

# Our Plan

## Champions for the Bay



## Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024

## Paying Respect

***Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre respectfully acknowledges First Nations caretakers and Country throughout Meanjin and surrounding areas in Metropolitan Region. We recognise their strong connections to the land, waters and country and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.***

### **Endorsement**

This plan was developed in consultation with the school community and meets school needs and systemic requirements.



---

**Dianne Aylward**  
Principal, Moreton Bay EEC

*Endorsed by:*

**Samantha Donovan**  
Assistant Regional Director

## Introduction

### From the Principal

The benefits of connecting with nature are enormous. It begins with our children developing healthy, resilient bodies from time spent exploring outdoors where they are stimulated cognitively and physically by the sights and sounds. Our team of dedicated staff are passionate in supporting students by reconnecting them to each other and the natural world where they can become re-energised and have the opportunity to create new and meaningful memories.

Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre ('Moreton Bay EEC') is a dynamic and innovative Department of Education Centre committed to inspiring students, staff, partners and the community. We have day programs from Prep-Year 12 to enable young people to take a breath and a break from a world of adult concerns; explore the endless benefits the natural world has to offer and encounter special spaces to engage, explore, discover and reflect. The team are always aiming to ensure our organisation excels in meeting the needs of classroom teachers, and delivering exceptional immersive experiences for students.

Our dedicated, passionate and expert teachers deliver these inspiring programs to students across a range of immersive sites including Moreton Bay, Manly foreshore, Wynnum mangrove boardwalk, Fort Lytton National Park, St Helena Island National Park, Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island), Port of Brisbane, Newstead House and at our environmentally awarded land-based centre.

The cornerstone of our improvement strategy is an unwavering focus on reflecting and reviewing our teaching methods, liaising with schools, and shared partner commitment to ensure best practice. The centre has a demonstrated capacity to plan, provide direction and revise practices for the benefit of our visiting schools and students.

This document is designed to provide an overview of the focus and direction of Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre outlining the strategic direction, goals, plans, initiatives and key success indicators for the period 2021–2024. The plan provides detailed information about centre priorities and ensures the centre is working towards achieving these priorities.

We are proud of our focused results over the last five years, which includes Department of Education Showcase Awards for *STEM Horizons for High Achievers*, and *State School Leadership Team of the Year* (as part of the Wynnum Manly school education alliance); Healthy Land and Water *Sustainable Education Award*; the prestigious Doherty's *STEM Education Partners Award*; and being a finalist (in partnership with Newstead House) in the Queensland Museum and Galleries Awards for Engagement in Museum Theatre with our *War Years: Americans at Newstead program*.

We look forward to working closely with our schools, partners and wider community to inspire, learn from and connect to special places on and around Moreton Bay.



Ms Dianne Aylward  
Principal  
Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre

**“Unless we are willing to encourage our kids to reconnect with and appreciate the natural world, we can’t expect them to help protect and care for it.”**

**David Suzuki**

## Our Strategic Plan

The 2021-2024 Strategic Plan communicates our future direction, strategies and goals. It is about working together using environmental education and extensive local knowledge to immerse and engage students.

It is our 'manifesto', explaining what we will do in the four years ahead to play our part in creating 'Champions for the Bay' which include cultural and heritage sites; natural coastal and marine environments; urban development and the Brisbane River Catchment; and First Nations history and culture of the Quandamooka people of Moreton Bay and surrounding islands.

## Our Team

The Moreton Bay EEC team has worked conscientiously and passionately with students, teachers, principals, partners and community to Inspire Champions for the Bay.

We are always striving to continue to develop and grow our offerings to meet teacher, school and community needs. Moreton Bay EEC is our people, our visiting schools, our partners and our community. Each year we engage with approximately 15,000 students across 80+ schools and have thousands of supporters. Our committed team of professional environmental educators and partners have 'Inspired Champions for the Bay' that will continue to make a difference in the community and beyond the program experience.

## Our Vision, Mission and Values

**Our Vision:** Inspiring Champions for the Bay

**Our Mission:** To inspire student growth through unique, place-based and hands-on immersive experiences that enrich the curriculum and showcase our ability to lead and support teachers, schools, community and the Department.

**Our Values:** Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre places the student at the heart of learning and engagement. Program design and implementation is guided by a focus on the following values and perspectives.

- ◆ Innovative immersive experiences connected to place and linked to the Australian Curriculum and Senior Syllabus.
- ◆ Passionate and committed practitioners.
- ◆ Collaborative authentic partnerships.
- ◆ Respect for the environment to support sustainable futures.
- ◆ Inclusion of First Nations perspectives to promote a culture of respect and understanding.

*"Teaching children about the natural world should be seen as one of the most important events in their lives".*

*Thomas Berry - Cultural Historian*

## Our Approach (Culture)

The Moreton Bay EEC team embrace a culture that includes continuous growth, high expectations, trust, inclusivity, empowerment and privileging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.

