



**Albert Park
Flexible Learning Centre**
1 Hale Street, Milton. Qld 4064

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

This annual report for 2011 is published to provide information about the Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre for parents/c arers, young people and other interested parties. This report contains the detail mandated by the Commonwealth and State Governments and Edmund Rice Education Australia reporting requirements.

INTRODUCTION

Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre commenced operation as a registered Non-State School in 2006 and is part of a national association of forty schools which includes, in 2011, six flexible learning centres and attached outreach programs operating across thirteen sites in Queensland.

The distinctive education provided to all students is described in, *The Charter: A Proclamation of an authentic Expression of Edmund Rice Education as Applied to Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition*. This can be viewed on line at <http://www.erea.edu.au/our-identity/index.cfm?loadref=175>

Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre is a co-educational Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition. It is one of, in 2010, six schools in the Edmund Rice Education Australia Flexible Learning Centre Network. Attached to Albert Park is a mobile outreach service, called “It’s Up 2 U” South West Outreach, which operates out of the Inala PCYC.

The philosophy of the Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre draws on the spirit and vision of Edmund Rice Education (the Christian Brothers). It has a clear commitment to social justice and stands in solidarity with disenfranchised young people of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds. The philosophy also has a practical focus, based in the application of four core principles of “*Respect*” (for self, others and environment), “*Safe and Legal*” environment, “*Participation*” (have a go) and “*Honesty*” (being fair dinkum) among all participants of the Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre. This is evident in the ways the organisational culture and practices are shaped through the application of these principles. In essence, the principles establish a “common ground” among staff, young people and parents, a collective forum, where the means to resolve conflict, negotiate learning, recognise rights, responsibilities and consequences are modelled and explored, both within the group, and individually and as members of the broader community.

Future outlook

The 2008 Melbourne Declaration on the Education Goals for Young Australians states that “Australian Governments commit to working with all school sectors to

- ‘Close the gap’ for young indigenous Australians
- Provide targeted support to disadvantaged students
- Focus on school improvement in low socioeconomic areas”

Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre works with young people who are vulnerable and experience a complexity of inter-related needs. As discussed above, participation and retention are key elements in the philosophy of Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre, and the development of moral reasoning through the application of the four principles prepares students for responsible citizenship. The learning experiences also build self-confidence and esteem in students, promote an optimistic view of their potentialities and future, and assist them to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to enjoy a healthy and fulfilling life.

Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre offers an inclusive and non-discriminating learning community to young people, who for a variety of reasons, are disenfranchised from mainstream education. Young people are enrolled from both genders, from a variety of language, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, with particular sensitivity to Indigenous culture, and from backgrounds of socio-economic disadvantage. Young people are exposed to learning experiences that develop understanding and appreciation of diverse cultural values that constitute Australian society. Learning is focused around the individual needs of students and progress is carefully documented and monitored. Young people, in conjunction with their teachers, youth workers and education support workers, discuss career aspirations and draft learning plans with articulated pathways to further education and/or vocational education and training.

PASTORAL CARE PROGRAM

Each young person at Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre has a Pastoral Care team. In the *It's Up 2 U* Outreach programs, this team is made up of a Youth Worker or Educational Support Worker who participate each day with the 15 young people who are enrolled.

At the Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre this team comprises their classroom teacher for core literacy/numeracy and at least one other significant worker. This worker is chosen by the young person. The role of the team is to establish a close relationship to the young person, to monitor their progress, to advocate on their behalf, to provide advice, direction and support during difficult personal issues, and overall to support the young person to achieve their stated personal and educational goals. The role of this team is broad in scope, in-depth in its substance, and long-term in relationship. It includes:

- In-house mentoring and advocacy
- Supporting the young person and their families in times of emotional crisis or practical need

- Maintaining the close partnership between school, student and parent/carer
- Working in partnership with other agencies who are involved with students e.g. CYMHS, Dept of Communities, Youth Justice etc
- Supporting and mentoring young people who live independently
- Helping students to build capacity and resilience in social and emotional aspects of their lives
- Informally helping young people develop positive self-concept
- Supporting young people with issues of drug misuse and self harm
- Networking with other agencies such as Youth and Family Services to provide specialist assistance e.g. family mediation, counselling, anger management. The Pastoral Care program also includes the support work of the School Chaplain, the Family Worker, the Youth Support Coordinator and access to the Network Child Protection Officer as required. Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre also has numerous Volunteers (26) and Partner organisations (PCYC Lang Park, ADAWS, Red Cross, Youth Connections, Brisbane Youth Service, Centrelink) who have workers stationed in the site on various days of the week to help young people with their needs.

