

Case study – Delacombe Primary School

Background

Delacombe Primary School, located in the Grampians Region, has about 256 students who come from a socially disadvantaged area. Student outcome data was low and the school was challenged by falling enrolments, low parent, staff and student survey data.

From 2009 the new leadership team focused on student learning and building staff capacity and consistency across the school to lift student outcomes and school data.

The school has since focused on building capacity across the school. It has also adopted common and consistent practices across the school in literacy and numeracy, assessment and student management.

Situation

Literacy data indicated that male students in year 3 and 5 were not meeting benchmarks in reading. This was compounded by students in years 5 and 6 not feeling connected to school, their teachers or their peers. Unfortunately longitudinal data also suggested the problem was getting worse.

Many students found it difficult accessing mainstream curriculum and it was felt students would benefit from positive mentoring and relationship building.

What did you do?

The Boys, Blokes, Books and Bytes (BBB&B) project aims to develop a reading culture among boys through a series of activities in the school and public library. These activities reflect the style of learning that appeals to boys, and involve blokes as positive role models and reading partners.

Central to the concept of BBB&B was the bringing together of the students and their families at the public library and school library, to share stories, talk about books and engage in reading.

The program promoted books and reading as enjoyable and empowering and sought to embed books and reading in the home. Free books were provided at the start of the program.

The program also features a celebratory breakfast, after school cooking program, scavenger hunt, book week activities and Father's Day celebration including book fair and sausage sizzle.



Results

- The program is now in its third year with a new program planned for female students and their mums.
- The program has been recognised with Seed funding from NAB Schools First and shortlisted for an Education Excellence Award.