## Commitment to Students and Services

Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre is committed to supporting young Australians in becoming successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens. This is achieved by:

- ◆ delivering high quality environmental education learning experiences that use a multi-disciplinary approach to enhance classroom learning;
- ◆ providing professional support that builds the capacity of classroom teachers and pre-service teachers to educate for a sustainable future; and
- ◆ becoming a nucleus for creating effective community and school partnerships.

## Partnerships

Moreton Bay EEC is committed to engaging with identified partners to enhance educational experiences for students. Parents, carers, families and the broader community play a vital role in supporting successful learning outcomes for our students.



## Our Focus and Outcomes

Moreton Bay EEC continually strives to achieve the identified improvement recommendations within the nine domains of the National School Improvement Tool. The Full School Review Report in 2020 celebrated the success and achievements of the previous strategic plan and provided future suggested directions.

Through consultation and collaboration with staff, visiting school communities and partner experts, the following areas were identified as informing the focus areas for the next four years:

### 1. Engaging and Learning - Our Curriculum



Authentic student experiences aligned to the Australian Curriculum, Senior Syllabi and Early Years Learning Framework. Client schools' needs are met through connecting to unique places using innovative modes of delivery where students are challenged to critically and creatively think about local, community and global perspectives.



### 2. Staff Capability - An Expert Team

Fostering passion and commitment to improve every aspect of operations (inclusiveness, safety and well-being) and services in the pursuit of excellence.



### 3. Maximising Student Growth

Collaborative program development aligned with effective teaching practice and comprehensive reflection, focused on the achievement of every student guided by an explicit pedagogical framework.



### 4. Partnerships - A Collaborative, Empowered Community

Innovative strategic partnerships enhancing student and teacher growth and community outcomes.

We will work to achieve the identified improvement targets within these domains, which will be monitored and measured, and outcomes shared with the Department and partners. This will enable the centre to examine its achievements, assess strategic plans and timeframes and make recommendations including the redistribution of resources appropriate to attaining the priorities.

This process will enable the community to monitor the progress of the Strategic Plan 2021–2024 and identified improvement targets and strategies to ensure our priorities are accomplished. It will also allow Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre the chance to celebrate the successful milestones achieved through the duration of this plan in line with our continuous improvement cycle.



“Adventurous experiences out-of-doors are perceived to kindle the enthusiasm of the young, to develop their concern for others, for their community and for the environment. Such experiences provide the means of self-discovery, self-expression and enjoyment which are at once both stimulating and fulfilling.

It thus emerges that, for young people and adults alike, outdoor adventure is perceived as a vehicle for building values and ideals, for developing creativity and enterprise, for enhancing a sense of citizenship, and for widening physical and spiritual horizons.”

*Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine, KC, CBE, DSO*



## Our Focus

### 1. Engaging and Learning - Our Curriculum

Authentic student experiences aligned to the Australian Curriculum, Senior Syllabi and Early Years Learning Framework. Client schools' needs are met through connecting to unique places and using innovative modes of delivery where students are challenged to critically and creatively think about local, community and global perspectives.

#### Moreton Bay EEC strives for:

1. Curriculum planning, documentation and delivery of Senior Syllabi (Biology, Geography and Marine Studies) meeting and excelling in field and student experiment requirements for students, schools and associations.
2. Alignment of K-10 centre programs to the re-developed AC and Early Years Framework with explicit focus on Science and Humanities and Social Science.
3. Explicit links to cross curricular priorities (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples' histories and Sustainability) and General Capabilities.
4. Continuous exploration for alternative sites for program delivery including expansion of incursion and bespoke offerings.

Strategies	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Refine centre programs alignment to the AC and senior syllabi and adjust and communicate changes in response to teacher feedback.	✓	✓		
2. Review curriculum planning documentation to reflect links to the AC, cross curricular priorities, learning intentions and achievement standards.	✓	✓	✓	
3. Collaborate with the Wynnum Manly school education alliance Heads of Curriculum to continue to develop pre- and post-program materials and resource kits to enhance centre programs.	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Engage with professional learning communities to monitor opportunities for students to demonstrate critical thinking skills throughout programs.	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Quandamooka Culture in Community initiative facilitating a collaborative approach towards creating a culturally safe and secure community.	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Enable differentiated professional learning opportunities in First Nations and Quandamooka culture, environmental initiatives, museum theatre and cutting-edge science.	✓	✓	✓	✓

#### Success Indicators

- 100% programs aligned with AC and Senior Syllabi.
- Enhance senior student program visitation by 30%.
- 100% programs triangulate critical thinking skills with learning goals and achievement outcomes: >95% of visiting staff report that the program provided opportunities for students to think critically and creatively.
- Quandamooka Culture in community milestones including *Cultural Insights Workshops*, cultural immersion days / outdoor classroom days / regular collaborative meetings.
- Headline Indicator data:
  - >95% visiting staff report quality teaching
  - >95% visiting staff report student engagement
  - >95% visiting staff indicate students achieved planned learning outcomes
  - >95% visiting staff indicate students developed additional skills, knowledge and understandings
- Professional Learning Community communicating outcomes to WMsea cluster, Quandamooka Culture in Community and beyond.

## Our Focus

### 2. Maximising Student Growth

Collaborative program development aligned with effective teaching practice and comprehensive reflection, focused on the achievement of every student guided by an explicit pedagogical framework.

#### Moreton Bay EEC strives for:

1. Consistent curriculum planning documentation reflected in a common approach to engaging students in programs.
2. Critical and creative thinking skills used to maximise student engagement and learning, observable change and personal growth.
3. Innovative use of narrative, museum theatre and ICTs in the field to immerse students in unique places.
4. Comprehensive reflection and review process of programs to identify opportunities to further enhance delivery and student outcomes.

Strategies	2021	2022	2023	2024
Utilise centre pedagogical framework with student learning journeys including the reflection and analysis of program outcomes through this lens.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Continue to ensure learning intentions and program development reflect critical thinking processes and achievement outcomes.	✓	✓		
Continue pre- and post- program planning processes with classroom teachers to identify individual student learning needs and personalize programs to address these needs.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enable differentiated professional learning opportunities for staff to ensure the broad depth of expertise for the delivery of the range of programs from K-12.	✓	✓	✓	✓

#### Success Indicators

- Teaching and Learning and Pedagogical Framework 'Our Journeys across the Edge' communicated to community, highlighted in centre and informs practice.
- Headline Indicator data:
  - >95% visiting staff report quality teaching
  - >95% visiting staff report student engagement
  - >95% visiting staff indicate students achieved planned learning outcomes
  - >95% visiting staff indicate students developed additional skills, knowledge and understandings
- Showcasing cutting edge science including the Moreton Bay Studies program via delivery at teacher professional development opportunities, conferences and forums.
- 'Telling our Stories' to be presented to Department of Education staff and practitioner research to be explored to inform impact on student engagement and outcomes.
- Practitioner research where participants are mentored and provided training in each step of the research process from identifying the research question right through to research methods, data collection and analysis, and interpretation of findings as well as the production of a short research paper.

## Our Focus

### 3. Partnerships - A Collaborative, Empowered Community

Innovative strategic partnerships enhancing student and teacher growth and community outcomes.

#### Moreton Bay EEC will support:

1. Innovative strategic partnerships enhancing student and teacher growth and community outcomes.
2. School and community out-reach to deliver personally designed bespoke programs to meet emerging needs of organisations and provide solutions to complex situations.
3. A community learning hub with key partners including First Nations presenters and Quandamooka peoples, Port of Brisbane Environmental Management Team, QPWS, Newstead House, UQMBRS, CoralWatch, Health Waterways and beyond.
4. Centre expertise utilised to present at conferences, workshops, associations and within school clusters (locally, state-wide, nationally and internationally).

Strategies	2021	2022	2023	2024
Liaise with government agencies including QPWS and Newstead House to access resources, expertise and authentic learning sites.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Co-deliver with identified partners a range of student programs, as well as provide teacher professional development opportunities for visiting teachers to expand out-reach, influence and service delivery.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Facilitate opportunities for staff to undertake reciprocal teaching in school centres and in other environmental education centres.	✓	✓		
Collaborate with school clusters to continue to develop and implement an increasing range of specialist programs.	✓	✓	✓	✓

#### Success Indicators

- Increased delivery of programs developed in partnership with QPWS, Newstead House and external expertise.
- Exploration of additional programs to enhance incursion and Museum Theatre offerings.
- STEM program student feedback indicating >90% found the activities scientifically meaningful and engaging / >90% wanting to be involved in future programs.
- Extension program student feedback indicating >90% extended their abilities during the program.
- >95% visiting staff indicate program positively contributed to the education of students.
- Professional development opportunities co-delivered with partners to enhance cutting-edge science; HASS; geography; and ATSI perspectives.
- Delivery of presentations at cluster / local / state / national and international conferences.

## Our Focus

### 4. Staff Capability - An Expert Team

Fostering passion and commitment to improve every aspect of operations (inclusiveness, safety and well-being) and services in the pursuit of excellence.

#### Moreton Bay EEC will support:

1. Comprehensive leadership and mentoring processes guiding development of quality programs.
2. Intentional collaboration, practitioner research, triangulated data collection and analysis, and 'telling our stories' to provide deep insight into program design, development, delivery and corresponding student growth.
3. Expert professional groups and Government agencies providing support to enhance program design, development and delivery.
4. Professional development activities resulting in optimum engagement, learning and improving together aligned with well-being.

