



# Annual Report 2023



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# Port School

## Annual Report 2023

*Port School is rapidly growing and emerging as a high-end provider of re-engagement education and care programs for socially disadvantaged and at-risk youth. Young people deserve to have the world at their feet, the opportunity to realise their dreams, sound mental and physical health and at least one adult who believes in them, pushes them and offers unconditional support and advice. Sadly, for many young people, none or few of these essentials are present in their lives. Port School aims to fill the void, mend the bridges and give real hope and possibility back to our students and emerging young adults.*

Anne Gee  
Port School Chair



We respectfully acknowledge that Port School stands on the traditional lands of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation.  
We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

# About Port

Port is an independent secondary school that aims to engage at-risk students in Years 8 – 12 who, for a variety of reasons and situational circumstances, have not been able to achieve success in mainstream school settings.

Port School's Vision is to provide a safe, nurturing and supportive environment in which students are empowered to lead purposeful and fulfilling lives. The School creates and uncovers pathways to a meaningful life by providing experiences that enable student potential. It supports the attainment of its vision through an environment that is safe, nurturing and inclusive, and inspires students to live purposeful lives by fostering confidence, personal best and respect for self and others.

The School supports students in many ways; fundamental among them is a high expectation of educational success through an emphasis on attendance, behaviour and participation. There is a key focus on High-Impact Instruction in the core learning areas of English, Mathematics and HASS.

Additionally, Port offers students small class sizes, the opportunity to engage in hands-on vocational-style learning, personalised and flexible learning groups, community projects, as well as individualised pastoral care and social support through a variety of networks and external service providers. There is also a strong focus on Visual Art, Technology and Enterprise, Cooking and Physical Education/Team Sport as part of the curriculum.

The Middle School, for year 8 and 9 students, has followed a primary school model of education since 2019. This has had a significant impact in arresting school refusal and disengagement while at the same time improving educational outcomes.

The Senior School operates in the more traditional secondary format, with students moving between classes. This area of the School continues the students' learning trajectories where students eventually graduate with access to employment, or further studies in either a TAFE or University scenario

Port Registered Training Organisation delivers Certificate II and III in General Education for Adults along with a small selection of nationally recognised vocational qualifications and skill sets.



We are committed to supporting students on their road towards a successful future and offers a range of transition pathways to help achieve this including VET in Schools (VETIS) and training opportunities with external education providers, workplace training and school-based traineeships.

Port Mobile Classroom seeks to meaningfully engage some of the most disengaged students. The entire program takes place off-site in and around Fremantle and Perth, and is targeted at young boys for whom a more conventional classroom just does not work.

Port School's Outreach Program supports students academically, socially and emotionally to re-engage in their education. The program takes place off campus and is tailor-made to meet the needs of the individual student. There is an emphasis on engaging students in areas of high interest, in literacy and numeracy and facilitating the student to access their specific educational pathway.

Port's Young Parent Centre offers education programs for young mothers and their children aged 3 months to 5 years at Port's Early Learning Centre, an ACECQA-approved provider of early learning services.

# From the Chair of the Port Governing Board - Anne Gee

The Port School Board and executive leadership team successfully governed the School through another year of major milestones, growth and initiatives. The School's Campus Master Plan continued to take shape with the completion of the planned Middle School complex, and the combination of all four strata lots at 58 Wheeler Road under one land title. The School navigated the financial stresses of a major build very well, ending the year with a slightly higher than projected operating surplus.

In May 2023, Port School's Governing Board welcomed a new member, Wesley College Executive Leader Ms. Lynette McGivern, and incumbent member Mr. Ron Gorman stepped into the role of Treasurer. The Deputy Chair and Secretary roles remained with Craig Menner and Richard Curry respectively, ensuring excellence in continuity for Port School governance. We said goodbye to Treasurer and long-time Finance Officer, Mr. Eric Sankey, after many years of excellent service to the School. Ms. Serena Williams, the school's first graduate to later hold a board position, also stepped down. Port is privileged to have such committed Board Members. I thank them for volunteering their time, talents, depth and breadth of experience and expertise to support the school's leaders.

We also gratefully acknowledge the generous donation from Port School Board's ex-treasurer and long-standing member, Dr. Ann Hamblin. The funds were used to purchase a state-of-the-art laser cutting machine for the school's new Arts Hub and students are already learning new skills that are highly valued in today's workforce.

In July 2023 the School submitted feedback to the WA Planning Commission concerning its proposal to amend the Metropolitan Region Scheme and the removal of the Primary Regional Roads reservation. The school's submission, relating to the reallocation of former Roe 9 land, gained support from Peter Tinley MLA. Representatives from the School and Board attended focus group sessions and submitted an Expression of Interest, detailing proposed land usage and future implications for the School.

