



# Annual School Report

## 2019

### 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 a 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.

Among the learning opportunities that students engaged in over the 2019 year were life skills development, working on different projects in and around Rossbourne's own house next door to the school; outdoor education programs, the school production (Little House of Horrors), work experience opportunities, our year-long swimming program, a range of sporting events and competitions as well as camps at each year level, a strong IT curriculum and an array of design technology subject.

Parent survey results for 2019 were outstanding. Overall satisfaction with Rossbourne School was 9.74 out of 10. This was an increase for the last survey result in 2017 of 9.58. Specific areas that showed an increase from the 2017 results were, *The School Provides an Excellent Environment for Learning (9.52 from 9.42)*, *The School is a safe place to learn (9.7 from 9.56)*, *The Range of Learning Areas is Excellent (9.04 from 8.69)* and *Parents are Made to Feel Welcome to Visit the School (9.66 from 9.53)*.

Governance of Rossbourne School continued to be strong and in 2019 the school welcomed a new Chair of School Council, Ms. Lee Wills. The school is very grateful for the dedication of

its Council members and the range of knowledge and skills that makes for a robust School Council, 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.

## **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.*

## **Guiding Principles**

### **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 2019 and the figures 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.

<b>School Section</b>	<b>Female (attendance %)</b>	<b>Male (attendance %)</b>
Middle School	94.2	94.8
Transition School	91.5	91.5
Senior School	91.5	94.3
Average across the school	92.1	93.5

### **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, socially and 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.

Shane Kamsner

Principal.

## Student Pathways

Rossbourne aims to prepare our students so they can make a meaningful contribution to our society. The vast majority of our graduates (32 for 2019) moved to the TAFE sector, either by enrolling in VCAL courses or other TAFE courses. Below is a table showing the 2019 Rossbourne graduate destinations for 2020.

Type of Course	Percentage of Graduates Attending
VCAL (TAFE provider)	72
TAFE courses	16
University	3
Mainstream secondary school	3
Work	3
Other	3

## 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 very 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.

Administrative Staff	3
Teaching Staff	26
Specialist support staff	3
Maintenance/Canteen Staff	2

## Finances

### Operating Revenue & Expenses for the Year Ending 2019

Rossbourne's combined revenue for 2019 was \$ 7,232,149, primarily made up of tuition fees as well as State and Commonwealth funding grants. Graphs below provide a percentage breakdown of revenue and expenditure for the 2019 year.

