

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The Non-State Schools Accreditation Board was established on 21 September 2001 under the now repealed *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001*.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 Continue to enhance the assessment and review processes in terms of child protection 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 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 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 Conduct periodic self-review of effectiveness of processes and guidelines Monitor and improve Board policies, processes and guidelines	Rates of client satisfaction with processing and timeliness of decisions on applications Actions taken to improve processes and functions of the Board as appropriate and as recorded in meeting minutes 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