The total 2011 enrolment of the Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre in full time equivalent students is shown below.

Year Level	Students
8	0
9	0
10	14
11	41
12	28
Total	83

CURRICULUM

The aim of the Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre is to respond to the complex needs of disenfranchised young people who have been marginalised from mainstream education. The Centre achieves its aim by building honest and authentic relationships with students and their families, supporting and celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each individual student. The Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre provides holistic learning experiences that address the social needs of students, and promotes their emotional, cognitive, spiritual and academic development. The purpose of the learning experiences is to empower young people to take personal responsibility for their actions and learning, achieve greater autonomy and self-reliance and to engage in the transition to further education and/or employment.

Learning experiences address curriculum areas of literacy, numeracy, study of society and environment, vocational training, information technology, music and technology, outdoor education, Indigenous education, relational and spiritual education and science.

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Subjects offered at various year levels include:

	CORE	ELECTIVE
Years 10	Maths, English, Art, Music	

	Authority Subjects	Authority Registered Subjects	Certificate Courses
Years 11 - 12		Prevocational Maths	
		Communication English	
			Cert 1 In Art
			Cert II in Music

OUTCOMES

National Assessment Program Literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN) results.

Reading Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy in Year 9.

As Albert Park is a Flexible Learning Centre which caters for 15 year olds to 25 year olds and only caters for Year 10 – 12, the following statistic does not apply.

Domain	Measures	Yr 9 2011
Reading	Average score for the school	
	Average score for Queensland	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	%
Writing	Average score for the school	
	Average score for Queensland	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	%

Spelling	Average score for the school	
	Average score for Queensland	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	%
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	
	Average score for Queensland	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	%
Numeracy	Average score for the school	
	Average score for Queensland	
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	%

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APPARENT STUDENT RETENTION RATE

Senior cohort Year	Year 8 Base	Year 12 at exit	Retention Rate %
2010 (optional)	0		
2011 (mandatory)	0		

ATTENDANCE RATE

Total student absent days per the student rolls X 100 = 81 %

Total no. of students X Total scheduled school days

The average student attendance rate for 2011 was 81%. This number excludes students who terminated enrolment during the year or who were absent for extended explained absences.

Outcomes for Year 12 Students	
Total number of Senior Certificates awarded	13
Percentage of Overall Position (OP) – eligible students with OP 1 – 15	NA
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates and awarded a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification	6
Percentage of students awarded Senior Certificates with OP – eligibility or awarded a Vet qualification	NA
Percentage of Queensland tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer.	NA
The median score for OP - eligible students	NA

SPECIAL PROGRAMS THAT PRODUCE IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

At Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre during 2011 there have been several programs which have produced significant improved outcomes for young people.

- **The PCYC Partnership** has provided a varied platform for tremendous development in many areas for our young people. The provision of free gym membership allows young people access to first class fitness facilities all year round and many young people take advantage of this. Our basketball team won its first premiership in 2011. A significant improvement on the previous and maiden season when we won only one game on a forfeit! The many benefits of being involved in a team have helped many of our young people.
- **The Artist n Residence Program** allowed almost all of the young people a chance to record a Rap and be filmed as part of our 21st Celebration Rap Video. The improved outcomes for young people from this project were many and varied.
- **The Community Garden** provides a great space and platform for various special programs that enhance the learning opportunities and outcomes for young people.
- **The Volunteers Program** also provides great opportunities for improved outcomes by providing help, guidance and education in the Families Room for young mothers, one on one personal tutoring and remedial work in English and maths and active contributions in the Community Kitchen and Art space.

YEAR 12 COHORT 2011 POST SCHOOL DESTINATION

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2011 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about the post school destinations of our students will be posted to our website by 30 September, 2011. The following interim data reports the destinations of students as accurately as the school is able to ascertain at this point.

School Year – 2011	Number of Students in each category	Percentage of Students in each category
University (degree)	1	8%
VET total (Cert IV+ III, I-II, apprenticeship, traineeship)	3	23%
Working full-time	3	23%
Working part-time/casual	5	38%
Seeking work	1	8%
Not studying or in the labour force	0	0

CO CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre provides extensive opportunities for young people to participate in co curricular or non class room activities at their level and within their areas of interest. Participation is encouraged. The broad range of opportunities or choices for young people includes activities that are described as cultural, sporting, intellectual and or service related.