As Port School's reputation continues to grow on both the local and national stage, it is often consulted for advice and insight into policy and

practice for existing and newly emerging schools, within the Curriculum and Re-engagement Education (CARE) sector and beyond.

An invitation was extended to the School to attend the Independent Schools Australia (ISA) National Forum: 'Re-Engaging Students in Education'. Principal Barry Finch attended, and as a panellist shared the Port School story.

The excellent efforts of Port School staff and the growth and success of its programs were also recognised with several awards in 2023.

- Port School's Resilient and Ready Emergency Services Cadet Program: Recipient of a 2023 WA Resilient Australia Award (school category).
- Matt Hopkins, Head of Middle School received a coveted NEiTA Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award. With over 2000 nominations, this award is a testament to Matt's unwavering commitment to transforming the lives of at-risk and disengaged students facing educational, social, emotional and behavioural challenges.
- Educator and Port Senior School teacher Aidan Rowden was recognised as one of the top 30 nominees for the Westpac Teaching Awards.
- Principal Barry Finch was appointed to the Principal's Advisory Council (WA School's Curriculum Authority). This is a significant recognition of Barry's high calibre as an educator and the standing of Port School.
- Port School's Art Team, Dionne Garvey, Dan Duggan and Poh Slater, along with their students were officially recognised by AISWA's Deputy Director Ron Gorman for their Journaling Project and exhibition. This resulted from the enthusiastic feedback received from delegates attending the Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA) 2023 National Conference.

The close of 2023 marks the end of our current Strategic Plan and School Improvement Plan. It is now time to reflect upon the enormous growth and success of Port School over recent years and to take the opportunity to develop our plan for the coming years.

Anne Gee  
Port School Board Chair

# From the Principal

## Barry Finch OAM

Looking back on 2023, it has been a stellar year with much to celebrate and many highlights and accolades. Such achievements are only possible thanks to the amazing Port School team. Their unerring commitment to Port's goal of supporting and nurturing vulnerable young people has led to yet another milestone year for the School. I take this opportunity to thank each of them for the skills they bring to the table, for their innovation, their dedication and loyalty to Port School, and importantly, to our students.

It was a very exciting start to the year. The new Middle School complex, our major building project which commenced in mid-2022, ran slightly over time but was ready to accept staff and students with only one day's delay to the new school year. Twenty-eight Year 8 and 9 students headed to their classrooms in early February and soon settled into the new, state-of-the-art facilities. The official opening ceremony was held in May and the day was an outstanding success, with some of our inaugural Middle School students from the class of 2019 speaking publicly about their journey at Port School, five years on.

Federal Member for Fremantle, Josh Wilson MP, officially opened the complex which was partially funded by an AISWA-administered Commonwealth Capital Grant. Port School Aboriginal educator Patrysha Mourish, assisted by staff member Dennis Colbung, conducted the Welcome to Country and blessed the grounds in a smoking ceremony.



Mayor Logan Howlett (City of Cockburn); WA Children's Commissioner Jacqueline McGowan-Jones; and AISWA Executive Director Chris Massey were included in the list of attending dignitaries. Port hospitality students and staff excelled with catering and the event was attended by a wide range of parents, students, staff, stakeholders and the broader community.

2023 also saw the establishment of Port's 'Resilient and Ready Emergency Services Cadet Program', made possible by a Department of Fire and Emergency Services Grant, secured in 2022. Eight students engaged in activities aimed to help support their families and the community in the event of an emergency. We were thrilled and extremely proud when the program took out the Resilient Australia State Awards (school category) for developing a training program that equips young people from vulnerable communities with emergency management skills.

Port School's FlexiTrack High program, delivered in collaboration with Murdoch University, was also introduced in 2023. The program offers Year 12 students who have not studied WACE or achieved an ATAR the opportunity to secure entry to university. This year saw three students complete the program. This marks a milestone in Port School's academic history, being the first students to secure direct entry from Port into University.



In conjunction with Curtin University and under the auspices of the Safer Communities Commonwealth Award, a grant was extended to Port School enabling the delivery of a comprehensive in-house Drug and Alcohol program. This pilot drug and alcohol support intervention sought to identify and target members of the Port student community, whose educational outcomes were judged to be at risk from their problematic use of legal and illegal recreational substances and/or prescription drugs.

The ten-week program addressed educational, diversionary, harm minimisation and personal support objectives, and concluded with a 3-day camp in early December. One of the project objectives was to provide future in-house 'point of need' resources for Port students experiencing substance use-related challenges, further enhancing our existing wrap-around educational care model.



