
Time: 6pm - 7:30pm
Venue: Clinical Sciences 2 Building (G16), Lecture Theatre 1.07, Gold Coast campus


Mrs Jacquelene Estevao
Careers/Guidance Counsellor
**JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS**

**Founders’ Day and Open Day**

Parents and friends of the College are invited to attend our annual Founders’ Day and Open Day celebrations which are to be held on Sunday, 22 May. Starting at 1.30 pm on the Hockey Oval, a ceremony is held to acknowledge those who were instrumental in founding A.B. Paterson College. The school is then open for visitors to move to classrooms where a range of activities and displays will be on view. Throughout the afternoon, choral and instrumental performances will be held in Rickard Courtyard.

This is a compulsory event for all students who need to be at the College by 1.00 pm for roll call. Full formal uniform is to be worn. Any genuine requests for absence must go to College Principal, Mrs Lang, beforehand in writing.

**Marble Arch Gates**

The gates at the back of the College at the end of Marble Arch Drive are locked at 4pm. Students need to be picked up from the Senior School pick up area at the front of the College after this time. Parents arriving after 4pm to collect children from After School Care should use the main College entrance. This measure has been reintroduced as security for staff and College property.

**NAPLAN 2011**

National Literacy and Numeracy testing for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 takes place this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with four tests being sat over the three days. Our students have been well prepared and tend to take these tests in their stride. I wish them all the best for next week.

**Year 6 Winton Camp Meeting**

This meeting is to be held in the Dawn Lang Performing Arts Centre at 7pm on Monday, 9 May. It is important for all parents to be at this meeting as valuable information concerning camp organisation will be distributed. It is also an opportunity for parents to hear from those who have already been on camp and to have any questions answered.

*Mrs Alison Robinson – Head of Junior School*

**JUNIOR WRITERS’ WEEK**

As part of the Junior Writers’ Week celebrations, author, Dr Cameron Stelzer will be presenting to Year 1 - 3 students on Monday, 16 May and author, Julie Fison will present to Year 4 - 6 students on Tuesday, 17 May. A letter has gone home to parents with further information.

*Mrs Jennifer Booth
Assistant Head of Faculty | English*

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**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

**ARKAN MARTIAL ARTS**

**Congratulations to Kaden Forbutt of Year 1**

Kaden has successfully obtained his 1st belt: Junior Level 1, in Arakan Martial Art. Well done Kaden!

*Mrs Ian Taylor
Director of Activities*

**SCHOOL BANKING NEWS**

**School Banking Competition Success!**

In April we informed you that we had entered the Commonwealth Bank School Banking Competition. The bank had over 2000 competition entries and awarded prizes to 80 schools Australia wide. We are thrilled to announce that A.B. Paterson College has been successful and has won $8000 for a wonderful new Junior School initiative. The CBA will present the cheque this Friday at the Junior School assembly.

Thank you to all of the students who participate in the School Banking Programme and are developing wonderful savings habits for life.

**Best College Banker:**

This week’s “Lucky Banker” is: Stephanie Fancutt, Year 3C
This week’s “Best Banking Class” is: Prep S

*Mrs Helene Young
Banking Coordinator and her team*

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**PREP 2013**

**Closing date for registration of siblings of current students is Thursday, 30 June 2011.**

The College will not be able to offer family preference to any siblings for Prep 2013 if registered after this date.

Prep 2013 (students born between 1 July, 2007 and 30 June, 2008)

Please contact Mrs Christine Reynolds, College Registrar, for an Application Form on 5561 4140 or chris@abpat.qld.edu.au. Forms may also be downloaded from the website www.abpat.qld.edu.au
"God could not be everywhere and therefore he made Mothers." (A Jewish Proverb)

On behalf of the Parents & Friends I would like to wish a very Happy Mother’s Day for Sunday to all of our wonderful A.B. Paterson College mothers and grandmothers. I hope you are all spoiled on your day.

Good luck to the cast and crew of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* for their performances. I know that you have all been working very hard and I am sure all of the time and effort will be rewarded with another fantastic A.B. Paterson College musical. A special mention goes to the mums who have been doing a fantastic job behind the scenes in the costume, makeup and prop departments.

*Mrs Lisa Lang*  
P & F President

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**Runaway Bay Shopping Village**  
**Shopper Dockets**  
**Help Support Canteen Rescue**

Runaway Bay Shopping Village is running the *Canteen Rescue* programme for local schools. A.B. Paterson College has joined this initiative. So if you live in the Runaway Bay area or shop at the shopping village, you can support the College by earning points every time you help with the family’s weekly shopping.

