



Annual Report 2021

We respectfully acknowledge that Port School stands on the traditional lands of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

About Port School

Port School is an independent secondary school that aims to engage at-risk students in Years 8 to 12 who, for a variety of reasons and situational circumstances, have not been able to achieve in mainstream school settings.

Our Vision is to provide a safe, nurturing and supportive environment in which students are empowered to lead purposeful and fulfilling lives.

The School offers small class sizes, personalised and flexible learning groups, community projects, individualised pastoral care and student support through a variety of networks and external service providers.



Port School operates the following programs:

- Port Middle School
- Port Senior School
- Port Mobile Classroom
- Port Young Parent Centre
- Port Early Learning Centre
- Port Registered Training Organisation (RTO 52718)
- Port Outreach Program
- Port Student Support Services.

Detailed program information is available at <http://www.portschool.wa.edu.au>

Anne Gee



The Board acknowledges that Port School resides on unceded Aboriginal land and that as a school, we recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of the Noongar people of this land.

In 2021, despite continued disruption to school operation, board meetings and life in general as a result of COVID-19, Port School staff and the Board maintained a successful year of education, care and governance. As an organisation, our client base involves families in crisis and 'at risk' youth, whether that be educationally, socially or in a mental health context. During 2021 it was of the utmost importance to maintain 'business as usual' to deliver and look after our core business.



Our thanks go to the Port School staff for their efforts in planning and delivering another successful school year of education and care in very trying and ever-changing conditions. While all staff make a conscious choice to bring their expertise to Port (some describe it as a calling) they face a very different workplace in comparison to many teachers and support staff who work in traditional school environments. At times, the way in which our students 'cry for help and love' can be in the most unloving of ways, and our staff artfully manage this daily. Port students are, in so many ways, rewarding to teach and direct as they develop into young adults who value personal growth, a commitment to lifelong learning and a role as a positive contributor and member of the community, no matter where that might be.



Port School has evolved and grown exponentially since my initial involvement in 2010 and the commencement of Principal Barry Finch's tenure. There has been a consistent core of board members who have complemented the Principal's vision, and this has helped to ensure consistency and rigour in governance support. The Board too has continued to enlist a strong collective of well-qualified and experienced individuals, who act in an advisory capacity to the Principal.

In my 2014 report I wrote "Young people deserve to have the world at their feet, the opportunity to realise their dreams, sound mental and physical health and at least one adult who believes in them, pushes them and offers unconditional support and advice. Port School aims to fill the void, mend the bridges and give real hope and possibility back to our students and emerging young adults." Eight years later, and with a school and business model that delivers a comprehensive and broad suite of educational offerings, I feel we are staying true to our Vision and our Mission.

Whilst new buildings and shiny new kitchens and gymnasiums with all the bells and whistles are certainly supportive of our programs, it is the people who make this place come alive. The Board extends heartfelt thanks to Principal Barry Finch, Deputy Principal Mike Gilbert, Business Manager Nolene Martin and to our incredible team of staff without whom none of this would happen. Teachers, assistants, support and administrative staff at Port have great heart, endless patience and true generosity of spirit. Although our students and young people have so much to offer, helping them to recognise their own strengths and to realise their potential is as exhausting for our staff as it is exciting and fulfilling. We acknowledge that the school day does not end with the sound of the final bell and that staff minds tick with student conversations, worries and concerns late into the nights and on weekends.

Although Port School's name is due to the original location of the school in downtown Fremantle, I think the name 'Port' is apt in so many ways. And for those of you who have heard me speak over the past decade or so you will know that I love the Port analogy, because a Port is where a ship comes to fix its broken and damaged bits, and to heal. Once in Port you can restock, load up, make plans, check maps and prepare for the next stage of new journeys.

"A ship in harbour is safe – but that is not what ships are built for." A. Einstein

Port School encourages students to challenge their comfort zones. This is the key to experiencing new things, broadening horizons and taking risks that help us all grow as people, to either achieve our goals and do the things we have always wanted to do, or at least to say, we tried to get there, even if we fall short at times. This is how we grow. Port School leavers were reminded that as T S Monson aptly penned, "We can't direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails."

As Port School farewells cohorts of 'leavers' each year, there is a sense of sadness mixed with anticipation for our students as they set sail on the next leg of their exciting adventure, each steering their own course.