Following a 3-year hiatus due to COVID restrictions, two staff and nine senior students travelled to Malaysia in September on an 11-day excursion. Time was spent supporting students at the Klang Special School along with several other amazing activities. Fundraising activities leading up to the excursion enabled the School to donate approximately \$12,000 sponsorship for orphan students from care homes to attend Klang School. We are very excited that this excursion, with the leadership opportunities it offers our senior students, is back on the school calendar.



Deputy Principal Mike Gilbert and Michelle Forsyth, manager of Port's Young Parent Centre, attended the Australian Young Parent and Parenting Network (AYPPN) symposium in Melbourne in October. Organisations working with young parents shared their challenges and experiences and planned future strategies to ensure government support for young parents.

With the review of the National School Reform Agreement (NSRA) underway, Independent Schools of Australia, the national peak body representing the independent school sector, hosted a forum at Parliament House in Canberra in November. The theme, 'Re-engaging Students in Education', brought together educators, school leaders and key stakeholders from around Australia and was attended by the Federal Minister for Education, the Hon. Jason Clare MP. I was honoured to once again represent Port School at this forum and share the strategies employed by the School. Re-engaging in education provides an opportunity for young people to re-imagine their future and set realistic, achievable personal and educational goals. This in turn improves social and emotional well-being and mental health, leading to better outcomes in health, increased self-esteem, confidence and resilience.

We were extremely proud to announce that Port's Head of Middle School, Matt Hopkins, was recognised in 2023 by the NEiTA Foundation with an 'Excellence in Teaching Award'. Over two thousand teachers were nominated nationwide, and Matt was one of 13 winners. The Award is a well-deserved recognition of Matt's exceptional contribution to education and his tireless efforts to help students who have fallen through the cracks in the traditional educational system. Matt's dedication has not only transformed the lives of students but has also inspired educators everywhere to make a difference.

We also congratulated Senior School teacher Aidan Rowden, who was recognised as one of the top 30 nominees in the Westpac Teaching Awards.

As we say goodbye to 2023, I wish to acknowledge and thank the Port School Board Members who continue to generously give their time, knowledge, experience and counsel, to help guide us on this journey that is the evolution of Port School.

Barry Finch OAM  
Port School Principal



# Port Middle School

Port Middle School is the starting point for all Year 8 and 9 students entering Port School. It operates slightly differently to a conventional secondary school system, and to the Port Senior School, in that students complete all their classes with the same teachers and education assistants. These educators cover the Western Australian Curriculum, with a critical focus on literacy and numeracy.

The key goal is to bring students, who have not had success in mainstream environments, up to an educational standard that will help them flourish once they enter the Senior School.

One of the most important aspects of this program is the time spent changing the fixed mindset and perception of students, from one of 'failure' at school, to believing that they can learn, and that by attending every day and participating in class, they are becoming smarter.

In late 2019 Port School began discussions around the potential of purchasing an adjacent block of land and how to use it to maximise the potential of the school. It was decided that the space would be an ideal size and location to expand the then current middle school to accommodate more students. The build finally began in April 2022.

Thanks to excellent partnerships with and management by design architects The Fulcrum Agency and builders Western Projects, the keys were officially handed over on Day 1 in Term 1 2023.

The Port Middle School was officially opened on Thursday 18 May 2023. It was a beautiful day that commenced with a powerful smoking ceremony and Acknowledgement of Country conducted by staff members Patrysha Mourish and Dennis Colbung. Community stakeholders, agencies and professionals as well as government bodies were among the guests at this special event.







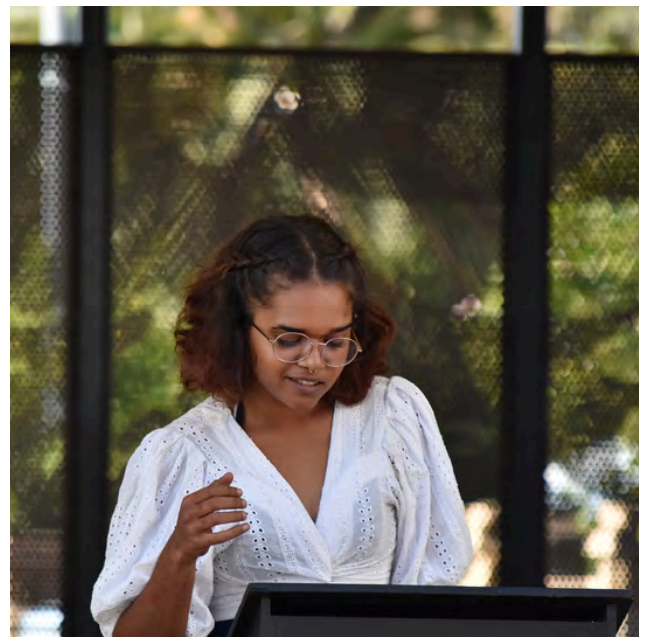
The highlight of the speeches was Year 12 student Brooke Riley reminiscing about her time in the Middle School.

