



Positive Learning Centres

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Positive Learning Centres (PLCs) provide service to students between the ages of 10 and 15 years who have either disengaged or who are at risk of disengaging from mainstream schools and require intervention beyond the capacity of the mainstream school. Such students can cause unacceptable disruption to the learning of others. The overall aim of the PLCs is to improve learning and behaviour, and to reintegrate students into mainstream schooling or into more appropriate learning or vocational pathways.

There is a range of Positive Learning Centre program variations across the state including long term placements, part-time programs, 6-20 day suspension facilities, etc.

Each Positive Learning Centre determines its own goals, education program and referral/selection procedures. This is in consultation with an administrative committee comprising District Office Representatives, Senior Guidance Officers and school based personnel (typically a Principal).

Curriculum at the PLC:

- should include a strong focus on both literacy and numeracy
- should align with the regular curriculum, where possible, through links with students' base school
- may involve a strong vocational focus, especially for older students
- may involve online learning.

Individual student plans should identify participation, academic, health and well-being and behaviour goals.

The PLC is staffed by two teachers with some teacher aide support. There should be no more than 10 to 12 students at any one time in a group.

School Requirements before Referral

The process for referring students into a Positive Learning Centre varies across the state. Typically, before referring a student to a PLC, schools should have:

- provided an initial intervention program
- accessed support from a Guidance Officer or Behaviour AVT
- identified target behaviours
- carried out a functional behaviour assessment

- implemented an Individual Behaviour Plan.

Schools may be required to support students who are selected to attend a Positive Learning Centre by:

- providing a program of work for the student, and
- identifying a key member of staff to support the student's transition back to mainstream schooling.

QTU Position

- Positive Learning Centres should be agents of proactive change in young people. The QTU believes that the Education Department should fund the establishment and program maintenance of 40 Positive Learning Centres in major metropolitan, rural and regional centres. Currently there are 14 PLCs.
- The focus of the Positive Learning Centres should be to provide literacy and numeracy support, and build interpersonal skills (tolerance, anger management, team work) and intrapersonal skills (self reflection, goal setting, resilience).
- The QTU does not support the redirection of funds from Positive Learning Centres towards facilities that receive students on 6-20 day suspensions. Additional funding should be provided by the Education Department for those districts who identify a need for the provision of a 6-20 day facility.
- PLCs should be located off-site and not on school campuses.