With the successful purchase of the neighbouring property at 58 Wheeler Road in 2021, our long term plan for a purpose-built Middle School will soon come to light. The School was also successful in securing Commonwealth Government funding to support the build program. Our thanks go again to Deputy Principal Mike Gilbert for his meticulous efforts in yet again navigating the Grants process. Assuming the construction goes to plan, Port's new Middle School complex will be opening its doors for the 2023 school year.

My personal thanks go to the dedicated members of the Port School Board who are incredibly generous with their time, their expertise and their support.

Together, we look forward to another exciting year at Port School in 2021.



Anne Gee
Port School Board Chair

From the Principal

Barry Finch

During the past year I have reflected on the core values of Port School. Our values are all encompassing, they are the foundation of our culture and they ensure that we keep connected to our community. They help us navigate rough seas and enable us to fulfil the School's purpose to create and uncover pathways to a meaningful life by providing experiences that enable student potential.

Diversity

Diversity relates to what makes each of us unique. It includes our backgrounds, personality, life experiences and beliefs: all the things that make us who we are. It is a combination of the differences that shape our view of the world, our perspectives and our approach. Diversity is also about recognising, respecting and valuing differences based on ethnicity, gender, age, race, religion, disability and sexual orientation.

Port's whole ethos is to offer young people who have struggled in a mainstream school setting, a safe environment. We therefore have a very diverse range of students, each with their own grounds for needing a place like Port. Everyone has their own challenges which are recognised and respected by others. Inclusion occurs when people feel, and are, valued and respected, regardless of their personal characteristic or circumstance.

"Diversity is a fact, but inclusion is a choice we make every day. As leaders, we have to put out the message that we embrace and not just tolerate diversity."

Growth

The Oxford University Press defines growth as 'the process in people, animals or plants of growing physically, mentally or emotionally.' Growth is development, which is a gradual increase in size or in stage of development.

Port's growth has allowed us to offer a greater range of opportunities for students. This promotes student development and raises the expectations of students, resulting in a higher level of engagement and achievement.

Empowerment

Empowerment has been defined as 'the act of giving somebody more control over their own life, or the situation they are in. It is the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.'

Education is one of the most important means of empowering people. It gives them the knowledge, skills and self-confidence to develop. Port School's vision is to provide a safe, nurturing and supportive environment, one in which students are empowered to lead purposeful and fulfilling lives.

Community

One of Port School's major attributes is our sense of community. This can be seen in the faces of many of our students. They now feel that they have a safe, supportive place and do not wake up with a dread of going to school. Most students at Port are very accepting of others and in many ways look after any new students.



■ The 2021 School Year

Despite a brief COVID-19 induced delay, the 2021 school year started exceptionally well with improved attendance and a greater level of class participation. Although the planned opening of our new kitchen and canteen facilities was delayed, the noise and dust came to an end early in Term 2 and students and staff were treated to a new kitchen and café-style dining area. This state-of-the-art facility enables Port to offer students a comprehensive Hospitality Certificate, incorporating front and back of house training, a Barista course and, for older students, Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training.

Although Hospitality may not be the chosen career path for many students, it is an excellent way to enter the workforce and offers financial support while pursuing a career of choice.

Port's growth over recent years has allowed the School to offer increased educational opportunities. We now have an excellent program with real potential for positive and healthy outcomes. Students are transitioning to employment and undertaking further study at TAFE and even University. We also aim to instil a strong work ethic, which will serve our students well in their future workplaces.

Some of the new developments, achievements and successes we celebrated in 2021 included:

- Improved student attendance and engagement
- Further development of Port's educational program delivering improved literacy and numeracy results across all learning groups
- Completion of the Direct Instruction teaching model roll-out to all learning groups
- Introduction of a Corrective Reading Program
- Delivery of a keynote speech by senior staff member Raf Fecondi at Curtin University's 'Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships' Symposium, showcasing Port's wrap-around model for holistic student health and wellbeing
- Introduction of 'WILDE' Outdoor Education program and student 'Shed Talk' groups
- Student engagement in the Creative Schools Program initiated by AISWA and FORM
- Multiple student workshops and forums on topics including cyber safety ('Outside the Locker Room'), 'Consent and Respect', and issues impacting our LGBTQIA community
- The opening of Port's state-of-the-art kitchen/dining and training facility
- Acquisition of the neighbouring property at 58 Wheeler Road, enabling the planned Port Middle School project to proceed.

Port's Middle School program continued to progress with positive engagement and participation leading to excellent results in both literacy and numeracy. The high attendance rates and engagement from students who had had negative experiences and had been no longer attending at their previous schools, were particularly pleasing.