*“When I first walked into the Middle School what stood out for me were the friendly faces of the staff and students, some familiar and some not but I felt an instant sense of community.”*

*“Middle School helped me understand what it means to belong to a community and get my education back on track. For me, Port has been has given me a voice and given me a sense of connection to my community. The Middle School supported me in ways I didn’t even know I needed support. The bond and connection with students was very obvious and Matt and John were mentors in so many different ways.”*

*“I have so many memories, happy and sad and they shaped the person I am today.”*

*Brooke Riley  
Former Middle School Student*



The Middle School has now grown into two classrooms for the Year 8 and 9 students with the third classroom to come online from the beginning of 2024. There has been a very positive reaction to the complex, from both staff and students. The Port Middle School students now have a state-of-the-art facility which also demonstrates the commitment that Port School has to its students.

Port School continues to strive to be an example of best practice when it comes to working with at-risk students and disadvantaged communities. This project reflects that goal.

# Port Cadets

Port's 'Resilient and Ready Emergency Services Cadet Program' was funded in 2023 by the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction competitive grant program through the State Emergency Management Committee and administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

The funding covers two intakes of cadets over two years and is a timetabled options class. Funds are used for uniforms, facilitator fees, activity costs and resources.

The program aims to empower at-risk young people from vulnerable communities to be aware of and engage with increasing natural disaster risks and impacts by:

- Enhancing skills around resilience, response and recovery.
- Creating an enabling environment where youth can develop their competencies in natural disaster resilience, response, and recovery.
- Encouraging active participation in households and communities to reduce the risks and impacts of disasters.
- Exposing youth to ongoing roles and opportunities in volunteering with emergency services organisations, augmenting a community's ability to respond to disasters by providing additional response capacity through different skills and abilities.
- Developing transferable employability skills such as communication, problem-solving and teamwork.



Elements taken from the Banksia Hill Youth in Emergency Services program were used as the foundations for a bespoke cadet program that could meet the diverse learning requirements of the Port School cohort. Adjustments were made for those with learning difficulties, anxiety and mental health challenges.





With assistance from the State Emergency Services (SES), WA Police Department (WAPOL) and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), students have undertaken a range of activities including:

- Search and rescue.
- Preserving a crime scene.
- Hose drills and fire pumps on light vehicle tankers.
- Stretcher rescue and mechanical advantage.
- Marine Rescue.
- Radio communications.
- Home fire safety audits and community engagement activities.

There have been many program highlights including:

- Students engaging in volunteer work at the DFES Heritage Museum.
- An invitation to present at the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience Schools Forum.
- An Invitation to register as a formal DFES Cadet Unit.
- Community interest from other schools about the Port School model.
- Proactive action from cadets in identifying and resolving school natural disaster risks, such as moving muster points and recommending parking protocols for smooth evacuation.



We were thrilled to be judged state winners in the Resilience and Ready Training Program School's Award and to represent Western Australia at the national Resilient Australia Awards in November. The Resilient Australia Awards celebrate the hard work of individuals, organisations and schools developing programs and initiatives that enable Australians to better prepare, respond and recover from disasters.

The Cadet Program will continue to be a valued option in the timetable and the School plans to register as a formal DFES Cadet Unit, allowing increased access to accredited cadet training, camps, activities and resources.

# Port Creative Arts

Port School has a strong history of Visual Art and under the creative guidance of Senior Teacher Dionne Garvey, it has gained a well-deserved reputation in the local community and further afield. Port's creative offerings were extended in 2023 to include an introduction to Digital Media, facilitated by educator Kate Dunn. Digital and Live Music was also introduced, under the guidance of educator and music creative Brett Kelly.

## Visual Arts

Over a period of three years, Port School's Art Department was offered the opportunity to work on a personal journaling project with renowned street-artist Stormie Mills. This was part of the Creative Schools program, an Association of Independent Schools of WA (AISWA) initiative in conjunction with FORM. The final workshop was held in 2023 and students' work was displayed at an exhibition in June entitled 'my thoughts laid bare are like homes without curtains', held at Stormie Mill's gallery in Perth.

It was an amazing event that showcased students' vulnerability and openness through the medium of artistic expression. Senior student Chelsea Arnold spoke on behalf of Port School.