Strategies	2021	2022	2023	2024
Comprehensive leadership and mentoring processes guiding development of quality programs.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Expert professional groups and Government agencies providing support to enhance program design, development and delivery.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Intentional collaboration, practitioner research, triangulated data collection and analysis and 'telling our stories' to provide deep insight into program design, development, delivery and corresponding student growth.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Professional development activities resulting in optimum engagement, learning and improving, together aligned with well-being.	✓	✓	✓	✓

#### Success Indicators

- 100% of staff have individual professional plans with common and unique learning opportunities.
- School Opinion Survey:
  - 100% staff indicate access to quality professional development.
  - 100% staff indicate that they have the skills and knowledge to do their job effectively.
  - 100% staff indicate that the school is interested in their wellbeing and that there is good team spirit.
  - 100% staff indicate they receive useful feedback about their work.
- Headline Indicator data:
  - >95% visiting staff indicate students received quality teaching from the Centre staff.
  - 100% visiting staff indicate student behaviour is well maintained.
  - >95% visiting staff report student engagement.
  - >95% visiting staff indicate student behaviour is well maintained.
  - >95% visiting staff indicate that the program supported students in achieving planned learning outcomes.
  - >95% visiting staff recommend this education program and services to others.



# Strategic Plan

## 2021–2024

### VISION

Inspiring Champions for the Bay.

### MISSION

To inspire student growth through unique place-based and hands-on immersive experiences that enrich the curriculum and showcase our ability to lead and support teachers, schools, community and the Department.

### VALUES

- Innovative immersive experiences connected to place and linked to the Australian Curriculum (AC) and Senior Syllabus.
- Passionate and committed practitioners.
- Collaborative authentic partnerships.
- Respect for the environment to support sustainable futures.
- Inclusion of First Nations perspectives to promote a culture of respect and understanding.

### CULTURE

The Moreton Bay EEC team embrace a culture that includes continuous growth, high expectations, trust, inclusivity, empowerment and privileging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.

#### ENGAGING AND LEARNING - OUR CURRICULUM

Authentic student experiences aligned to the Australian Curriculum (AC), Senior Syllabi and Early Years Learning Framework. Client schools' needs are met through connecting to unique places using innovative modes of delivery where students are challenged to critically and creatively think about local, community and global perspectives.

##### MORETON BAY EEC STRIVES FOR:

Curriculum planning, documentation and delivery of Senior Syllabi (Biology, Geography and Marine Studies) to meet fieldwork and student experiment requirements for students, schools and associations.



Explicit links to cross curricular priorities (ATSI Histories and Sustainability) and General Capabilities.



Alignment of P-10 centre programs to the re-developed AC with explicit focus on Science, Humanities and Social Science.



Continuous exploration for alternative sites for program delivery including expansion of incursion and bespoke offerings.



#### STAFF CAPABILITY - AN EXPERT TEAM

Fostering passion and commitment to improve every aspect of operations (inclusiveness, safety and well-being) and services in the pursuit of excellence.

##### MORETON BAY EEC WILL SUPPORT:

Comprehensive leadership and mentoring processes guiding development of quality programs.



Intentional collaboration, practitioner research, triangulated data collection and analysis, and 'telling our stories' to provide deep insight into program design, development, delivery and corresponding student growth.



Expert professional groups and Government agencies providing support to enhance program design, development and delivery.



Professional development activities resulting in optimum engagement, learning and improving together aligned with well-being.



#### MAXIMISING STUDENT GROWTH

Collaborative program development aligned with effective teaching practice and comprehensive reflection, focussed on the achievement of every student guided by an explicit pedagogical framework.

##### MORETON BAY EEC STRIVES FOR:

Consistent curriculum planning documentation reflected in a common approach to engaging students in programs.



Innovative use of narrative, museum theatre and ICT's in the field to immerse students in unique places.



Critical and creative thinking skills used to maximise student engagement and learning, observable change and personal growth.



Comprehensive reflection and review process of programs to identify opportunities to further enhance delivery and student outcomes.



#### PARTNERSHIPS - A COLLABORATIVE, EMPOWERED COMMUNITY

Innovative strategic partnerships enhancing student and teacher growth and community outcomes.

##### MORETON BAY EEC WILL SUPPORT:

Innovative strategic partnerships enhancing student and teacher growth and community outcomes.



A community learning hub with key partners including First Nations and Quandamooka peoples, Port of Brisbane Environmental Management Team, QPWS, Newstead House, UQMBRS, CoralWatch, Healthy Waterways and beyond.



School and community out-reach to deliver personally designed bespoke programs to meet emerging needs of organisations and provide solutions to complex issues.



Centre expertise utilised to present at conferences, workshops, associations and within school clusters (locally, state-wide, nationally and internationally).

