2009 Annual School Report
Sutherland Hospital School

NSW Public Schools – Leading the way
Our school at a glance

Students

Sutherland Hospital School is located in the Child and Adolescent Ward of Sutherland Hospital. The school offers support and individualised educational programs for students from Preschool to Year 12.

Students may have short term, long term or recurrent admissions. Continuity of education is maintained for long term students through communication and co-operation with home schools. The school also works closely with the Hospital Mental Health Team.

In 2009 we provided an educational service to 620 students, averaging 17 each week.

Staff

All staff are experienced in the multi stage and multi disciplined educational setting. The hospital School staff allocation includes a Teaching Principal, an additional 0.25 classroom teacher and one full time School Learning Support Officer and a part time School Administrative Manager.

Significant programs and initiatives

Hospital Transition Program

Working closely with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team, the school provides services to both in-patients and out-patients who have significant emotional and psychological problems. The program aims to provide a supportive and structured program for the transition period between acute hospitalization and full reintegration into home school.

Community Engagement

The Hospital School has completed a joint project with The Child and Adolescent Ward in commissioning several murals that enhance the ward. The beautiful murals have brightened the environment for everyone and developed effective working relationships between school staff and various hospital staff. This was further developed as the school was relocated to the opposite end of the ward during 2009.

Visual Arts

The school has continued with a strong focus on visual arts. Many examples of student work are displayed in the ward. Visual arts has proven to be an important diversional therapy, supporting and strengthening students’ self esteem and well integrated into other Key Learning Areas.

Principal’s message

Sutherland Hospital School is a unique educational environment providing meaningful services to students who are recovering from illness, accident or psychosocial admission. Although we have a transient school population we have increasing numbers of long term psychosocial students who need motivational and meaningful educational programs.

This year saw the relocation of the entire school room and office to the opposite end of the Child and Adolescent Ward.

The support that Sutherland Hospital School provides students is highly valued by families, staff and the community and promotes a positive profile for Public Education.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school's achievements and areas for development.

Allison Bennett
Acting Principal

School context

Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Students attending Sutherland Hospital School are predominantly inpatients of Sutherland Hospital. Others are outpatients who are able to access our educational facility while they are being treated by the Mental Health Team. Students remain enrolled in their Home School but their attendance is logged in a daily Attendance Register. Attendances are reported back to home schools for long term patients.

During 2009 Sutherland Hospital School averaged 17 students each week. The length of hospital stay ranged from 1 to 68 days.

Students came from government, non government and Special schools with similar numbers of primary and secondary students.

Staff information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.
Staff establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>0.252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Learning Support Officer</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administration Manager</td>
<td>0.496</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The extra teacher allocation of 0.252 is used to assist the Stage 1 Hospital Orientation Tour and to employ an art specialist teacher. The long term SLSO retired and the new incumbent selected to job share successfully in 2009. The SAM position was permanently filled in January 2009 after being casually filled for the previous 6 months.

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

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Date of financial summary: 30/11/2009

Income $  
Balance brought forward  15 287.69
Global funds  28 865.00
Tied funds  8 606.25
School & community sources  1 267.00
Interest  721.61
Trust receipts  0.00
Canteen  0.00
Total income  54 747.55

Expenditure
Teaching & learning
  Key learning areas  1 188.53
  Excursions  0.00
  Extracurricular dissections  0.00
Library  567.22
Training & development  117.16
Tied funds  8 866.56
Casual relief teachers  6 481.99
Administration & office  15 169.19
School-operated canteen  0.00
Utilities  406.94
Maintenance  343.64
Trust accounts  0.00
Capital programs  0.00
Total expenditure  33 141.23
Balance carried forward  21 606.32
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Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

Significant programs and initiatives

Hospital Orientation Tour

Our weekly tour invites Stage 1 students from local schools to visit the hospital. The purpose of the excursion is twofold. It supports the Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) unit on Workers in the Community and also reduces anxiety that may be associated with hospitalisation of young children. The excursion provides opportunities to become familiar with the roles of hospital staff, medical terminology, technology and the hospital environment.

The Hospital Orientation Tour receives excellent feedback from visiting teachers and parents and is fully booked each year. The tour bookings are available to all local schools but an emphasis again this year was successfully placed on inviting new public schools to participate.

Multidisciplinary team

The school staff is part of a multidisciplinary team which meets weekly for planning and setting of goals for recurrent students and psychosocial admissions. There is also opportunity for discussion of individual work programs and progress of students with doctors, nurses and social workers. The Hospital School staff consists of a specialist team, each contributing individual expertise to achieve the best outcomes in curriculum areas.

Aboriginal education

Aboriginal perspectives are included across all the curriculum areas. The schoolroom library has many resources to promote awareness of aboriginal issues and interests. New indigenous readers were added to our library.

Multicultural education

Staff actively promote the value of cultural diversity among our students. Different cultural and religious events are celebrated with students, staff and hospital community.

Respect and responsibility

The Hospital School demonstrates respect for all individuals whether students, their parents and/or other staff members working in the hospital ward.
Individual differences relating to medical conditions, cultural heritage, and varying points of view are taken into account by school staff. Anti-bullying and anti-racism posters are displayed to encourage positive attitudes to responsibility. Hospital School rules are displayed in both schoolroom and ward.

Progress on 2009 targets

Target 1: Successful relocation of the Hospital School to the opposite end of the hospital ward
Our achievements include:

- Ongoing liaison with Nurse Unit Manager and builder re new infrastructure.
- Culling, packing and unpacking of all school resources
- An official event was held on 28th August to celebrate the relocation of the School and completion of the murals

Target 2: Student Engagement and Retention
Our achievements include:

- Review of the mental health team protocols and procedures
- Tightening of communication strategies with outpatient students’ Home Schools
- Students with mental health issues actively engaged in both Hospital School and Home School programs
- Students with mental health issues transitioned to Home Schools smoothly in the minimum timeframe

Key evaluations
It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2009 our school carried out these evaluations.

Findings and conclusions
Suitable potential casuals were identified through personal and special education networks, followed by interview and orientation sessions. Debriefing sessions were included in training. The result has been that Sutherland Hospital School now has a pool of confident, trained casuals who can also offer the best educational service to our students, either in conjunction with a regular staff member or in our absence. This confidence is most important in a small school.

Future directions
Sutherland Hospital School will continue to recruit casuals and teachers with specific talents to enhance the quality of its programs.

Curriculum
Engagement by students in Creative Arts has a vital role in a Hospital School. As they work in a less formal manner, students are more inclined to communicate and express feelings about issues that may be concerning them. Visual arts projects are designed to strengthen students’ confidence and self esteem and are easily connected via subject matter to other areas of learning.

Findings and conclusions
We reviewed the range of activities offered which included music and visual arts to ascertain how we could increase the depth and complexity of activities for different stages. Items were photographed as examples and put into an album to motivate students’ participation.

Future directions
The album will be kept as an ongoing record of students completed work and inspiration.

Professional learning
The teaching Principal participates in Professional Learning including Principal Conferences, ICT Computer Coordinator Days and combined Hospital Schools Development Days that address issues specific to hospital schools. The School Learning Support Officer completed Info Technology Certificate III in Education Support. All staff attended Fire Safety Training. The School Administrative Manager attends Network Meetings each term.
School development 2009 – 2011

Targets for 2010

Target 1

Student Engagement and Retention

To enhance the program offered to long term students with mental health issues. Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Increasing the engagement of these students whilst at the Hospital School with new programs
- Increasing the likelihood of them reconnecting with their home school by continuing with home school work
- Providing a transition program as appropriate
- Accepting more negotiated outpatient students

Our success will be measured by:

- New programs developed for adolescents.
- More students completing transition program
- Increased number of outpatient students

Target 2

Teacher Quality

To increase students’ educational outcomes by raising the level of expertise within the staff to deal with the more unusual students in the Schoolroom

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- To continue to access for all staff, Professional Learning that enhances our understanding of students with Special Needs

Our success will be measured by:

- Identifying and attending professional learning opportunities

Target 3

Literacy and Numeracy

Individual students better engaged and supported whilst at the Hospital School

Strategies to achieve this target include

- To review our current range of resources assessing for inclusivity, multicultural and Aboriginal perspectives
- To purchase new resources to stimulate individual students and small group learning
- To consolidate for individual students literacy and numeracy learning provided by the Home School

Our success will be measured by:

- A thorough review of all teaching resources
- Purchase of additional resources

About this report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

Allison Bennett -Acting Principal
Michelle Rizzuto -Casual School Learning Support Officer
Jennifer O’Reilly -School Administrative Manager
Jennefer Crowe -School Learning Support Officer
Wanda Hansell -Casual School Learning Support Officer

School contact information

Sutherland Hospital School
Child and Adolescent Unit
Ph: 9540-7669
Fax: 9540-4816
Email: sutherhos.s.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.sutherhos-s.schools.nsw.edu.au
School Code: 5546

Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at: