



CARINITY EDUCATION
Southside
Accept. Aspire. Achieve.

Annual Report

Based on 2025 Data

2026

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

School Sector:

Independent

School's Address:

153 Lister Street, Sunnybank 4109 Brisbane, Queensland

Total Enrolments:

120

Year Levels Offered:

Years 7 to 12

Co-educational or single sex:

Biologically female students only

Characteristics of the Student Body:

Carinity Education Southside is a Special Assistance School dedicated to supporting female students in Grades 7 to 12 who have disengaged or are at risk of disengaging from mainstream education. We receive referrals from government departments, community organisations, and schools, welcoming students who have faced significant adversity that has impacted their ability to thrive in traditional school settings.

At Carinity Education Southside, we specialise in providing a nurturing, trauma-informed environment for students from backgrounds of disadvantage, trauma and abuse. Our flexible and supportive learning approach empowers students to overcome the barriers that have previously hindered their education.

Approximately 30% of our students are First Nations Australians, alongside a diverse mix of cultural backgrounds. We celebrate and embrace this diversity, fostering an inclusive and welcoming community for all. Additionally, a small number of our students are young mothers, who have the opportunity to complete their education while their children attend the onsite Search Light Early Learning Centre. We also prioritise enrolments for students in out-of-home care, ensuring they have access to the stability and support they need to succeed.



Distinctive Curriculum Offerings:

Many of our students arrive at school carrying the weight of challenges from their lives outside the classroom. Without the right support to help them navigate these difficulties and build resilience, meaningful engagement in learning becomes a significant challenge.

At Carinity Education Southside, we are guided by the Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Model, which helps us explicitly and implicitly teach emotional literacy, self regulation and resilience-building strategies. Our trauma-aware approach focuses on fostering strong relationships and co-regulating with students, leading to positive change in both behaviours and academic outcomes.

Our dedicated student support team plays a crucial role in this process. With specialists including a Youth Therapeutic/Wellness Lead, an Indigenous Youth and Family Support Worker, an Attendance Officer, a Transition Teacher and a Chaplain, we provide intensive, individualised support to meet the diverse need of our students. Additionally, we have established strong partnerships with key agencies to further enhance the wraparound care we offer. These agencies include:

- Gateway Counselling
- Gateway Care Centre
- Inala Indigenous Health
- YHARS
- Centrelink
- ADAWS (Adolescent drug and alcohol withdrawal service)
- ATODS (Alcohol and other drugs service)
- Headspace
- CYMHs
- Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services, and Child Safety
- Department of Youth Justice
- YFS
- Domestic Violence Resource Centre
- Inala Elders and other Indigenous Elders
- Search Light Inc
- Immunization Outreach Team
- Inala Youth Service
- Indigenous Youth Service
- Bridges Reconnect
- Gallang Place Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation
- Kummara Association Inc

Transition Program

Recognising that many students struggle to engage with the school community, leading to a high dropout rate, we have implemented a Transition Program. This program offers a gentler introduction to school life, free from the immediate pressures of classroom assessments. Instead, students familiarise themselves with school opportunities, engage in foundational literacy and numeracy assessments, and gradually build their confidence. The transition period ranges from a few days to six weeks, or longer if needed, ensuring each student is set up for success.



Service Education

In 2025, our Service Education Program took place every Friday, providing Year 10, 11, and 12 students with the opportunity to volunteer with various charities and organizations, including the Springwood Community Gardens, Books4PNG and Carinity Wishart Gardens Aged Care. This program fosters a strong sense of community engagement, allowing students to experience the value of giving back while developing essential life skills. Additionally, volunteer hours completed through this program contribute to the Certificate II in Volunteering.

Early Learning Centre, Parenting Program, and Support

Southside has a strong partnership with Search Light Inc., which provides an Early Learning Centre (ELC) and a parenting program for young mothers enrolled at the school. The ELC offers culturally and age-appropriate education and care, ensuring a positive start for each child. In addition to early learning, the ELC provides nutritious meals daily, as well as access to nappies, formula and other essential support.

