

Statement of Philosophy and Aims

Purpose: The purpose of this statement is to provide an overview of The BUSY School's philosophy and aims which are used as the basis for the school's educational program and as a guide for the school's educational and organisational practices. The statement also serves to demonstrate The BUSY School's alignment with the Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration for young Australians which has guided the school's philosophy and aims. The Declaration has two distinct but interconnected goals:

Goal 1: The Australian education system promotes excellence and equity

Goal 2: All young Australians become:

- confident and creative individuals
- successful lifelong learners
- active and informed members of the community.

The BUSY School Philosophy

The BUSY School:

- is committed to achieving high-quality formal and informal educational outcomes with young people who have complex learning and social support needs, because we believe this will increase their future life opportunities and well-being and make them valuable and contributing members of society;
- is committed to helping young people who have effectively disengaged from mainstream schooling to restore their sense of self-worth and dignity through meaningful engagement in learning, training, practical experience and recreational activities;
- believes in the power of role modelling and mentoring to inculcate in its students the good behaviours, qualities and values expected of young people; and
- believes that the secure, stable, consistent values and environment it provides for young people will enable them to develop their capacities for trust, reliability and resilience in their personal lives, relationships, families and communities.

The BUSY School Aims

The BUSY School aims to have students:

- restore a love of learning, personal growth and pride in achieving personal goals to those in need who may otherwise not have means of social support;
- re-engage in structured learning, productivity and assessment through authentic participation in its education and training program by commitment to regular attendance and continuing participation in a program of learning and development;
- develop the skills and knowledge necessary to positively participate in the workplace;
- achieve formal recognition for the achievement of academic and vocational standards and awards;
- develop positive attitudes and behaviours towards themselves, their families, others and the school community as well as an ability to regulate their emotions, thoughts and behaviours in different situations; and
- develop an ability to understand and empathise with others and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with a diverse range of individuals and groups.