Cultural	Sporting	Intellectual	Service
Art Exhibitions	Basketball Competitions (one premiership)	University Preparation courses	Red Cross Night Cafe
Music Performances	Fitness and Gym classes	Study Camps	Homeless Connect
Dance Performances	Skateboarding	First Aid Training	Xavier House Exchange
Film Making		Graduation	
Circus Performance			
Formal			

STAFF DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES 2011

Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre is committed to the ongoing professional development and formation of staff. This continues to enrich the educational opportunities provided for our young people and models to our young people the modern reality of life long learning. The following priorities were identified in the Centre's 2011 Operational Plan:

- Inservice in Mental Health related issues and Suicide Prevention (CYMHS)
- Maths and English Inservice courses
- Performance and Drama inservice activities
- Music Inservice courses
- Leadership courses
- Formation Courses
- Chaplain training

The average amount spent per teacher in 2011 on professional learning was \$1,086. The total amount spent in 2011 was \$15,253.

THE SOCIAL CLIMATE OF THE CENTRE

One hallmark of Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre is the very real climate of compassionate care evident. This is expressed through:

- The numerous Celebration activities that are held on the campus on Regathering Days, Celebration Days and Parent BBQs.

- Our Chaplain cooks birthday cakes and provides significant birthday presents for all young people at Albert Park.
- Staff have a 'doyen' of Social Activities and have at least one formal outing each Term and social breakfasts.
- The Formal and Graduation provide opportunities for young people to be involved with workers and family members in formal social events.

STRATEGIES USED FOR INVOLVING PARENTS / CARERS IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR YOUNG PERSON.

Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre recognizes that parents/carers are the primary educators of their young people. Some young people live independently. The work of the school is most successful when it collaborates effectively with parents / carers. The Flexible Learning Centre supports and encourages this role of parents / carers through:

- Information evenings,
- Newsletters and emails.
- Parents and carer meetings,
- Social celebrations, and
- The voluntary contribution of distinctive skills and enthusiasm of parents and community members. These are gratefully acknowledged and celebrated.

STAFF

The staff of Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre is a highly qualified, experienced and generous group of professionals who consistently contributes more than would otherwise be expected both within the classroom and beyond. The distinctive skills / qualifications and experience of our staff include:

Total number of teachers	7
Total number of Support staff	6
Total Number of Staff	13

Teaching Staff Qualifications	Number
Degree	9
Certificate	6
Diploma	3
Post Graduate Diploma	4
Masters Degree	3
Doctorate	0

The average attendance rate for teachers in the 2011 academic year was 95%. This figure reflects a low rate of sick leave among the staff. This figure does not include staff

absent from classes attending professional development activities or who would have been replaced whilst on other forms of leave such as long service or maternity leave.

The teaching staff retention rate expressed as a percentage is 100%. This indicates the percentage of teachers who have continued service at the school from 2010 into 2011.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

In recent times, substantial change has occurred in the provision of computer hardware and software for young people and staff. Professional development continues to enhance the skills of staff in this important facet of learning. Information management has become a critical literacy. Integration of technology within all learning continues to evolve across the variety the school's subject offerings.

DER funding and the provision of laptops and desktop for student use has significantly enhanced the learning opportunities of all our students. Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre has also installed a wireless network which covers the whole site and allows both staff and students to have much better access to and use of technology.

FUNDING SOURCES

School income broken down by funding source is available in the "My School Website" visit <http://www.myschool.edu.au> .

SCHOOL REVIEW / SURVEYS

The Flexible Learning Centre Network reviewed its leadership structure across 2010 and 2011. New upgraded positions were created for the Heads of Campus and the position of Associate Head of campus was created at sites. The Associate Head of Campus position will be reviewed during 2012. The Associate Head of Campus position has significantly increased the efficiency of the operational management of the school.

In 2011 the Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre participated in the five year Cyclical Review conducted by the Non State Schools Accreditation Board receiving registration for a further five years.

PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS FOR THE 2011 YEAR

The Edmund Rice Education Flexible Learning Network Board and Leadership recognize the value of strategic planning for the long term, sustainable development of programs, capital and human resources, the minimization of exposure to risks and to assist fidelity of operation to mission. Operational goals are set each year in consultation with staff. The following outlines achievements in reaching goals in 2011 articulated in the 2010 Annual Report.