Each week the ELC hosts a parenting program where young mothers can connect with one another, share experiences, and receive guidance from guest speakers and facilitators. These sessions provide valuable information and strategies to support their well-being both as students and parents. Topics covered include:

- Nutrition for mothers and babies
- Reproductive and sexual health
- Domestic violence awareness
- Reading and music for children
- Relaxation techniques
- Mental health and depression support
- Child behaviour development strategies
- Health and age-appropriate transitions
- Water safety and swimming lessons
- Immunisations and child development support from a clinic nurse
- Basic first aid for mothers

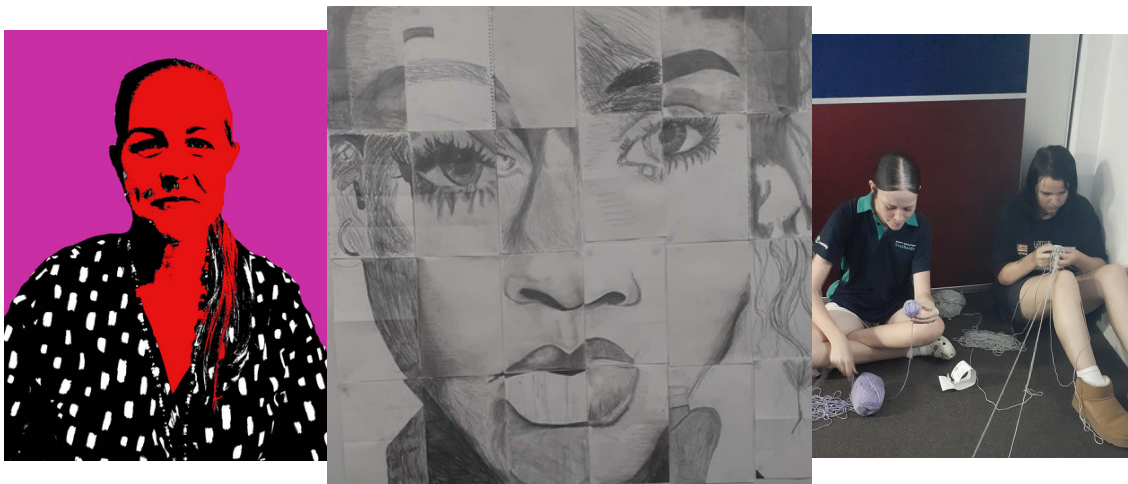
VET Opportunities

At Southside, we prioritise real-world preparation and workforce readiness. In Year 10, students begin their first certificate course, *Certificate II in Workplace Practices*, which equips them with foundational skills for further study and employment. Through ongoing career sessions, students explore career pathways, develop job-readiness skills, and gain confidence in workplace expectations and interview techniques.

As students progress through Years 11 and 12 they have access to external courses, traineeships, and part-time employment opportunities. To ensure their success, our Curriculum and VET Coordinator, along with Youth Workers, maintain close contact with trainers and employers, providing ongoing support to help students navigate challenges, learn from mistakes and achieve their goals.

In Senior School, students can also complete a variety of VET qualifications on campus including:

- *Certificate I & II in Hospitality*
- *Certificate II in Visual Arts*
- *Certificate II in Workplace Skills*
- *Certificate II in Volunteering*



RAW (Real Active Women)

RAW is held every Wednesday afternoon, offering students the chance to participate in a diverse range of recreational activities that promote physical, emotional and social well-being. Designed to support whole-body wellness, the program encourages students to try new experiences, build confidence, and develop healthy habits.

Activities in 2025 included:

- Swimming
- Creative Circle
- Gym Sessions
- Dance
- Ten-pin Bowling
- Basketball
- Healthy cooking

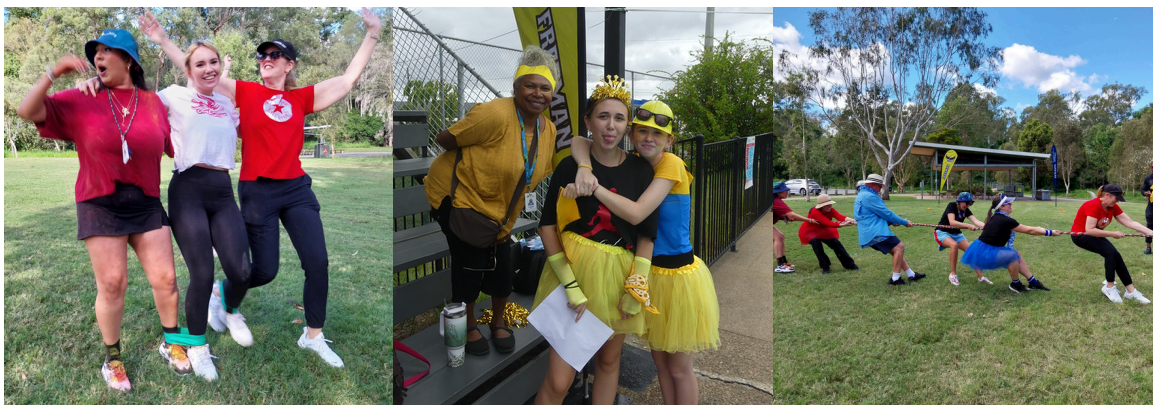
Extra-curricular Activities:

School events & Community Participation

During the year Southside holds a number of events that students, families and the community are encouraged to take part in. These days provide an opportunity for students to showcase their skills and to strengthen connections with their families and broader community.

