



Open Learning Campus Cairns School of Distance Education

Information for Young People and Parents/Guardians

Cairns School of Distance Education (Cairns SDE) Open Learning Campus (OLC)

The Open Learning Campus' vision is to engage young people in academic programs designed to deliver authentic education, training and well-being programs via blended learning (on-campus, face-to-face & online). Enrolment scope is for young people in years 9-12 who have disconnected, are significantly disengaged or at risk of disengagement from education. OLC enrolment is limited to young people living in the Cairns area who meet the criteria for enrolment and have a transport plan in place.

The OLC is focused on re-engaging young people with education, training and/or employment pathways. Open Learning Campus staff intentionally collaborate with students and their families to re-connect with schooling and transition to an appropriate 'learning or earning' pathway. While each students' needs are different; we encourage students to make a transition within 12-24 months.

The primary focus of our programming is to assist young people in the attainment of skills, achievements and qualifications that align with personal wellbeing, education and training standards that reflect community expectations.

Each student is unique and has a diverse range of needs. We acknowledge this and schedule termly care, goal-setting and academic review sessions with our students and their support team(s). Goal setting reflects academic, behavioural, social and personal progress; our teachers using a range of data to track student progress, in line with the four improvement measures identified in the *State Schools Improvement Strategy 2022-2026: Every Student Succeeding*.

Scope of the program

The scope of the Cairns SDE OLC is to ensure that every young person has a clearly defined pathway that focuses on engagement, wellbeing and academic achievement leading towards:

- Transitioning to quality paid employment (including traineeships and apprenticeships)
- achieving a QLD Certificate of Education (QCE) or QLD Certificate of Individual Education (QCIA)
- transitioning to a mainstream school enrolment **or**
- transitioning to a clearly articulated Vocational Education and Training (VET) or University pathway.

As part of this service commitment and delivery of programs, young people will have:

- access to an individual learning program
- access to online learning platform(s)
- access to face-to-face on-campus contact sessions (within enrolment criteria and where determined suitable by OLC staff)
- access to engagement and educational case management to support identified needs.

Categories and scope of enrolment

Target student cohort

Students in Years 9 - 12 (aged 14 - 18 years old) who are:

- **Disconnected from education (not enrolled in school)**
a disconnected student is a young person not enrolled in a school and requires modified, individualised programming and support that cannot be provided at a young person's local school.
- **Disengaged from education (school attendance less than 50%)**
transition to the OLC will require evidence that in-school reasonable adjustments have been made and that these adjustments have not been sufficient to support the young person in engaging at their current school.
- **At significant risk of disengagement from education (assessed on an individual basis)**
transition to the OLC will require evidence that in-school reasonable adjustments cannot be made to support the young person in engaging at their current school.

Understanding your enrolment

- Enrolments are managed by the Open Learning Campus, on behalf of Cairns SDE
- All young people are Cairns SDE students once enrolled
- There are some attendance expectations that differentiate OLC students from traditional Cairns SDE students
- Students enrolling in the OLC may be exempt/waived from the general Cairns SDE enrolment fees due to extenuating circumstances, at the discretion of the principal.

On Campus Attendance

The Open Learning Campus is a face to face program, run by Cairns School of Distance Education. Places in our program are limited and it is an expectation of enrolment that students attend campus 4 days per week. Where barriers to full-time on-campus attendance exist, the school will consider options to support student engagement in a full-time equivalent program. Students who are unable to maintain attendance expectation may have their enrolment transitioned from the OLC to a full-time Cairns SDE home based enrolment. This includes where transport issues, behaviour or ongoing medical conditions act as barriers to attendance.

Enrolment Transport Plan

The Cairns SDE OLC delivers programs via blended learning (online and on-campus sessions) to young people residing in Cairns. A clearly defined Transport Plan is an essential requirement of enrolment. Transport Plans need to detail how the student will access the campus and include alternative strategies to ensure students can access the full program.

Enrolling at the Cairns SDE OLC

Enrolment and program enquiries can be directed to olcadmin@cairnssde.eq.edu.au. Program information and enrolment forms can also be found on the Cairns SDE website ([link](#)). The following core programs will be offered to students at the CSDE OLC as part of their alternative individualised educational program:

- **OLC students in Year 9 – 10** will engage in subjects/projects within the core part of their program in the key learning areas: English/Literacy, Mathematics/Numeracy, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, and a minimum of one elective subject/alternative project. From Year 10, students can also start to work towards their goal of achieving a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) or Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA).
- **OLC students in Years 11 & 12** engage in an individualised educational program which supports them on their senior pathway to work towards their intended school exit and future career goals. All students who choose to stay in school after year 10 until the end of Year 12, have the goal of achieving a meaningful and viable pathway.

The types of senior pathways for Years 10 – 12* students, are:

1. transitioning to quality paid employment (including traineeships and apprenticeships)
2. achieving a QLD Certificate of Education (QCE) or QLD Certificate of Individual Education (QCIA),
3. transitioning to a mainstream school enrolment, **or**
4. transitioning to a clearly articulated Vocational Education and Training (VET) or University pathway.

** Students may be required to engage with their individualised senior program on a Variable Progression Rate (VPR), either condensing or extending their senior phase of learning*

For further information on the senior phase of learning and senior subjects/courses please refer to the Handbook: Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan pathways Senior Subject Selections, available on the Cairns SDE website ([link](#)).