A Shopper Docket box is available at Student Services for your shopping receipts.

**About Canteen Rescue**  
*Canteen Rescue* is part of a wider initiative called, *Let’s Live Better*, which operates to help grow healthier communities across Australia. The programme also creates opportunities for local schools to secure cash and prizes. This includes winning local prizes from Runaway Bay Shopping Village and the chance to secure a national prize valued at over $40,000.

**How to Contribute**  
Being involved in *Canteen Rescue* is easy. Every time families, friends, students, staff and supporters shop at Runaway Bay Shopping Village from **4th April – 12th June 2011**, they simply need to present their receipts at the Customer Service Desk.

Every dollar spent in the centre earns one point for the College. As an extra bonus, purchases made at the Fresh Food Retailers will receive **double points**, meaning the more healthy fresh food that is purchased, the greater the chance of winning!

**Prizes**  
At the end of the programme, the school with the highest number of points nationally will win a Canteen Rescue package valued at over $40,000.

Runaway Bay Shopping Village will also be rewarding first, second and third placed schools with cash, as well as weekly prizes for the best performing school.

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

**Term Time Trading Hours**  
**Monday to Friday:** 7.45am to 10am  
**Tuesday & Thursday:** 2pm to 4pm

*Sue Kelly*  
Uniform Shop Convenor

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Cervical cancer is caused by a virus - Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). HPV can affect both women and men. This means that cervical cancer is everyone’s business.

ACCF is dedicated to creating awareness of cervical cancer in Australia, particularly through its schools awareness program CCAPS. (Cervical Cancer Awareness program for schools.) ACCF is also committed to providing free cervical cancer vaccine and treatment for women in developing countries who otherwise would not have access to it.

For more information:  
www.facebook.com/accf.fanpage  
www. accf.org.au

The College is hosting an information evening for the ACCF on Thursday, 19 May at 7pm in the Dawn Lang Performing Arts Centre. Girls in Years 10-12 are encouraged to attend this worthwhile evening and should be accompanied by their mother, relative or guardian.
SOUTH COAST SELECTIONS

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent the South Coast Region at the State Championships on 19 June:

Georgia Adamson  Netball
Adelaide Clarke  Netball
Amelia Baker  Hockey
Tate Weyer  Hockey
Scott Minneker  Hockey
Aydee Brooks  Football (Soccer)

Well done!

Mr Ian Taylor
Director of Activities

TRIATHLON

Congratulations to Daniel Coleman of Year 11
Daniel won both races in his age group 16 years and the open category 6km Fingal Heads Beach Run on 22 April. Also last Sunday, 1st May, Daniel capped off a great triathlon season by taking out 1st place in the Luke Harrop Memorial Triathlon Sprint Distance, with a winning margin of 1 minute 26 seconds in his category. This triathlon consisted of a 750m swim, 20km bike ride and a 5km run. Daniel was also the overall winner of the USM Gatorade Triathlon Series which consisted of seven races.

Daniel has been selected on the Australian team to participate in the World Triathlon Age Championships being held in Beijing in September. He has been selected to represent Australia in the 16-19 Year Age Group Sprint Distance 750m Swim / 20km bike ride / 5km run. At 16 years of age Daniel is the youngest member of the eight triathletes making up his team. Well done Daniel!

Mr Ian Taylor
Director of Activities

COMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 6 May</td>
<td>Senior School Musical in LPAC: 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 7 May</td>
<td>Senior School Musical in LPAC: 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9 May</td>
<td>Year 12 QCS Practice WT: 1.45pm – 4.30pm</td>
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<td>Year 11 Radisson Resort Hospitality School</td>
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<td>Year 6 Winton Camp Meeting in Dawn Lang Performing Arts Centre: 7pm</td>
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<td>Tue 10 May</td>
<td>Years 3, 5, 7 &amp; 9 Federal Literacy &amp; Numeracy Testing</td>
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<td>Year 11 Radisson Resort Hospitality School</td>
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<td>Year 8 Canberra Camp Meeting in Dawn Lang Performing Arts Centre: 7pm</td>
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<td>Wed 11 May</td>
<td>Years 3, 5, 7 &amp; 9 Federal Literacy &amp; Numeracy Testing</td>
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<td>Gold Coast Debating for Years 11 &amp; 12 – Round 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Year 10 Outward Bound Camp Meeting in Dawn Lang Performing Arts Centre: 7pm</td>
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<td>Thur 12 May</td>
<td>Years 3, 5, 7 &amp; 9 Federal Literacy &amp; Numeracy Testing</td>
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<td>Years 4-7 APS Sport Round 3</td>
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<td>Astronomy Night: 4pm – 8pm</td>
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<td>Years 10, 11 &amp; 12 Honours Programme Philosophy Event in Lower Maths Centre: 3.30pm – 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13 May</td>
<td>Years 8-12 APS Sport Round 4 vs Emmanuel</td>
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<td>Sat 14 May</td>
<td>Smart Arts Performing Arts Workshops: 10am – 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 16 May</td>
<td>Prep – Year 3 Cross Country</td>
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<td>Prep – Year 6 Writers Week commences</td>
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Members from the Southern Astronomical Society will set up their large telescopes on the Taylor-Dostal Oval (A.B. Paterson College) to show everyone the wonders of the night sky, along with the planets, Mars and Saturn and a beautiful first quarter moon.