Events in 2025 included:

- Restaurant Day
- Swimming Carnival
- Colour Run (Cross Country)
- Harmony Day Celebration
- Athletics Carnival
- Awards Day & Christmas Party



Cultural Participation

In 2025 we were again able to engage with Community and attend events such as NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week. It is always wonderful to be back in Community, renewing relationships with Elders, Aunties and Uncles.

Holiday Program

Southside runs a holiday program throughout each of the school holidays. The program enables students to remained engaged with the school staff and to take part in social and recreational activities which provide opportunities for life-skill development. The program also helps engage new students' transition into school in a relaxed environment. Activities have included:

- Cooking
- Beach Days
- Sport
- Family Feud Quiz Days
- Movies
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Tie-dying
- Christmas crafts

WORKFORCE INFORMATION

Staff Composition, Including Indigenous Staff:

In 2025 we employed:

- A full-time Principal
- 6 full-time classroom teachers, 6 part-time teachers
- 2 full-time Youth Workers, and 5 part-time Youth Workers
- A full-time Deputy Principal- Student Support
- A full-time Student Wellbeing Coordinator, 1 part time Indigenous Support Officer, 1 Attendance and Inclusion Officer
- A full-time Chaplain
- A full-time VET and Curriculum coordinator
- A full-time Business Manager and 4 part-time administration officers
- A full-time IT Coordinator
- 2 part time kitchen hands
- 1 part time Grounds/Maintenance Officer

Staff that identify as First Nation Australians include one teacher, one Indigenous Support Officer and one Youth Worker.

Qualifications of all Teachers:

Qualification	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school who hold this qualification
Doctorate or higher	0
Masters	4
Bachelor's Degree	13
Diploma	4
Certificate	8

Contact Person for Further Information:

The Principal

School Income Broken Down by Funding Source:

For details of school funding, visit the My School website:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/47959/finances>

SOCIAL CLIMATE

A Culture of Growth & Development

At Carinity Education Southside, we are passionate about fostering a culture of growth and development for all young people. Grounded in a strong commitment to social justice, we provide opportunities for students to connect with a range of services, experiences, and learning pathways that empower them to create positive change in their lives.

We recognise that antisocial behaviours often stem from negative experiences that have shaped brain development and impacted a young person's ability to engage and make positive choices. Our school's philosophy of *Unconditional Positive Regard* is the foundation of our learning environment, informing the structure and strategies we use to support our students.

By addressing each student's unique needs and capacities, we guide them through developmental steps that build resilience, increase engagement, and promote positive brain development. Small cohort sizes and dedicated youth workers create a supportive learning environment where students feel valued and encouraged to participate fully in school life.

We strive to cultivate a strong sense of community where every student feels heard and empowered. Students are encouraged to engage in all activities and express their perspectives on issues of injustice, whether within the school or the wider community. When behavioural or bullying concerns arise, we employ restorative justice practices to resolve conflicts. Bullying is not tolerated, and students involved in such behaviours are required to participate in mediation with staff and affected peers. This process helps them develop an understanding of the impact of their actions and work toward a peaceful resolution. Consequences are determined on an individual basis, considering each student's circumstances and needs.



Student Support Team

The Southside Student Support Team was established to provide specialised, intensive support for students whose needs extend beyond those typically found in a special assistance school setting. Through a collaborative, wraparound approach, the team ensures that each student receives the targeted interventions and resources necessary to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Parent, Teacher and Student Satisfaction with the School:

Satisfaction Data

At Carinity Education Southside, we regularly seek feedback from our school community to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students and their families. Parent/carer and student surveys are conducted twice a year, in May and August, during **Parent/Carer Days**.

Parent/Carer Feedback

The majority of parents and carers reported significant improvements in their child's:

- Well-being
- Communication skills
- Literacy and numeracy development
- Relationships with teachers
- Behavioural choices
- Engagement and attendance

Additionally:

- **100%** of parents and carers expressed high satisfaction with staff communication.
- **100%** of parents and carers rated their overall satisfaction with the school program as positive

Staff Feedback

Majority of staff shared that:

- The school provides a welcoming, safe and supportive environment for staff and students
- The school is effective at building a strong community culture
- Staff sentiment towards their job, the workforce and the culture is highly positive.

Student Feedback

Majority of students shared that :

- This school provides a better experience than their previous educational settings.
- They feel safe to learn in this environment.
- They receive more learning support at Southside than they have before.

Parental Involvement:

Family and community engagement

At Carinity Education Southside, we strongly value the involvement of the parents, carers, and families in our school community. We encourage them to participate in school events, and celebration days, fostering a sense of connection and shared support for our students.

