EAL/D Program

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Parent Information

Sunshine Coast Intensive English Unit, Nambour SC
The Intensive English Experience
Secondary -

**The Program**

- Students are assessed and a program is devised to meet their individual needs.
- Programs are based around topics needed to live and study in Australia.
- Teacher aides and volunteers assist the EAL teacher in small group work which ensures students at all levels of English development are given opportunities to learn at their pace.
- While most of their daily program involves learning to listen, speak, read and write in English, students attend one or two mainstream subjects and as their English improves they are able to engage in more.
- A variety of ICT and multi-media are used to support students’ learning.

**Excursions**

Trips and visits by special guests support key curriculum areas such as the environment, Australian history and the local area. Visits to Dakabin IEU are important for students to understand they are not the only ones experiencing re-settlement issues.

**EAL Camp**

Combining with students from the Gympie area students learn about Australia, team building, canoeing, fishing and making friends at the same time as learning English.

**Program**

- Students enrol at Nambour State College – full time
- Transport subsidy is available- free bus and rail travel for 12 months
The Intensive English Experience
Primary years 4 – 6
Students enrol in school nearest home or Nambour State College. Program operates 3 days a week

The Program

- Students are assessed and a program is devised to meet their individual needs.
- Programs are based around topics needed to live and study in Australia, including Maths, Science, History and Geography.
- Teacher aides and volunteers assist in small group work which ensures students at all levels of English development are given opportunities to learn at their pace.
- While students spend 3 days learning to listen, speak, read and write in English, they have the opportunity to mix with their Australian peers for 2 days a week.
- A variety of ICT and multi-media are used to support students’ learning.

Flexible arrangements are made as necessary.

Transport subsidy is available - free bus and rail travel for 12 months

Excursions

Trips and visits by special guests support key curriculum areas such as the environment, Australian history and the local area.
Projects with Nambour Community Centre
Getting Out There – local sporting organisations come to school to introduce students to different sports
Come and Try – provides an opportunity to try a variety of sports
Multicultural Art Display – providing an outlet for artistic talent and recognition of cultural background
MIELC website - Specifically designed for ease of navigation to a wealth of resources for EAL families

Brita Futures
Staff run a resilience building course

Support for the Whole Student
Resettling in a new country can be very traumatic, especially for adolescents. The Unit assists students in their individual educational, social and emotional wellbeing.

Career Support
EAL staff assist families to understand our system of Education and career pathways. They can guide students’ subject choices according to aspirations and language ability.

Pastoral Care
Staff build empathetic rapport with students, enabling students to confide their issues using interpreters where necessary. They act as facilitators for families to access services within and outside school.

Cultural Appreciation
The Unit leads school celebrations on Harmony Day and facilitates students’ involvement with FESTURI, a multicultural celebration.
It can take many years to acquire the academic English required for successful learning in the classroom. Secondary students have a limited time to acquire the language skills needed to reach their potential.

The Intensive English Unit at Nambour State College also caters for those students who have gained some competency in English but are not yet able to achieve their full potential in mainstream classes. EAL teachers work collaboratively with mainstream teachers. As well, EAL trained teacher aides can assist in classrooms or with individual students.

**Ongoing Support - Secondary**

**Variable Progressive Rate (VPR)**
Secondary students may study fewer subjects to access time for EAL support. Some students elect to complete their **senior secondary studies over 3 years** (VPR), allowing them more time to develop their English language skills and to give better preparation for tertiary study. The Unit is able to offer EAL support in the additional time in students’ timetables.

**Flexible Learning Days**
EAL teachers are available on the senior students’ flexible learning days to assist students with on their assignment tasks. There is an expectation that students in the Intensive Class attend each week on their flexible learning day.

**Language Across the Curriculum**
EAL teachers have a variety of mainstream backgrounds including Maths and Science and are able to support students in all their subjects.
This program is available to EAL students under 10 years of age, or primary students who have chosen to attend their local school, after a period of time in the Intensive English Class.

Please note that there are limited outreach services to EAL students who could attend an Intensive Class or Cluster Program. It is vital that secondary EAL students requiring significant support be directed to Nambour.

EAL teachers visit the school and work with students in co-operation with other school personnel. EAL trained teacher aides may also assist. Usually, EAL support is provided two times per week, two visits from the EAL teacher or a combination of support from EAL teacher and EAL teacher aide. This support may be provided in blocks of time, such as support provided for one term with no support provided in the following term.

EAL teachers collaborate with mainstream teachers to provide relevant and appropriate support, providing detailed EAL Bandscales reports each semester. EAL teachers provide pedagogical advice and resources to mainstream teachers as required.

EAL teachers may assist in the placement of students and home school liaison. EAL teachers may also assist schools to address the recognition and understanding of the language and cultural diversity in the school community.
An **online course for EAL beginners** has been developed in the region for students in Years 4 to 10 to cater for those who are unable to access Intensive classes or require additional support in the early stages of learning English. Students have a live lesson each week with follow up engaging on line activities that allow students to practice their speaking, listening, reading and writing. Teacher Aides may be used to assist learners with their online course.

This course won a Regional Showcase Award in 2014 and is being used in a number of schools across the state.

To assist family in their re-settlement process a web site especially geared to EAL families has also been developed by the North Coast Regional EAL Program

MIELC (Multicultural Intensive English Learning Community) is a joint project between the Nambour Community Centre and the North Coast EAL/D Program. It is a website designed specifically for EAL/D students and their families living in our region. The MIELC provides:

- Links to English language learning resources for EAL/D students from pre-prep to Year 12
- Links for parents and carers of EAL/D students to information available on the Education Queensland website
- Links to provide opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds living within the North Coast region to connect with services provided in their local communities, as well as local council, state and federal government services.

Specifically designed for ease of navigation to a wealth of resources, MIELC connects students, parents and carers, and communities.

www.mielc.org