

Christian Schools Tasmania Annual Report for 2008



The following report has been prepared in response to the Australian Government requirement that schools report on specific issues to their stakeholders on an annual basis. This report relates to information from the operation of Christian Schools Tasmania in 2008.

Christian Schools Tasmania provides education for boys and girls from Kindergarten to Year 12 at Calvin Christian School in Kingston, Emmanuel Christian School in Rokeby, Channel Christian School in Margate and Northern Suburbs Christian School in Bridgewater. There are approximately 950 students enrolled across these schools.

Each of the schools seeks to provide highest quality Christ-centred education in their respective communities. A visit to any of the schools reveals students actively engaged in learning at levels appropriate to their age and development. Professional teachers care for students and provide instruction in creative and stimulating ways, unfolding God's creation with their students and expressing God's love and wisdom through a variety of means. Parents in each school value the strong pastoral care that is demonstrated towards their students.

Student outcomes

Students are encouraged to achieve to their potential and typically continue their studies post-Year 12 at University or TAFE or move into the work force.

In 2008, students completing Year 12 at Calvin Christian School received outstanding results across a range of subject areas. 91% of students were enrolled in a University entrance course of study, with 57% undertaking some Vocational Education and Training. 97% of students in the Year 12 cohort aiming to achieve a Tertiary Entrance Score (TES) were successful and the median TES was 76.0.

A summary of the 2008 post-school destinations for Calvin Christian School Year 12 students is shown in the following table:

School Year – 2008	Number of Students	Percentage of Students
Students who are studying at University	22	51%
Students who gained entrance to university now working (GAP Year)	8	19%
Students Studying at TAFE, or undertaking a Traineeship or Apprenticeship	7	16%
Students working	6	14%
Total Year 12 students	43	100%

Other Student matters

59% of the Calvin Secondary School Year 9 cohort in 2005 were enrolled in Year 12 in 2008.

Students in our schools are involved in a wide variety of learning opportunities. Co-curricular activities include:

- intra and inter school sport;
- community service;
- peer mentoring;
- overseas mission trips;
- broad range of cultural pursuits including music, drama, dance and art;
- outdoor education and field trips;
- international student exchanges;
- interest clubs; and
- scholastic competitions.

The table below indicates Standardised Test results of Christian Schools Tasmania students in the areas of reading, writing, spelling and numeracy for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The first part of the table shows the percentage of Christian Schools Tasmania students who achieved the national benchmark for the area indicated. The second part of the table details the median score of Year 9 students who undertook the Standardised Tests.

	Year level	% of students who achieved national benchmark in 2008	Median Score – Year 9 Students
Reading	3	98%	
	5	90%	
	7	99%	
	9	95%	67%
Writing	3	100%	
	5	94%	
	7	97%	
	9	93%	59%
Spelling	3	98%	
	5	91%	
	7	97%	
	9	93%	58%
Numeracy	3	100%	
	5	94%	
	7	97%	
	9	98%	61%

Staffing and employment matters

It is a legal requirement that teachers employed in Tasmania are registered with the Tasmanian Teachers Registration Board. All teachers employed by Christian Schools Tasmania are registered and hold appropriate teacher qualifications.

During 2008, 100% of teaching staff were involved in professional development. The average amount expended per teacher across the organisation was \$2,806.00. The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 were \$164,728.00.

Activities include participation in:

- Subject associations e.g. English, Science, Mathematics, LOTE teachers etc
- State and national conferences
- Professional reading
- Seminars
- On site staff training
- Quality teacher programme initiatives
- IT skills across all schools
- OHS committee training
- THRASS literacy training in the primary schools

Levels of involvement

Parent and student feedback reveals high levels of satisfaction in our schools. Strong parental involvement is evident in school life, including voluntary service in classrooms, participation in School Councils and membership of the Board and committees of Christian Schools Tasmania. Other activities including school fairs and parent welcoming events also display high levels of parent satisfaction and “engaged-ness” within each of our school communities.

Staff retention is very high and all staff display high levels of commitment to the school community. 94.6% of teaching staff employed in 2007 continued to work with Christian Schools Tasmania for the entire 2008 school year. The staff attendance rate for permanent and temporary staff and school leaders was 97.2% in 2008.

Student participation in a wide range of activities in and outside school time is very high and student attendance rates are also very high. The average student attendance rate in 2008 was 95.8%.

Planning

The Board takes responsibility for setting strategic goals for Christian Schools Tasmania, as described in the Strategic Plan. At the local school level, members of our school communities have the opportunity to provide input into School Development Plans. These plans identify priorities for each school for the future. Aspects of the school that are valued as well as areas for improvement are taken into account in determining these priorities. Current School Development Plans for each of the schools are available from the respective school office.

End of report

If you have any questions or comments related to this report, please address them to:

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