*'Journaling is a way of putting my thoughts onto paper. It's an outlet and a coping mechanism – a way to be mindful and to reflect on my life. And this is a very cathartic process that helps me in processing what is going on in my life and how I feel.'*

*'Journaling has helped me to cherish and enjoy my solitude and to learn that these moments of reflection are important for me to process things and move on. Even if past experiences were rough. I can create beauty out of that too.'*

*Chelsea Arnold  
Year 12 student*



Port's annual Art Exhibition, the School's prime fundraising event, displays the incredible talent of Port students and local artists and raises much needed funds for Klang Special School in Malaysia. The 2023 exhibition was hugely successful, raising over \$10,000 on the night. One of the highlights of the evening was the 'Frock the System' fashion parade video which showcased dresses which had been up cycled to become awe-inspiring 'Haute Couture'. Guests were wowed not only by the students' creativity but also by their confidence on the catwalk.

A recent donation from former Board Member and long-time supporter of Port, Dr. Ann Hamblin, enabled the School to purchase a Laser Cutter for use in the Workshop and Arts Hub. Students' boundaries of creativity and craftsmanship were pushed as they channelled their artistic energies to meticulously create intricate designs on digital platforms, before being transformed into stunning reality through laser-burning onto wooden panels. The resulting 'Meditation Mandalas' will be used to create a breath-taking and captivating Mandala Wall at the 2024 Art Exhibition.

The Port Visual Art Department prepares to relocate for the 2024 school year into its own free-standing 'Arts Hub', and we are excited for the future.





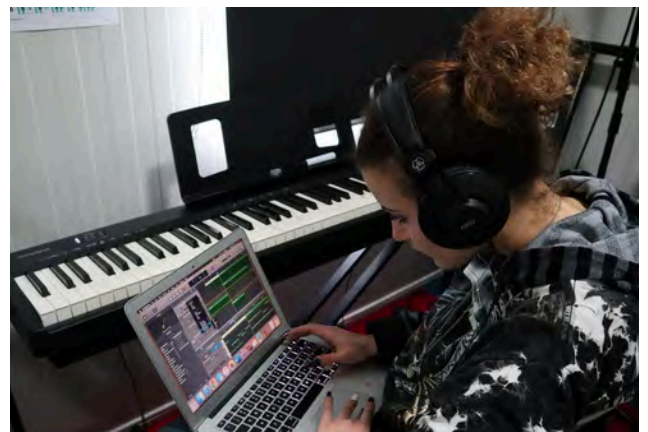
## Live and Digital Music

Port's new Music Program provides an opportunity for students to learn to express themselves musically, whilst nurturing skills that may provide future opportunities in the music industry.

The program focuses on digital technology within music, developing skills including DJ-ing and podcasting, electronic music, mixing and mastering. Students have gained confidence with electronic composition and song mixing. The Live Music program caters to the instrumentalists, nurturing skills on the piano, guitar, drums, ukulele and percussion and students are encouraged to compose their own music. Student skills in recording and live mixing have progressed rapidly and resulted in some outstanding audio recordings this year.

After the first year of overcoming fears, students on the program had mastered a completed song or gained instrumental and/or DJ skills that maybe utilised for self-care or future employment.

The Live Music program is complemented by the ongoing and successful relationship with the 'Grass Roots Music Foundation' (formerly Boonderu Music Foundation).



## Digital Media



Port's Digital Media program was launched in Semester 2 and was initially borne out of a desire to tackle an important health issues, namely the ever-increasing problem of young people vaping. Educator Kate Dunn was successful in securing a grant from Lotterywest and Healthways, which enabled the School to purchase the required film-making equipment including a new camera and computer with suitable editing software. Port's first-ever short film competition was then launched, aimed at tackling the ongoing issue of vaping in schools.

Students were introduced to a broad range of film-making techniques and encouraged to be as creative as possible, and to produce a short film with a strong anti-vaping message. Ten films were submitted, each displaying excellent quality, humour and skills. The winner of the Port's inaugural short film competition was budding filmmaker Talon Fisher Spinks for his film entitled 'You Should Have Listened'.

Due to the success of the initial project, Digital Media and Filmmaking have secured their place in the school's every-increasing Creative Arts offering, with an aim to further foster creativity, critical thinking and technical proficiency.



# Student Academic and Vocational Achievements

Port School Registered Training Organisation (RTO 52718) delivers certificates courses in General Education for Adults along with a range of vocational certificate courses.

The nationally recognised qualifications provide an excellent transition into tertiary study, apprenticeships or traineeships and the workforce. Twenty students completed their Certificate II in General Education in 2023, and six completed their Certificate III.

A total of 42 Certificates and Qualifications were achieved in 2023, which included the following:

- Certificate II in General Education for Adults
- Certificate III in General Education for Adults
- Certificate II in Visual Arts
- Certificate II in Integrated Technology
- Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation
- Certificate II in Hospitality



- Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation
- Certificate III in Aviation (Remote Pilot)
- Certificate II in Engineering
- Certificate IV in Community Services
- Certificate IV School-Based Education Support

## FlexiTrack High

FlexiTrack High is a program offered by Murdoch University. It prepares Year 12 students who may not have engaged in WACE studies or have had a chance of obtaining an ATAR to enter University. Students who complete the course receive an ATAR entrance score equivalent to 70. The course consists of 3 modules and runs over 3 terms.

