



Cairns School of Distance Education Vision Statement 2013 – 2016

Cairns School of Distance Education is identified by its diverse community, flexible curriculum and focus on innovation. *Information and Communication Technology* is used to deliver creative programs in *The Arts, Languages, and Sciences*. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives feature heavily in our marquee programs. We provide multiple pathways for students to become independent, resilient learners and productive members of our community. Our approach to education allows us to be at the forefront of dynamic curriculum delivery. This is achieved through partnerships with Australasian Schools of Distance Education, other state schools and tertiary institutions including James Cook University. Teachers, home tutors and students develop positive and supportive relationships in a flexible learning environment. We are a connected community with the capacity to evolve with the world around us.

High quality teaching and learning are our priorities. Distance education offers unique opportunities to foster active engagement and independent learning. Stakeholders work in partnerships to allow for the flexibility, support and personalised curriculum that is essential to effective teaching and learning. Students have access to dynamic courses with scope for personalised learning. Students are supported through regular contact with teachers who provide meaningful feedback and engaging lessons. Confident, well-supported home tutors are vital to the success of our students and we provide support in the delivery of the curriculum through a structured home tutor development program, regular communication with teachers and through our field program. The development of sound Habits of Mind and Higher Order Thinking skills underpins our curriculum at all levels. These shared languages provide consistency in our approach to teaching and learning. Students develop both fundamental and complex skills, building their capacity to become life-long learners.

We equip twenty-first century learners with skilful and confident understanding of key learning areas via the use of digital platforms. IT support, up-to-date resources and regular up-skilling are essential to our efficient operation and to allow for quality teaching and learning. Regular skill development opportunities are provided for all members of our school community. Home tutor education is conducted as part of our field program and we provide individual support for families encountering challenges. Teachers attend professional development opportunities to ensure their confident and innovative use of technology in teaching and learning. Home tutors and teachers encourage and support students' use of digital devices in engaging with courses, learning experiences and authentic assessment tasks.

Quality relationships connect our school community and have a positive impact on student outcomes. Our school community develops and maintains productive relationships based on shared understandings and open communication between students, home tutors and teachers. Students have ready access to highly effective teachers via well-supported communication processes, including video-conferencing, email and telephone. The field program provides for face-to-face contact between stakeholders and is integral to our sense of school community. Innovative use of digital technologies facilitates communication and caters to the varied needs of our families. Our connectedness fosters positive and productive relationships, producing the best possible outcomes for students.

Students of Cairns School of Distance Education come from an environment which encourages them to be resilient and adaptable individuals. Our students know that quality relationships are based on mutual respect and tolerance. They become independent learners who are part of a supportive school community and they are prepared for the challenges presented by the wider world.



Core Values