The introduction of the Direct Instruction teaching method for all core subjects in the Senior School had a considerable and positive impact, although an alternative delivery is still required for some students who continue to struggle with their attendance.



Physical Education continued to be an important part of Port's program. Highlights of Team Sport were once again our Friday Night Flag competitions as well as the annual Phil Hughes Tribute Cricket Match. Box-fit classes and fitness sessions with our on-staff trainers remained popular options for many students.

The 2021 School Year

Port's Art Department focused, with great success, on cross-curricular collaboration between Visual Art and other learning areas. This was achieved through several initiatives such as the Creative Schools program 'Now I Own' combining HASS and Visual Art. It was a great honour to be one of the three Western Australian CARE Schools to be invited to take part in this creative learning program. (<https://www.creativeschools.com.au/about>).

In collaboration with the Hospitality Team, other art projects included the creation of a sculptural, edible artwork with an underwater theme (featured at the Art Exhibition) and, together with the Young Parent Centre students, the refurbishment of a stormwater tunnel in the Early Learning Centre's playground.

Port's annual fundraising Art Exhibition showcased works of students, staff and local contributing community artists. It was, once again, a huge success and raised more than \$11,000 on the night for beneficiaries, including the Klang Special School in Malaysia.



A new timetable was introduced to the Mobile Classroom Program in Term 3, allowing students to spend concentrated time with staff to further develop their literacy and numeracy skills, and to build engagement in a school setting. Some students were also engaged in Port's new Corrective Reading program which is delivering positive results and making a significant impact on the future lives of some of our most disengaged and at-risk students.



The Young Parent Centre continued to concentrate on offering flexible educational pathways and opportunities for young parents. Development and support of parenting skills, provided in a supportive, cohesive and holistic learning environment, included nurturing, health, nutrition and educational outcomes. The Centre successfully engaged with a wide range of government and community agencies to access many 'in kind' services for their young parents. These included The Earbus Foundation, Best Beginnings, Ngala Parenting, Family and Youth Support, Meerilinga Children and Community Foundation, Child Protection and Family Support, Paediatric Child Nurse Practitioner, Paediatric Dental Service, Centrelink and Oz Harvest.

Port's Early Learning Centre reached a milestone in 2021, when it welcomed its 100th young student since opening in 2015. Port believes every child should feel a strong sense of wellbeing, with children remain the centre of all that we do. This is particularly relevant when we speak of our youngest students who attend the Early Learning Centre. When a child feels safe and has a sense of belonging, they are attuned to learn and discover through relationships and play; relationships being central to learning.

The Centre's focus on sustainability continued, with the establishment of its own worm farm and composter. ELC staff have started growing various fruits and vegetables which are being used in the children's meals, and sustainable projects have been included in their weekly playgroup.

It was a year of reflection and consolidation for Port's Registered Training Organisation (RTO), with our focus remaining on General Education for Adults. To ensure consistency of delivery and assessment of this course, a dedicated teacher/trainer was allocated to the program. A review of our VET courses (Vocational Education and Training) enabled us to rationalise and reduce the number of qualifications being delivered, with a greater emphasis being given to students completing skill sets. We continued to work with auspice partners and external providers to offer a broad range of attractive and suitable courses.

COVID-19 had a major impact on Port's Transition and Pathways Program, with deferrals and cancellations of a range of external courses, Try-a-Trade events, volunteer and work experience placements. Despite the disruptions, fourteen students still attended in a Try-a-Trade and twelve were engaged in a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship. Port School hosted six school-based traineeships in Furniture Making, Hospitality, Creative Industries, Fitness and Early Childhood Education and Care.

2021 continued to be a challenging time for the Port Outreach Program, with COVID-19 having a significant impact on the engagement of our most vulnerable and disengaged students. Our dedicated and tireless Outreach team worked with a total of 27 students throughout the year.

Each of these students received a tailor-made program offering support academically, socially and emotionally to re-engage in their education.

Academic progress was made by many, and some real positive outcomes were seen with several school-based traineeships and work experience placements.

Port's Student Support Services continued to expand their wrap-around support, securing further services through enhanced relationships with multiple government and non-government agencies. These included, among others, DAYS, The Earbus Foundation, YCATT, YSHACK, NGATTI, Centrelink, Child Protection and Family Support, SSEN, CAMHS, Headspace, Juvenile Justice, Police and other law enforcement departments.

The new 'Shed Talk' group was introduced, aimed to provide a sense of belonging to our young male students through open expression of thoughts and feelings and the encouragement of healthy relationships.