SAS and its members are looking forward to another wonderful event presenting astronomy and space.

4pm – 5pm    Presentation in Dawn Lang Performing Arts Centre
5pm – 6pm    Sausage sizzle
6pm – 8pm    Star gazing through large telescopes

There is be no cost for this event but if you will be attending the presentation, please advise Mrs Thadia Lawson on tln@abpat.qld.edu.au.

‘Capturing the Night Sky’ is proudly sponsored by:

[Logo of Colgate-Palmolive]

[Logo of SAS]
2012 CGIT SCHOOLS PROGRAM
Applications are now open for 2012 GCIT Schools Program.
For full details please contact Mrs Annette Taylor on 55614145 or atr@abpat.qld.edu.au. Applications close 12 September 2011 at 5.00 pm.

| Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance | Two Year Program (Fridays) | This program covers workers who provide a range of assistance functions to allied health professionals. Workers at this level operate under direct supervision and do not conduct programs or therapeutic interventions. Completion of this program leads to eligibility to enrol into the Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance. |
| Certificate III in Health Services Assistance | Two Year Program (Fridays) | This program covers workers in a range of work roles who provide assistance to health professional staff with the care of clients. Health Services Assistance involves the worker in direct client contact under supervision. |
| Certificate II in Fitness | Two Year Program (Fridays) | This program provides the skills to instruct clients in a gym and group resistance class for particular client groups. You will use specific equipment, relevant to a variety of fitness related work settings. |
| Certificate III in Children's Services | Two Year Program (Fridays) | This program is the first step to a career working in Children's Services, and will provide you with a qualification that is nationally recognised. |
| Certificate II in Hairdressing | One Year Program (Fridays) | This program allows students to discover the basic realities of life in a salon. You will learn how to provide full reception services including receiving clients, answering the telephone and how to prepare clients for a range of salon services. Discover how to coordinate tasks for effective time and self management, braiding and drying hair, massage and communicate skills. |
| Certificate III in Hospitality Operations | One Year Program (Fridays) | This program will allow students to enter the workforce with the skills and knowledge required to secure an entry level position in a hospitality and/or food service establishment. |
| Certificate III in Tourism | Two Year Program (Fridays) | This program is designed for students wanting to gain employment in the tourism industry and includes operational skills to work as a Junior Travel Consultant, Reservations Sales Agent or in similar positions in the tourism industry. |
| Certificate III in Events | Two Year Program (Fridays) | This program provides the skills and knowledge for an individual to be competent in an administrative or operational events role. |
| Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology | One Year Program (Fridays) | This program provides and introduction into the trade of fashion design. It includes a series of units targeted at the unique fashion and textile designs and can assist in providing credit for further Fashion Design and Technology studies. |
| Certificate II in Retail Cosmetics | One Year Program (Fridays) | This program assists in developing the skills and knowledge to begin a career in the beauty industry. |
| Certificate III in Media | One Year Program (Fridays) | This program covers the skills required to create and manage digital graphics, video, audio, 2D animations and websites. Learn how to use the applications used in the industry including Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, Adobe Dreamweaver and Adobe Flash, amongst others. |
| Certificate II in Automotive | One Year Program (Wednesdays) | This program is designed to provide the transition from school to employment and serves as an introduction to the Automotive Trade area. This program includes six weeks vocational placement within the automotive industry. |
| Certificate I in Engineering | One Year Program (Wednesdays) | Students undertake introductory competencies relating to engineering, fabrication and mechanical, covering theory, practical and work experience. Students will perform engineering measurements, apply quality procedures, use hand and power tools, perform routine gas tungsten and metal arc welding as well as mechanical cutting. |
| Certificate II in Construction Pathways | One Year Program (Mondays) | This program is an excellent way to begin your career in the construction industry. This qualification forms part of the Carpentry Training Package. It is for those wanting to acquire the skills and knowledge to work in the carpentry sector of the construction industry. Students will be introduced to specific fields of work within the construction industry. |
| Certificate II in Furniture Making and Finishing (Cabinetmaking) | One Year Program (Tuesdays) | This program is an excellent way to begin your career in the furniture making (cabinetmaking) industry. This qualification forms part of the Furnishing Training Package. It is for those wanting to acquire the skills and knowledge to work in the furniture making sector of the furnishing industry. Students will be introduced to specific fields of work within the cabinetmaking/furnishings industry. |
| Certificate I in Boating | One Year Program (Fridays) | This entry-level qualification is for school students and persons desiring a marine and boating industry career. It introduces basic skills and knowledge required to work competently and safely in and around recreational vessels and in setting up and repair procedures of small vessels, including fibreglass repair, in the marine environment. It provides students with a clear understanding of recreational boating, boating procedures and safety. |
Don’t polarise, stress education quality instead