Three students successfully completed the program and secured places at University.

Student Tatum Ng was awarded a Brighter Futures Scholarship from Murdoch and intends to commence a Nursing degree in 2024.

First Nations student Tuhleesha Walley completed Murdoch's K-Track University Enabling program and was also awarded a Murdoch Scholarship. She intends to go on to study Early Childhood and Primary School teaching in 2024.

As the school community celebrated the first students to secure direct entry from Port into University, this marks another milestone in Port School's academic history,





# Student Scholarships and Awards

Port School presents annual Scholarships for engagement, consistency and performance in a variety of educational areas. We were proud to recognise the achievements of the following students in 2023.

**Numeracy**

**Literacy**

**Health & Social Science**

**Excellence in Art**

**Physical Education**

Tayla Bailey

Hailey Headland and Kyle Bushby-Martins

Destiny Butcher and Torsten Brassat

Kelly Shannon and Ruby Moorman

Alison Kubeckis and Rubin Lamprecht

**First Nations Student Awards**

Tuhleesha Walley and Amelia Mourish

Sponsored by Cockburn City Council, this Award is presented to students who have displayed a consistent and outstanding commitment to their education and to achieving their goals.

**Ngala Kwop Bidji Brighter Futures Scholarship**

Tatum Ng

Awarded by Murdoch University to Year 12 students, the Scholarship acknowledges and supports students who have demonstrated proactive and impactful leadership, advocacy and active engagement in endeavours that have led to positive outcomes aligned with one of the University's strategic themes.

**Trinity Residential College Scholarship**

Chelsea Arnold

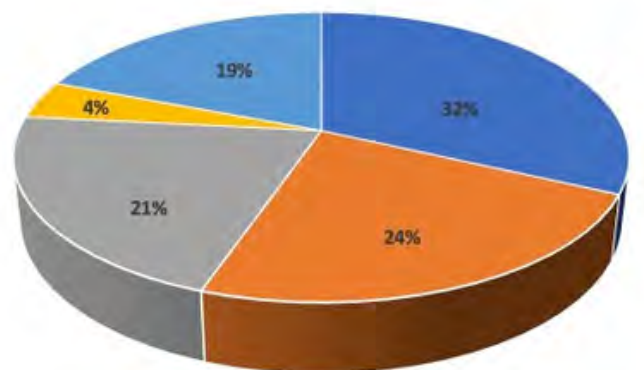
Presented for the first time in 2023, this scholarship offers a one-year residency for a student pursuing a tertiary pathway. This scholarship was made possible by the generous support of Trinity Residential College.



## Student Destinations

Port aims to support students transitioning to the workforce or on to further education or training. Tracking student destinations accurately proves challenging as the parameters frequently change.

Year 13 is an opportunity for some students who may not be quite ready to transition out of school and onto study or into the workforce. There is an expectation that students in this program are enrolled in an agreed vocational qualification or school-based traineeship, have secured employment or are engaged with a Job Network Provider. They must be active role models contributing to the community, taking on a leadership role whilst maintaining an agreed level of attendance and engagement. An individually designed transition plan is implemented to ensure their readiness to transition into employment or further study.



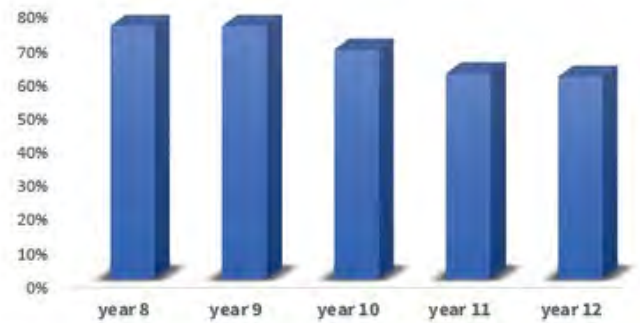
- Job Seeker
- Employed
- Further Study (TAFE & University)
- Apprenticeship, Traineeship or ADF
- Unknown

# Student Attendance

Port School is provider of re-engagement education and care programs for socially and educationally disadvantaged and at-risk youth. Many students enrolled at Port have a long history of non-attendance and for many, re-engagement can be a slow and challenging process requiring modified bespoke programs and timetables.

Students who continue to struggle to engage on campus, may be referred to the Port Mobile Classroom or Outreach Program. Due to the nature of Outreach , attendance rates for this program are not included in this data.