Each year, we host **Parent/Carer Days** in May and August- an opportunity to celebrate student achievements and strengthen relationships between families and the school. On these days, parents, carers, and other significant adults are invited to meet with teachers and youth workers to discuss students' progress, strengths, and overall well-being. To create a welcoming and relaxed environment, we provide food, tea and coffee, allowing families to engage informally with staff and one another.

Some of our students are under the care and protection of the Department of Child Safety. Our staff work closely with the department, ensuring they are kept informed about school activities and student progress.

To maintain strong communication with families and our wider community, our students and staff collaborate to publish a **school newsletter** each term. This newsletter provides updates on school activities, events and achievements, keeping parents, carers, and community members informed and engaged.



KEY STUDENT OUTCOMES:

Average student attendance rate % for the whole school:

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2025 was 62%

Average student attendance rate for each year level:

Year Levels	Average attendance rate for each year level as a percentage in 2025
Year 7	42%
Year 8	76%
Year 9	66%
Year 10	55%
Year 11	61%
Year 12	68%

Student Engagement and Attendance Support

While attendance data provides valuable insights, it does not fully capture the extent of student engagement at Carinity Education Southside. Many students facing severe anxiety or disengagement receive **at-home visits** from our Support Team, along with **work-from-home packs** to ensure they can continue their education that meets their individual needs.



Attendance monitoring and Support

- Student attendance is closely monitored by Year Level Youth Workers, the Student Support Team, and School Management. If a student is absent without prior notification, our team promptly contacts the student or their parent/carer to check in and offer support.
- For students with frequent absences, a structured intervention process is in place: Meeting with the Student Support Team - Identifying underlying causes and assessing what support can be provided to help improve attendance.
- Developing an Attendance Plan - Creating tailored strategies to encourage regular attendance.
- Ongoing Contact - Youth workers maintain regular communication with absent students, ensuring they stay connected and engaged with their learning through at-home study options.

Attendance Reward Program

To encourage and celebrate positive attendance, we have an **Attendance Reward Program**, where students with over **80% attendance** are eligible for group rewards. These incentives include:

- Special lunches
- Movie afternoons
- Offsite excursions

This program fosters motivation, recognises student effort and reinforces the importance of consistent school attendance.

NAPLAN results for Years 7 and 9 in 2025:

Benchmark Data for Year

In 2025, only a small number of students sat NAPLAN tests across Years 7 and 9. Therefore, to protect the privacy of those students, NAPLAN data will not be included in this report.



Year 12 Outcomes:

Outcomes for our Year 12 Cohort 2025	
Number of students awarded a Senior Education Profile	16
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement	0
Number of students who received an ATAR	0
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)	0
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications	16
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12	13
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD)	0
Percentage of Year 12 students who received an ATAR above 90	0
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT who were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD or VET qualification	100%
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer	no applications

Post-School Destination Information:

Next Step 2026 Post-School Destinations

Carinity Education - Southside(Sunnybank)

This is a summary of the post-school destinations of students from Carinity Education - Southside (Sunnybank) who completed Year 12 and gained a Senior Statement in 2025. The results are from the **Year 12 Completers Survey**, which is conducted approximately six months after students completed Year 12.



For more information about the survey visit the **Next Step** website www.qld.gov.au/nextstep. Regional and statewide reports will be available from October 2026.



31.3% response rate

5 out of 16 Year 12 completers from this school responded to the 2026 survey.

Due to the very low response rate, care should be taken when interpreting these results.

Post-school destinations



In 2026, three Year 12 completers from Carinity Education - Southside (Sunnybank) were engaged in education, training or employment in the year after they completed school.



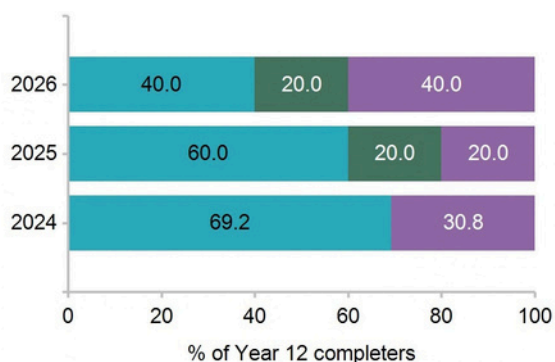
Of the five respondents, two continued in education and training, with both studying a VET certificate.



A further one respondent transitioned directly into paid employment only.

All Year 12 completers were assigned to a **main destination**. Respondents who were both studying and working are reported as being in education or training, including apprentices and trainees.

Engagement over time



Main Destination in 2026