- The development of the **Volunteers Program**. The volunteers program was initiated and a sound framework for recruiting, training and induction has been established.

- The Artist in Residence Program (Arts Qld Grant in 2011). This program helped in the production of the Albert Park Rap (<http://vimeo.com/album/1824576/video/32827386>). The Artist in Residence program was also extremely valuable in the training of staff in filming and editing techniques.
- The development and extension of the **Healing Community Garden**. The wheel chair garden and wood fired pizza oven were both built. Many celebrations and activities were held in the Community Garden.
- The continued **development of the “Arts Precinct”** as the focal point of campus activities has been very successful.
- The **development of new partnerships** and the nurturing and growth of existing partnership with Red Cross, Youth Connections, Community Connections, ADAWS, Brisbane Youth Service(BYS), Qld Health etc. Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre now has a BYS worker working on the site one day per week and up to 4 Red Cross Case Workers on site each week. Our community now also has the services of a Centrelink mobile worker one day each week. We have continued our connections with ADAWS and Community Connections with workers from both organisations on site one day each week.

GOALS FOR THE 2012 YEAR

In 2012 emphasis will be given to:

- The establishment of a stable, experienced and competent volunteer team.
- To extend our partnerships and to nurture existing partnerships for our community.
- Establish the Community Garden as an active place of involvement
- To meet the physical needs of our young mothers by establishing a new Families Room.
- To obtain another grant to provide a worker in the Families Room

2011 MILESTONES

Introduction

In 2011 Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre consolidated its position as a significant part of the Brisbane youth community and educational landscape. Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre is well connected with all major youth organisations, care providers and support networks in the Brisbane community. The school built its numbers slightly and was able to employ another worker (Teacher/Counsellor). This allowed for a reorganisation for a reorganisation of Community Groups and Pastoral and Curriculum structures.

Partnerships

Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre was successful in obtaining two more significant grants. One was from the Queensland Department of Sport and Recreation (\$28,000) and it is an extension of the PCYC Lang Park partnership we established in 2010 with

our NAB Schools First \$50,000 grant. This latest grant allows us to employ a Personal Trainer to work at Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre three days per week. We also obtained a grant from Arts Queensland (\$20,000) for an “Artist in Residence” program. This artist was a film maker and he not only helped our Performance people develop their skills but also assisted our Music and Drama workers and all young people to create the Albert Park Rap (<http://vimeo.com/album/1824576/video/32827386>). This is a music video which tells the story of our young people, the basic history of Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre and showcases the work done here. We have continued to foster our relationships with ADAWS (Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Services), BYS (Brisbane Youth Service), Community Connections, Centrelink and Red Cross. All these organisations provide workers who work at Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre at least one day per week and up to four days per week. The support provided by these Partner organisations is invaluable in providing the help and social and cultural capital that our young people need.

Volunteers

Our Volunteers program has expanded and been refined. We continue to employ a Volunteers Coordinator two days per week and now have 26 Volunteers on our books. These wonderful people allow us to have ‘workers’ in the Families Room, Community Kitchen and Garden and other spaces on a more regular basis. A formal training and induction program has been established and has been a great success.

General

Enrolments of young mothers has significantly increased (we now have more than 20) and we have provided a new Families Room by renovating what used to be a teaching area. The Community Garden has been enhanced by the building of a wood-fired pizza oven and a wheelchair access garden. Our sport and recreation program included numerous camps, fitness and gym sessions at PCYC and Basketball teams in the local Corporate Cup competition. Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre won its first Basketball Premiership in 2011! The building and grounds have been much better cared for and maintained since the employment of two Iranian refugees in place of our contract cleaners. These wonderful men have provided a new richness within our community. The staff at Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre is very stable. Staff has accessed a wide range of Professional Development and our curriculum offerings and daily programs are constantly under review in response to the needs of the young people who enrol with us. We are constantly re-evaluating our “engagement” and “transition” processes. The Associate Head of Campus has done amazing work in working with Tertiary institutions and helping some of our more academically gifted young people gain access to University.

CONCLUSION

Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre is an educational community that Edmund Rice would be extremely proud of!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Flanders', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Flanders
Head of Campus
Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Young', with a small flourish at the end.

Tim Young
Principal
Flexible Learning Centre Network