The School has a non-attendance management system. If a student is recorded as being absent without a justifiable reason, an SMS is sent by 9.30am to the parent/carer by the school administration team. If the student continues to be absent, the student mentor contacts the parent/carer by phone. Regular attendance still poses a great challenge for students, some of whom may not have attended school for an extended period before enrolling at Port. Attendance remains a priority, with a targeted, student-specific approach to parents and carers through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process.



Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
75%	75%	68%	61%	60%

## Year 9

### NAPLAN

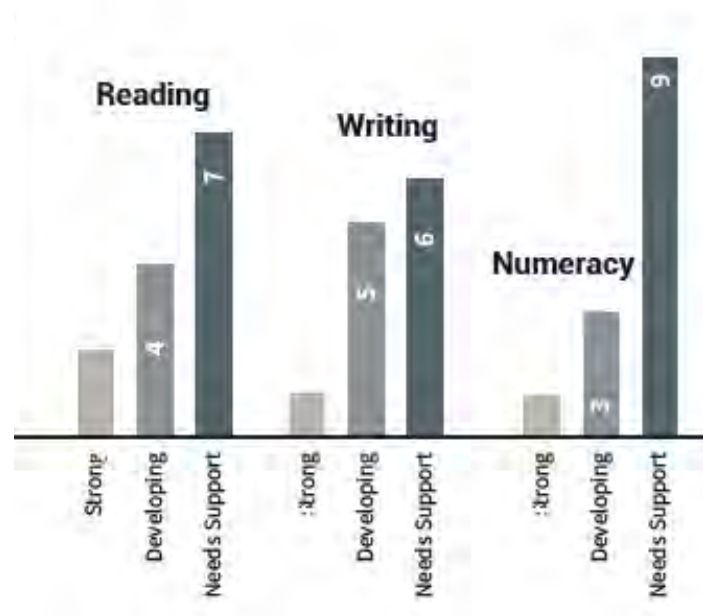
In 2023 new NAPLAN proficiency standards were introduced. The results now show whether the student, at the time of testing, met challenging but reasonable expectations based mainly on the skills learnt from previous years of schooling, or whether they may need additional support to progress satisfactorily. The proficiency standards for each test domain now have four achievement levels.

**Exceeding:** The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.

**Strong:** The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.

**Developing:** The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.

**Needs additional support:** The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.



Due to the nature of Port's student cohort, the School historically assisted students and families to withdraw from NAPLAN. Improved academic achievement and attendance of Middle School students led to the decision in 2022 to participate. In 2023, the second year of participation, thirteen of our Year 9 students completed some or all the NAPLAN assessments.

# Port Staff

Port School employed 60 staff in 2023.