E
quity is one of the main polarising issues between public and private school supporters. Opponents of public funding for non-government schools, such as the Australian Education Union, argue that the increasing growth of the non-government sector – one in three children across Australia now attend either Catholic systemic or independent schools – has led to poorer overall education results and greater inequality. The ACT has the country’s highest proportion of primary and secondary students attending non-government schools, at 42.9 per cent.

Many of these opponents’ arguments are based on misuse of funding data and selective examples that portray the non-government sector as the preserve of privilege and the social elite. Nothing could be further from the truth, nor more out of step with the evidence. Indeed, the latest evidence convincingly shows that non-government schools provide a significant return on the public’s investment in this sector, in terms of quality education, equity and contributions to national wellbeing.

It is the particular characteristics of the non-government sector – its focus on quality and achievement, the flexibility to respond to the educational needs of each individual student, its strong systems of accountability to parents and government, and a capacity to recruit high-quality staff – that lead to quality education outcomes that, in turn, contribute to greater equity.

Here is the evidence. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development studies have found that, after controlling for socio-economic intake, these attributes of accountability, autonomy and choice contribute to greater equity and higher achievement and reduce the dependence of student achievement on socio-economic status. Overcoming social disadvantage through education is more effective when government provides per capita funding to schools and allows them autonomy and flexibility. By providing public funding, governments ensure schools operate in the national interest.

The problem in discussions about equity in education is a confusion about what equity means in practice and where its fits with a nation’s need for quality education. Some see equity in terms of not just of equal access, but in terms of the same outcomes for all. A more useful approach to equity would focus on education quality, removing barriers to access and addressing disadvantage and then working with individual students to achieve their full potential. The best means of improving equity in our society is to improve the quality of education. In other words, better quality of education overcomes social disadvantage. This is also what the evidence says.

More spending on education is not the answer for government. Governments of all political colours have been taking that approach for years, yet Australia still has a significant equity problem with lengthy underachievement associated with being indigenous, living in rural and remote regions and from a socially disadvantaged background.

The evidence shows that resources aimed at improving the overall quality of education is the real answer to improving equity, not merely tackling the education disadvantage. Improve an individual’s education performance and you improve the person’s life chances. This is real equity reform aimed at disadvantage.

In practice, achieving improved education quality requires not more funding, but spending where it makes a difference. This means focusing on early intervention and quality education in the early years. We know that works. It means improving teacher quality and performance in the classroom. It means schools having a better learning environment, good leadership and a focus on achievement. It means having a school system with more parental involvement, more flexible teaching practices and more accountability. It means having education strategies addressing educational disadvantage that is based on evidence about what works for particular students in particular contexts.

It means doing a lot of what the non-government sector is doing now. Education outcomes in the non-government sector are higher than in the government sector. The easy explanation for this difference, of course, is that the non-government school population comes from more advantaged backgrounds. This view ignores the social diversity of non-government schools. It also ignores the considerable evidence now available from overseas and Australia to show that non-government school achievement is higher regardless of social background. Funding policies supporting school choice, autonomy and accountability – in other words, having a vibrant non-government sector – are important contributors to achieving greater equity.

Australian education is facing a challenge. Internationally Australian school students are mostly high achievers, performing well above the OECD average. But the latest Program for International Student Assessment results show that, relative to other countries, Australia’s education outcomes are declining. Australia was the only high-performing OECD country to show a significant decline. It is time we focused on equity in a way that we know works. It is education quality that counts. It is hoped the current Gonski review into school funding understands this.

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