



VALUES EDUCATION FORUM REPORT *Palm Beach Currumbin State High School*

Palm Beach Currumbin State High School (PBC SHS) is located in the Gold Coast District of Education Queensland. It is the southernmost coastal high school and serves a wide area of the Gold Coast Hinterland. The school was established in 1972.

Students are mainly from suburban areas and represent a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds with a nucleus of established local families. The school population is approximately 1928 students.

PRE FORUM

PBC SHS began its Values Journey in 2005 when the Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE) head of Department (HOD) attended the Queensland Values Education Launch in Brisbane. This was further supported by Administration staff in mid 2006 with two staff members participating in the Gold Coast South District Values Education Workshop and then the HOD Middle Schooling attending the Values Education Conference Queensland 2006 in Townsville.

A Values Leadership Team was established and the integration of the *Values for Australian Schooling Professional Learning Resources – Secondary* was the cornerstone of all Values Education planning.

The *National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools* was a priority for the PBC SHS School Strategic Plan and would underpin the implementation of Values Education for the school. Our first step to introduce the Values Education was displaying the Nine Values for Australian Schooling Poster in each of the Department Blocks at PBC to stimulate interest and create awareness in the school community.

A power point presentation was then delivered by the Values Leadership team to every Year level assembly from Year 8 to 12 to introduce the *National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools*. The content for this was partly derived from material presented at the State launch, including some thought provoking statements about values that had been collated by Lorne Willadsen from Chapel Hill State School. The content also included the National Goals, the Vision, the Nine Values for Australian Schooling and the Guiding Principles. This power point was again delivered in 2007 to the beginning Year 8 students as a means of ensuring that all our student body had the benefit of this information. These presentations will continue beyond 2007 with each Year 8 cohort at the beginning of each year.

A whole school approach for Professional Development of all staff in Values Education was undertaken at a staff meeting to contextualize the meaning of values for the teaching staff in both personal terms and in the school context. This created widespread interest amongst staff, many of whom expressed a desire in participating further in Values Education strategies which have been modeled on best practices from around Australia.





The Review of Behaviour Management Practices was undertaken in 2006 and underpinned by the *National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools*. The School Code of Behaviour Management Plan was formalized in 2007 to embrace the Nine Values of Australian Schooling. The Key Principles for Conduct at PBC SHS was to support and promote a safe, tolerant and disciplined learning environment for students. PBC SHS further established 3 Key Principles in addition to the Nine Values to include:

1. *Act Safely*
2. *Show respect*
3. *Be a Learner*

The *National Safe Schools Framework* links strongly and embraces Values Education with a diversity of student welfare teams and student support systems at PBC. There is an annual Conference of the Welfare Team which focuses on bullying, violence and child protection issues.

A planned and systematic Audit of Values at PBC SHS was implemented in late 2006. This aligned with the Tool box from the Values Education Forums: Engaging your School Community Resource:

Tool 1: Applying for a Grant to Conduct a School Forum

Tool 2: Sample School Forum Report

Tool 3: Auditing Our School

Tool 4: Audit of Student Co-Curricular Programs

Tool 5: Audit of Values in the School Curriculum

Tool 6: General Audit of Values Provision

Tool 7: Parents' and Carers' Survey

Tool 8: Teachers' Survey

Tool 9: Students' Survey

Tool 11: Forum Evaluation Form (at Forum)

FORUM

With the support of the Australian Government through the Department of Education Science and Training (DEST), PBC SHS was funded to conduct a Values Education Forum to engage our school community. In 2007, this Forum was held on Wednesday 14th March with participants from the teaching staff, HOD's, Deputy Principals, Student Council, Parents, Education Queensland (Rosalie Shawcross), DEST (Joy Duffield) and the Federal Member for Macpherson (Margaret May). At the Forum posters of the Values of Australian Schooling, Values Education Good Practice, A Whole School Approach and the Values We Share were displayed. Also each community member had a visual stimulus of the Nine Values for group discussion. Then there were two power point presentations of the Whole School Approach to Values Education and the Outcomes from the Values Audit at PBC SHS.

One area of concern was the limited feedback from Parents and Carers. Over 2000 forms were distributed via the school newsletter with Values articles and the survey, the Year 8 Orientation Evening and the Year 10 Introduction to Senior School. There were only a small number of responses from the wider school community. However, this was not indicative of Parent satisfaction in general. Data from the yearly School Opinion survey reveals there is a high degree of Parent Satisfaction with PBC and this may be an explanation for the lower than expected attendances.





Both the staff and students' surveys found that success at PBC was achieved due to positive staff/student relationships and a commitment and dedication of staff to personal and educational excellence. The audit was a rewarding process for all stakeholders as it was essential that a voice from the school community was able to share in the conversations about beliefs and values within the local context.

These were some of the comments made after the Forum:

"This Forum is a very real happening in the school. The staff showed enthusiasm and excitement. The structure is well set up and has great potential".

A teacher commented:

"Values are fostered at PBC by role modeling and through the formation of 'real' relationships. We have a culture of success and pride."

A student commented on what made a good school. He said:

"Support for students, treating them respectfully, helping them in every way to achieve their dreams and providing diverse and easily accessible opportunities."

The Forum overwhelmingly endorsed an understanding of the current directions in Values Education and PBC's values education proposals are comprehensive and align with the National Framework.

POST FORUM

Following the Forum a Values Committee will be established consisting of students, teachers, administration, parents and the wider community to implement an Action Plan for PBC SHS to develop timelines and milestones particularly focusing on student social skills and the integration of values in all areas of the curriculum.

To further promote Values Education, a Values Education folder has been created on the Share Drive on the school Intranet. This will allow access to updates and materials presented in various activities around the school or from government publications. Ongoing Values Education articles will be published in school newsletters. Staff will also undertake Professional Development to share Best Practice.

PBS SHS is at the beginning steps of its Values journey to implement Values Education as a core part of its schooling. This process was successfully audited using the *Resource Kit – Secondary* and this has enabled a successful, thorough and systematic approach to the integration and sustainability of Values within the school community for the present and future.