37 full-time staff  
17 part-time staff  
6 casual staff

16 Teaching staff  
30 Student Support staff  
14 Administration & Operations staff

41 Females  
19 Males

## Leadership Team

in alphabetical order

### **Ms Joy Cromwell**

*Joint Head of Senior School*

### **Ms Molly Donaldson**

*Head of Student Support Services*

### **Ms Raf Feondi**

*Joint Head of Senior School*

### **Mr Barry Finch OAM**

*Principal*

### **Ms Michelle Forsyth**

*Young Parent Centre Manager*

### **Mr Mike Gilbert**

*Deputy Principal*

### **Ms Denise Hardie**

*Training & Development Manager*

### **Ms Jane Hawdon**

*Head of Outreach*

### **Mr Matt Hopkins**

*Head of Middle School*

### **Ms Nicole Hunt**

*Early Learning Centre Manager  
(from November 2023)*

### **Ms Emily Longman**

*Early Learning Centre Manager  
(January - August 2023)*

### **Ms Nolene Martin**

*Business Manager*

## Teaching Staff

in alphabetical order

### **Ms Louise Adger**

*BEd Secondary*

### **Mr Joshua Brun**

*BSc Sports & Exercise, Grad Dip Ed,  
Cert IV TAE, Cert IV Fitness*

### **Ms Joy Cromwell**

*BEd Secondary BA English,  
Cert IV TAE*

### **Ms Kate Dunn**

*BEd Secondary, BA English,  
Cert IV TAE*

### **Ms Raffaella Feondi**

*BA Theology & Philosophy,  
MA Oxon, Grad Cert Ed, Cert IV TAE*

### **Ms Dionne Garvey**

*BEd Secondary, Cert IV TAE*

### **Ms Jane Hawdon**

*BA Anthropology & Linguistics,  
Grad Dip Ed, Cert IV TAE*

### **Mr John Hill**

*BA Philosophy & History,  
BA Philosophy of Aesthetics (Hons),  
Grad Dip Ed*

### **Mr Matthew Hopkins**

*BEd Primary, Cert IV Hospitality,  
Cert IV TAE*

### **Mr Brett Kelly**

*BA Education, BA Creative Arts,  
Cert IV TAE*

### **Mr Samuel Kerridge**

*BSc Psychology, Grad Dip Ed,  
Cert IV TAE, Cert III Fitness*

### **Mr Jonathan Kroeck**

*BA Education, MA International  
Sustainable Tourism*

### **Ms Kathleen Murray**

*BEd Early Childhood*

### **Mr Aidan Rowden**

*BEd Primary, Cert IV Fitness,  
Cert IV TAE*

### **Ms Eileen Vlahovich**

*BA Psychology, MA Teaching  
Primary, Cert IV TAE*

### **Ms Alison Walker**

*BSc, Cert Ed, Cert II Hospitality,  
Cert IV TAE*

## Student Support Staff

in alphabetical order

### **Ms Ruth Boag**

*Assistant Educator ELC (Casual)*

### **Mr Adrian Boyling**

*T&E Trainer, Workshop*

### **Ms Belinda Carcione**

*Student Support, Outreach*

### **Ms Clair Cianco**

*Assistant Educator ELC (Casual)*

### **Ms Steph Clift**

*Student Support Senior School*

### **Mr Dennis Colbung**

*Student Support Mobile Classroom*

### **Ms Temeley Crawford**

*Student Support Middle School*

### **Ms Steph Daniell**

*Student Support*

### **Ms Molly Donaldson**

*Head of Student Support Services*

### **Mr Dan Duggan**

*Student Support Senior School*

### **Ms Chelsea Eastwood**

*Student Support Young Parent  
Centre*

**Ms Chelsea Eastwood**  
Student Support Young Parent Centre

**Mr Tristan Eastwood**  
Student Support Senior School

**Ms Denise Hardie**  
Training & Development Manager

**Ms Youngmi Ju**  
Assistant Educator ELC & Student Support

**Mr Esben Kaas-Sorensen**  
Student Support

**Ms Carolyn Korin**  
Student Support Middle School

**Ms Trudy Mancuso**  
Educator ELC (Casual)

**Ms Lana Martin**  
Counsellor

**Ms Felicity Moore**  
Student Support Middle School

**Ms Trysh Mourish**  
Student Support Middle School

**Ms Kerry Omerod**  
Educator ELC (Casual)

**Ms Lorraine O'Toole**  
Student Support Outreach

**Mr Brad Rowden**  
Sports Chaplain

**Ms Klaudz Rininui**  
Early Childhood Educator ELC

**Ms Lily (Poh) Slater**  
Art Technician

**Mr Grant Snowdon**  
Student Support Senior School

**Ms Andrea Stacey**  
Student Support Services

**Mr Dave Stubbs**  
Psychologist

**Ms Suzanna Sullivan-Jessop**  
Student Support Senior School

**Ms Aicha Youssef**  
Assistant Educator ELC (Casual)

## Administration and Operations

in alphabetical order

**Ms Terri Bosco**  
Kitchen & Canteen Assistant

**Ms Maria Cecchi**  
Reception & Administration Officer

**Ms Steph Davie**  
ELC Cook

**Mr Barry Finch OAM**  
Principal

**Ms Michelle Forsyth**  
Young Parent Centre Manager

**Ms Ellena Frisina**  
Compliance Officer, Port RTO

**Mr Mike Gilbert**  
Deputy Principal

**Ms Chelsea Hainsworth**  
Administration Officer

**Ms Rachael Hall**  
Accounts Officer (Casual)

**Ms Maree Harrison**  
Canteen Coordinator

**Mr Andre Horsley**  
Maintenance Officer & Groundsman

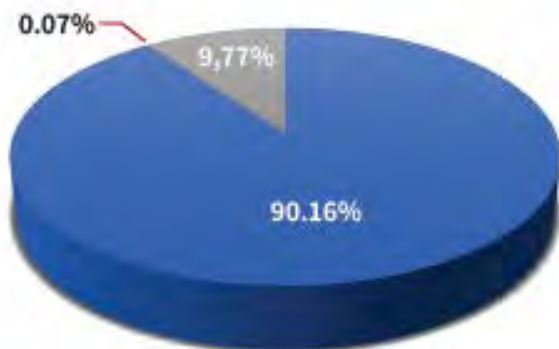
**Ms Nicole Hunt**  
Early Learning Centre Manager (from November 2023)

**Ms Emily Longman**  
Early Learning Centre Manager (January - August 2023)

**Ms Nolene Martin**  
Business Manager

**Mr Tim Murphy**  
Maintenance Officer

## Port Funding



- Government Grants
- Scholarship Fund
- Tuition Fees and Other Income