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 individualized educational programs for students from Kindergarten 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 collaboration with home schools. The school also works closely with the Hospital Mental Health Team providing a transition program for students returning to their home school or more appropriate educational environment.

In 2012 we provided an educational service to students, averaging 24 each week.

Staff

All staff are experienced in the multi stage and multi disciplined educational setting and have vast experience working in special education settings. 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 hospitalisation and full re-integration into home school or an appropriate specialised educational facility.

Community Engagement

The hospital held an open day on the 24th November. The school staff participated and were involved in organizing and hosting tours of the Child and Adolescent Ward and Schoolroom.

It was a successful event and well attended by the local community.

The school participated in the annual hospital fete and raised monies for the purchase of additional curriculum resources.

Technology and Connected Learning

School staff have been involved in professional learning in anticipation of a modified interactive whiteboard. The Department of Education and Communities has been working closely with various vendors to develop appropriate technology for our unique school situation. We have been provided with a Video Conferencing Facility and in term 3 the school visited the Alaskan Sea Life Centre. Both staff and students found this an amazing experience. We have also utilized this technology to participate in several video conferences with our fellow hospital schools.

This year the school purchased an I-Mac, through T4L funding and also an additional I-pad. To support this technology the school has become a member of The Apple Joint Venture program. The school is provided specific professional learning which is customized to meet the needs of the staff and the students.

School Development Day

In 2012 The Sutherland Hospital School planned and hosted the 2012 NSW Combined Hospital School’s Staff Development Day. The presentations included; ‘Positive Psychology’, ‘Sensory Processing in the Hospital School setting’ and ‘The Forensic Hospital School’. All evaluations completed provided positive feedback on the successful day.
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 students with a mental health diagnosis, who are supported by our transition program. Due to this the school has become involved in The Sutherland Schools and Services Forum. The forum includes the Schools-Link Co-ordinator, DEC student welfare consultant, district guidance officer and representatives from Shirewide, Sutherland Shire Council, Shire Youth Services and Family and Community Health. The forum meets each term and participants share relevant information, successful programs and collaborate on case management.

In 2012 school staff were involved in ‘Essentials of Care ‘ Program which aims to promote better healthcare for patients in the hospital setting. The program was run by the Nursing Unit Manager and involved all staff on the Child and Adolescent Ward.

Technology plays an important part in student’s recovery both in the ward and the schoolroom. The accessibility of the school’s iPads and laptops encourages students to continue their learning whilst in hospital. When in the schoolroom students can check their emails through their portal and access their school’s Moodle to maintain a connectedness with their home school.

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.

Jacqueline Conwell
Principal

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. Outpatients 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 (3 days or more).

During 2012 Sutherland Hospital School averaged 18 students each week. The length of hospital stay ranged from 1 to 45 days. Students attended from government and non-government schools.

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>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>0.252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>1.496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.748</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There are currently no indigenous staff at the school.

Staff retention

All teaching staff retained from 2011.

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.
Qualifications | % of staff
--- | ---
Degree or Diploma | 100%
Postgraduate | 50%

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of financial summary</th>
<th>30/11/2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>28774.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>28584.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>14911.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>2203.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1648.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>76121.00</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>891.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>1766.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
<td>3000.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>12528.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>2599.93</td>
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<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>9489.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>30637.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>45483.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 program is twofold. Firstly it supports the Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) curriculum, the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) curriculum and introduces young students to the hospital environment in a safe and practical manner. The excursion provides opportunities for students to become familiar with the diverse roles of hospital staff, medical terminology, technology and the hospital environment, making the process of hospitalisation less foreign.

In 2012 the hospital school staff continued to support 7-10 Life Skills Outcomes for students with an intellectual disability. These accommodations have been instrumental in increasing the number of support units who visit our school and participate in the orientation tour.

The Hospital Orientation Tour receives excellent feedback from our visiting teachers and is fully booked each year. Teachers complete a written evaluation that guides any adjustments made to the tour. The written evaluation feedback demonstrates that the tour is meeting the HSIE/PDHPE outcomes for Stage 1 and Life Skills

Aboriginal education
Students attending the school come from a large and diverse drawing area. School staff deliver equitable and effective learning programs, under exceptional circumstances. Staff are cognisant of the recommendations of the Aboriginal Education Review 2007 and the Aboriginal Education Training Policy. Staff are committed to improving the educational outcomes and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, always being mindful of cultural sensitivities when supporting families and their children.

Multicultural education
Staff actively promote the value of cultural diversity among our students. Various cultural and religious events are celebrated with students, staff and the hospital community. In 2012 the school participated in the annual Sutherland Hospital Fete. This is one of the major fundraisers for the hospital and the local community. The hospital’s open day was also a success and the school enjoyed hosting tours of the Child and Adolescent Ward.

National partnership programs
The Sutherland Hospital School is involved in the Every Student Every School initiative under the Special Schools as Centres of Expertise Project. Over the next year the school and project members are investigating best educational practice for students with a mental health diagnosis. Schools involved include; Heathcote
H.S., Kirrawee H.S., Endeavour H.S., Cronulla H.S. and Jannali H.S.

When the project is complete a resource will be available that supports the successful case management for this cohort of students.

Respect and responsibility

Staff at the Hospital School demonstrate respect for all individuals whether students, their families 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. We are cognisant of the need for confidentiality and at the same time acknowledge the importance of an exchange of accurate patient information that is relevant to student safety whilst in the classroom.