On reflection, I think we can safely say that 2021 has once again been a very busy year. Despite the threat of a COVID-19 outbreak being constantly on our minds, our community has stayed safe, rallied, developed, grown and achieved some excellent outcomes.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all students, their families and their carers for the trust they put in Port School. I also extend my gratitude to the School's Governing Board, for their ongoing support and guidance. A final thanks goes to the exceptional team of highly committed and dedicated individuals with whom I have the honour to work alongside every day.

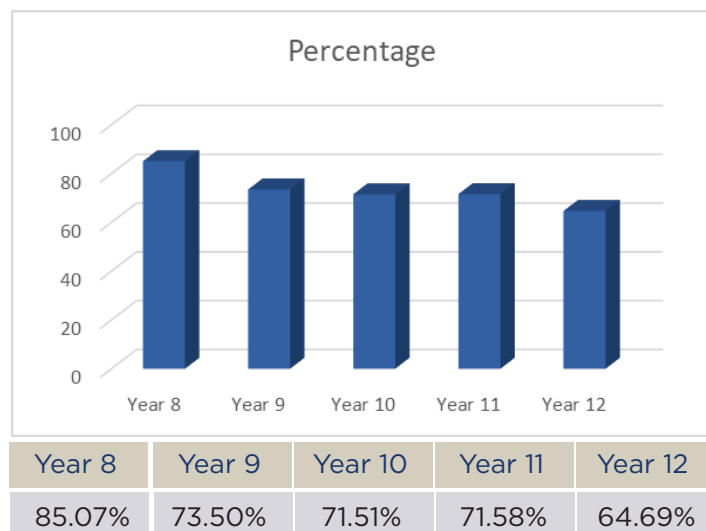
I often think of the African proverb 'It takes a village to raise a child' and just how well Port reflects this. Port School is an amazing community, and I am immensely proud and grateful to be a part of it.

Barry Finch

Principal

Student Information

● Attendance



The average attendance rates for each year cohort.

Port School has a non-attendance management system. If a student is recorded as being absent without a justifiable notification, an SMS is sent to the parent/carer by the school administration team. If the student continues to be absent, the parent/carer is contacted by phone. Regular attendance still poses a great challenge for students, some of whom may not have attended school for an extended period before enrolling at Port. Attendance remains a priority, with a targeted approach to parents and carers through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process. Students who continue to struggle to engage on campus, may be referred to the Outreach Program.

● Academic and Vocational Achievements

Port School offers Certificates in General Education for Adults plus a range of vocational certificate courses. These nationally recognised qualifications provide an excellent transition into tertiary study, apprenticeships or traineeships and the workforce. The following Certificates were awarded to Port School students in 2021.

	Year 11	Year 12
Certificate II in General Education for Adults	4	18
Certificate III in General Education for Adults		1
Certificate II in Visual Arts		2
Certificate II in Creative Industries		1
Certificate II in Community Services		2
Certificate II in Furniture Making	2	
Certificate II Automotive Vocational Preparation	1	
Certificate II in Engineering	1	
Certificate II in Cleaning		1
Certificate II in Business		1
Certificate III in Business Administration		1
Certificate III in Health Services Assistance	1	
Certificate III in Pathology Collection	1	

Student Information

Scholarship & Awards

Port School presents annual scholarships for outstanding performance in a variety of areas throughout the School. The following students were recognised for their commitment and achievement in 2021.

Numeracy Scholarship
Literacy Scholarship
Health and HASS Scholarship
Excellence in Art Scholarship
Physical Education Scholarship
Striving for Excellence Scholarship

Brendan-Jay Evenis and Blake Joshua
Mitchell Hoskin-Hantler
Jemma Roser and Alekzander Payne
Chelsea Arnold
Zak Addison
Tuhleesha Walley

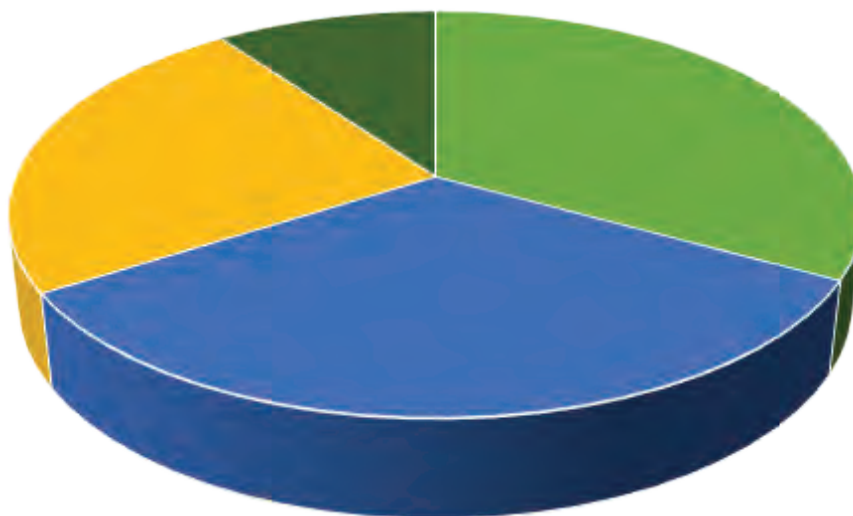


Destinations

Port aims to support students transitioning to the workforce or to further education or training. Tracking student destinations accurately proves challenging as the parameters frequently change. Year 13 is an option for some students who may not be quite ready to transition out of school and into the workforce.

Students in the Year 13 program are expected to contribute to the community and take on a leadership role whilst completing an agreed vocational course. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) and transition plan is implemented to ensure their readiness to transition into employment or further study.

Student Destinations



Job Seekers 33%

Employed 33%

Further Study(TAFE & University) 24%

Apprenticeship or Traineeship 10%

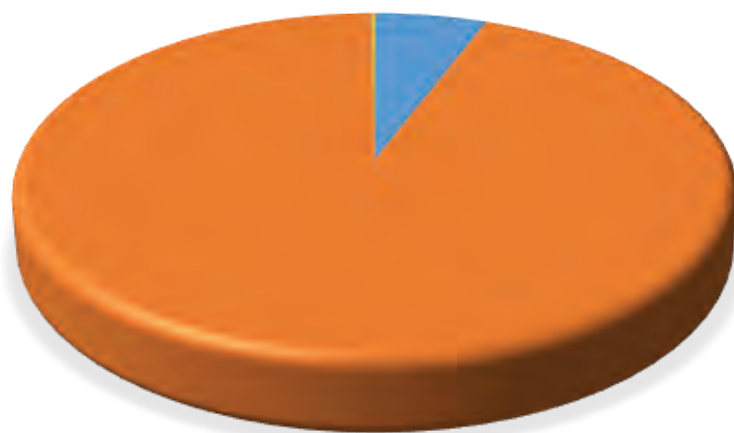
Workforce Composition

Male staff	22	Administration/Operations	14	Total Workforce	56
Female Staff	34	Full-time	35	2 staff members identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders	
Teaching staff	14	Part-time	16		
Student Support	28	Casual	5		

All teaching staff employed by Port School hold the appropriate qualifications and are registered and approved by the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia (TRBWA). Trainers delivering vocational Certificate courses hold the relevant qualification, a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAE) and have extensive industry experience.

Mr. Phil Brooks	BA Visual Art & Crafts, Grad Dip Ed, Master of Design, Cert IV TAE
Mr. Joshua Brun	BSc Sports & Exercise, Grad Dip Ed, Cert IV TAE, Cert IV Fitness
Ms. Joy Cromwell	BEd Secondary, BA English, Cert IV TAE
Ms. Sarah Dawkins	BA Media Studies, Grad Dip Ed
Ms. Raffaella Fecondi	BA Theology & Philosophy, MA Oxon, Grad Cert Ed, Cert IV TAE
Ms. Dionne Garvey	BEd Secondary, Cert IV TAE
Ms. Jane Hawdon	BA Anthropology & Linguistics, Grad Dip Ed, Cert IV TAE
Mr. John Hill	BA Philosophy & History, BA Philosophy of Aesthetics (Hons), Grad Dip Ed
Mr. Matt Hopkins	BEd Primary, Cert IV Hospitality, Cert IV TAE
Mr. Joshua McMillan	Diploma of Arts (Art & Design), BA Visual Art, Grad Dip Ed
Ms. Kathleen Murray	BEd Early Childhood Education
Mr. Aidan Rowden	BEd Primary, Cert IV Fitness, Cert IV TAE
Ms. Casey Vinci	BA English, Grad Dip Ed
Ms. Eileen Vlahovich	BA Psychology, Master of Teaching Primary, Cert IV TAE

School Funding



- Tuition fees & Other Incomes **5.85%**
- Government Grants **93.88%**
- Scholarship Fund **0.08%**
- Overseas Excursions **0.18%**



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