Progress on 2012 targets

Engagement and Retention

Target 1
Develop clear lines of communication with hospital staff including the new members of the mental health team

Our achievements include:
- Discussed documents and reviewed protocols as a team to better support students with a mental health diagnosis
- Participated in regular meetings with the mental health team, families and hospital staff to review student’s progress

Leadership and Management

Target 2
Increased school leadership capacity to lead evidence based and strategic planning

Our achievements include:
- Developed professional partnerships with local secondary high schools and Woniora Road SSP
- Principal attended transition meetings at home schools
- Principal liaised with Principal of Woniora Road SSP to develop a collaboration which enhanced the Every Student, Every School – SSPs as Centres Of Expertise Project.

Literacy and Numeracy

Target 3
Increase scope and complexity of the literacy/numeracy teaching and learning programs available at the hospital school

Our achievements include:
- Developed work booklets in stage levels based on the NSW syllabus
- Utilised technology to provide access to the curriculum
- Reviewed all resources including computer/ipad apps.

School evaluation

NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out these evaluation.

All curriculum resources were evaluated during 2012. Areas of need were identified. Appropriate curriculum resources for History, Science, technology and English were purchased.

The Hospital Tour is evaluated by visiting teachers, hospital school staff and hospital staff.

Educational and management practice

Background

Hospital schools are unique working environments. Due to our special requirements and limited space connected classroom technology has not been installed at our school. This has been an ongoing process since 2010. In 2012 the school received a video conferencing facility which has been beneficial in delivering the curriculum and in connecting us to other schools.

Findings and conclusions

The Department of Education and Communities is continuing to investigate the modification of the interactive whiteboard and its application in our small school setting. It is collaborating with various vendors and is hopeful that in 2012
appropriate technology and a suitable unit will be available for our school.

**Future directions**
The school will continue to provide quality educational and learning experiences to both the inpatients and outpatients at the Sutherland Hospital.

**Curriculum**

**Background**
The Hospital School has been utilising current technology to engage and motivate our students. In 2012 an additional apple iPad was purchased and an apple iMac purchased under the school’s t4L funding. The school has joined the apple Joint Business Venture due to our increased apple technology. The school and staff receive individualized professional learning and support. The school staff investigated the most appropriate and educationally sound applications for the i-pads and this resource has supported the visual arts, mathematics, senior science and English curriculum. Staff have found the excel year 12 applications particularly helpful.

**Findings and conclusions**
The iPads have been successful in engaging students, both Kindergarten aged and senior high school students. The applications are inexpensive, many are free and it is possible to download a large number of applications on one machine allowing it to have multiple aged users.

**Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction**
In 2012 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.
Some of their responses are presented below.
“it was a worthwhile experience for all the children and staff involved”.
Sherry Thompson, Laguna Street P.S.
“A professional and thorough presentation of hospitals in the community. Very impressive”.
Cameron Hallworth, Burraneer Bay P.S.
“This excursion was wonderful and it links into our ‘Workers in the community’ unit”.
Katie Houghton, Grays Point P.S.

**Professional learning**
The teaching principal participates in professional learning including Principal Conferences, ICT Computer Coordinator Days and combined Hospital Schools’ Development Days. The School Learning Support Officers attended ICT Computer Coordinator Days and The NSW Hospital Schools’ Association Conference. The School Administrative Manager attended The NSW Hospital Schools’ Association Conference and Network Meetings each term. Teaching staff attended the NSW Hospital Schools’ Association Conference and Generation Next Conference. Staff also attended:

- Redbank Conference
- Sutherland Schools and Services network
- PPA Sutherland Meetings
- Botany Bay Principals Network meetings
- NSW Primary Principals conference
- Sydney Region Principals Conference
- Special Education Principal and Leaders Association network meetings
- Special Education Conference

**School planning 2012—2014**
The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

**School priority 1**

**Leadership and Management**

**Outcome for 2012–2014**
To develop a document/resource focusing on best practice for adolescents with a mental health diagnosis.
2013 Target to achieve this outcome include:
Organizing and collaborating with all members of the ESES Project team to produce a resource that focuses on best practice for adolescents with a mental health diagnosis.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
- Continue professional links with Woniora Road SSP
- Utilize funding through ESES - SSPs as Centres of Expertise Project
- Research and investigate best practice for students with a mental health diagnosis
- Visit educational facilities that provide support for this cohort of students.

School priority 2
Engagement and Retention
Outcome for 2012–2014
Ongoing review of educational programs for students diagnosed with a mental health illness.

2013 Target to achieve this outcome include:
Maintain focus on the quality and appropriateness of the programs offered to students with a mental health diagnosis.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
- All hospital school staff will attend professional learning on youth and mental health
- Principal will continue to attend the Sutherland School and Services Forum
- Participate in regular meetings with nursing staff, families, schools and the child and adolescent mental health team.
- Review protocols and guidelines.

School priority 3
Literacy and Numeracy
Outcome for 2012-2014
Establish quality teaching and learning programs in literacy and numeracy which result in increased levels of overall literacy and numeracy achievements for all students in line with state and regional targets.

2013 Target to achieve this outcome include:
Review Hospital Orientation Tour Guidelines and HSIE outcomes, in relation to the new National curriculum.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
- Examine evidence based on visiting teachers evaluation of hospital tour, in relation to outcomes of the National Curriculum
- Modify tour, if necessary, to meet the outcomes of the new curriculum.

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.

Jacqueline Conwell: Principal
Jane Coleman: Teacher
Jennifer O'Reilly: School Administrative Manager
Jennefer Crowe: School Learning Support Officer
Michelle Rizzuto: School Learning Support Officer

School contact information
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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: