

# 2024



## INSIDE THE REPORT

All about Aspect	
Aspect's approach	
Message from the principal	5
Message from the Parents & Friends (P&F)	6
The Student Representative Council (SRC)	7
Student outcomes	8
Staffing	9
Student attendance	10
School policies	11
Parent, student and teacher satisfaction	12
Financial information	13

# All about Aspect

---

## Our vision

The best opportunities for people on the autism spectrum.

## Our values

We are passionate about people, about being positive, and about what's possible.

## Our mission

We work with people of all ages on the autism spectrum, delivering evidence-informed solutions that are person-centred, family focused and customer driven.

## Our work

We focus on the strengths and interests of people on the autism spectrum

We work in partnership with people on the spectrum, their families and their communities

We work to understand people on the spectrum from their perspective

Our approach is autism-specific

Our research focuses on best practice

We expect positive change and progress

Together we can achieve positive outcomes.

Our purpose  
**a different  
brilliant®**

Understanding,  
engaging and celebrating  
the strengths, interests  
and aspirations of people  
on the autism spectrum.





# Aspect's approach to supporting students on the autism spectrum

Drawing on more than 55 years of expertise, Aspect schools deliver specialised, evidence-informed programs designed for children on the autism spectrum. We take a person-centred approach, learning how each student experiences the world and using their strengths, interests and aspirations to shape tailored supports.

Our practices are guided by the latest evidence, informed by input from the student and their support network, and are continually refined to meet each student's unique needs.

# Message from the Principal

---

In presenting the 2024 Annual Report, I would like to acknowledge the Dharawal people, who are the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our school is located.

Aspect Macarthur School is a K-10 school with a main Campus at Cobbitty and satellite campuses at;

- St. John the Evangelist Catholic Primary School, Campbelltown (Kindergarten – Year 6)
- St. Christopher's Primary School, Holsworthy (Kindergarten – Year 6)
- Clancy Catholic College, West Hoxton (Year 7-10)
- Sarah Redfern Public School, Minto (Kindergarten – year 6)
- Briar Road Public School in Airds, Campbelltown (Kindergarten – year 6)
- Coffs Harbour Campus (Kindergarten – year 6)

The main campus site at Cobbitty caters to 53 students. The composition of each class is based on learning levels, age, social and emotional development and self-regulation skills. Classes tend to be stage-based rather than age-based to best meet the individual needs of each student.

The satellite sites in Sydney serve 76 primary students and 21 high school students. There are 18 primary students who attend our Coffs Harbour campus.

The satellite campuses provide an important transition and integration service for our families. Students at satellite have an autism-specific educational experience within their Aspect classroom, while also participating in a range of activities alongside host school peers. Our aim is to support students to build their social, communication, self-regulation and educational skills so they can transition into a less specific setting be that a mainstream environment, or other support class.

We believe every child can achieve given the right support, environment and time. With this belief, we place a high value on literacy and numeracy as the building blocks for learning across the curriculum and for preparing students for life after school.

Each student has an Individual Plan (IP) which uses the Aspect 5 Point Star, to focus on individual likes, preferences and strengths. Our focus in 2024 has been on supported reading development, student wellbeing and a Positive Behaviour Support program, with each student's IP reflecting these emphases.

In 2024, teachers explored new technologies and communication tools for our students, using a variety of programs and strategies across all key learning areas (KLAs). Our focus was on improving students'

communication capabilities, which are foundational to developing their learning capacity.

This year we have continued our journey in implementing Dr Lynn Sharratt's "14 Parameters Model of School Improvement". This model focuses on improving student learning using a data-driven approach. The model has been enthusiastically embraced by the school's staff over the last two years. Initiatives have included:

- Regular "Case Management" meetings which take a collaborative approach to examining student work samples with staff workshoping strategies to improve student performance
- Assessment data collection to build a data wall focused on student performance and progress.

These case management meetings and data walls have been a foundational part of our School Improvement Plan which also included a focus on:

- Embedding Learning Intentions and Success Criteria to help students understand what, why and how they are learning.
- Increased use of engaging instructional strategies.
- Building student communication skills. 80% of students demonstrated growth over the year.
- Heightened focus on autism specific teaching strategies through staff mentoring by Leaders.

We count it a privilege to be a part of each students' educational journey. All our staff are committed to building strong relationships with families and I congratulate them for their ongoing hard work in providing high quality education and care for our very special, different brilliant @ students.



**Geoff Fouracre**  
**Principal**

## Message from the Parents & Friends (P&F)

---

In 2024, a small and very dedicated group of parents ran the Aspect Macarthur School Parents & Friends Association (P&F). The P&F ran several successful events, including a Mother's Day stall, Father's Day stall and breakfast, Christmas Concert and BBQ, Scholastic Book Club, Easter raffle and hot cross bun drive, and chocolate drives.

Whilst the number of parents who attended the P&F meetings and ran the events was small, the contribution made by them to the life and health of the school was enormous; not only in terms of organising and running safe and welcoming family events but also in terms of the many thousands of dollars they raised for the school.

We thank the Aspect Macarthur School P&F for the invaluable contribution they made to building and sustaining a healthy and vibrant school community in 2023. Unfortunately, having such a small number of parents conducting the affairs of the P&F was not sustainable, and a decision was made towards the end of 2024 to put the P&F Association into recess for a 12-month period, in the hope that we can build momentum towards a more robust and sustainable P&F Association in 2026.

In 2025, the school will continue to host a range of activities designed to engage our families in the life of the school.

## The Student Representative Council (SRC)

---

In 2024, Aspect Macarthur School continued to run a Student Representative Council (SRC), with representatives from main campus and satellite classes participating. The SRC held regular forum meetings to discuss how they can have a positive influence within our school.

From its humble beginnings in 2023, the SRC was able to set a positive foundation for an increased role in the future to include greater participation in decision-making and school events, such as playground equipment, lunchtime competitions, Grandparent's Day and School Assemblies.

## Student outcomes and results

---

Each student has an Individual Plan (IP) that outlines their strengths and interests, as well as information about how to provide effective support. This IP is developed collaboratively between each student's teacher and their parents.

The IP profile includes areas for development, particularly related to autism-specific areas of learning: social communication, social interaction, and sensory processing, which are integrated into the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) curriculum - the Key Learning Areas (KLAs). The school has a multi-disciplinary team approach, which sees teachers, support staff and therapists working collaboratively with families to develop the best possible outcomes for the students.

In 2024 our school developed a Student Wellbeing Framework, to assess and record student capacity across a range of seven domains, as listed below;

- Social skills, relationships and connections
- Emotional regulation and behaviour responses
- Student voice and personal agency
- Personal health, hygiene and awareness
- Physical activity, coordination and fitness
- Learning engagement and independence in learning
- Personal boundaries and safeguarding

By collecting student data across each of these areas the school was able to pinpoint individual areas for development as well as using the aggregated data to identify areas of strength and improvement. Teachers also used the data in formulating Individual Plans and in student progress meetings with parents.

## Literacy and numeracy assessments

For NAPLAN results, please refer to My School website [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

The school administers assessments each year to help inform practice and monitor students' literacy and numeracy progress. This includes some standardised testing as well as more tailored assessments.

In 2024, we continued our strategic focus using the ACARA Learning Progressions on:

- the "Interacting Domain", as a child's communication skills are the foundation for literacy skills.
- "Understanding Texts Domain" because of its importance to literacy and navigating the world.

Data for the **Interactions Domain** for the period of April 2024 to November 2024 showed that;

- 65% of all students demonstrated growth of **more than one** Learning Progression band.
- 31% of all students demonstrated growth **within one** Learning Progression band.
- 4% of students of all students demonstrated **no growth** over the data collection period.

Data for the **Understanding Texts Domain** for the period of April 2024 to November 2024 showed that:

- 59% of all students demonstrated growth of **more than one** Learning Progression band.
- 39% of all students demonstrated growth **within one** Learning Progression band.
- 2% of students of all students demonstrated **no growth** over the data collection period.

In term 4 2024, we added the Roadmap of Communication Competence (ROCC) Assessment to our suite of communications data. The ROCC data will be triangulated with ACARA data and teacher observations to better understand, plan for and support the communication and literacy and numeracy needs of our students.

## Record of School Achievement

In 2024, the school had three students awarded a Record of School Achievement.

## Post school destination

Aspect Macarthur School is registered for K-10 students only and therefore the reporting of post school destinations and outcomes is not applicable.



# Staffing

---

## Teacher accreditation

Level of accreditation	No. of teachers
Conditional	6
Provisional	3
Proficient Teacher	24
Highly Accomplished Teacher (voluntary accreditation)	0
Lead Teacher (voluntary accreditation)	0
Total number of teachers	33

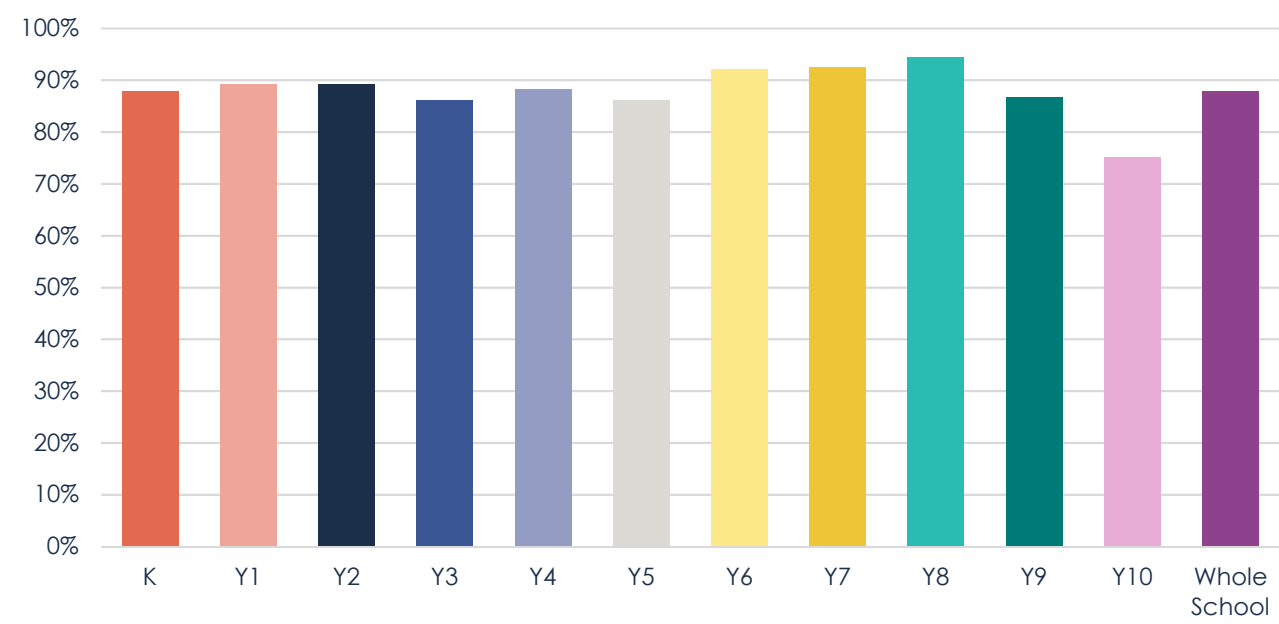
## Workforce composition

Composition of Aspect Macarthur School staff is documented on the My School website [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

At our school we welcome staff and students from all backgrounds and religions. Aspect Macarthur School welcomes Autistic and neuro-diverse staff who's lived experience helps to support our students. We strongly encourage applications from Autistic teachers and other staff.

Three of our staff members have identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. We strongly encourage applications from First Nations teachers and other staff.

# Student attendance



## Student attendance rates

Kinder	88%	Year 6	92%
Year 1	89%	Year 7	93%
Year 2	89%	Year 8	95%
Year 3	86%	Year 9	87%
Year 4	88%	Year 10	75%
Year 5	86%	Whole school	88%

In 2024, 88% of students attended school each school day on average. This was a 4% increase compared to the daily attendance in 2023.

## Management of non-attendance

Aspect has a student attendance procedure which all schools follow.

Teachers maintain close working and communication relationships with each family. All unexplained absences are followed up each day by the school administration team using a variety of methods including SMS messages, email and phone calls. If a student is absent for more than three days without explanation this will be referred to the Principal who will continue to monitor absences and will initiate appropriate action to check on the welfare of the student and family, which may include notifying relevant authorities.

Repeated unexplained absence or absence of concern may need to be reported to Family and Community Services.

Where unsatisfactory attendance is identified, a student attendance improvement plan is formulated in collaboration with the student and their parent/guardian. The plan is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

## School policies

---

The following school policies and procedures are publicly available on the [website](#):

- Suggestions, compliments and complaints
- External whistleblowing
- Enrolment
- Child protection and safeguarding
- Discipline & Positive Behaviour Support
- Anti-bullying

# Parent, student and teacher satisfaction

One of our main measures of stakeholder satisfaction is the results of our bi-annual *Perspectives: Your School in Focus* survey. In 2024, a total of 98 stakeholders, including teachers, teacher aides, support staff, parents, students, and school leaders, participated in the survey. The results provided valuable insights into our school's strengths and areas for future growth.

The survey is scored out of 6 with a score of more than 4 indicating that responders agreed or strongly agreed.

## Vision, Mission and Values

There is a clearly shared understanding of our school's vision, mission, and values across parents and staff. The satisfaction score has improved since the survey started in 2020 with an average of 4.90 in 2024, showing alignment and commitment to our school's core purpose and direction.

## Designing inclusive learning

The school continues to deliver high-quality, inclusive learning practices that are tailored to meet the individual needs of each student. Again, this rating was 4.90 in 2024, reflecting strong confidence in the teaching and learning programs offered.

## Community

A strong sense of community remains a standout strength. The rating rose to 5.00 in 2024, reflecting the positive relationships between the school and its families, as well as our growing reputation in the wider community.

## Student wellbeing

Student safety and wellbeing continued to be a strength for both parents and staff, who rated this area 5.40, reflecting ongoing commitment to creating a safe, supportive environment for every child.

## Leadership

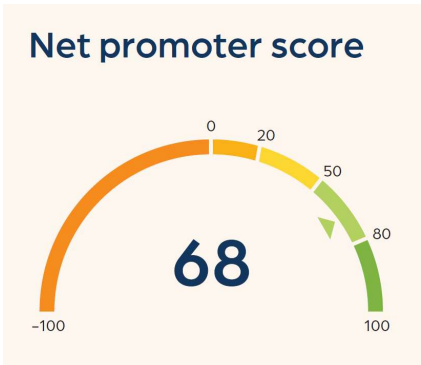
Confidence in school leadership has grown significantly, with the rating increasing to 4.80 in 2024. This highlights that our leaders are effectively supporting staff and promoting evidence-based professional growth and that there is school community confidence in them and their leadership.

## Opportunities for development

Key areas for future focus include refining individualised learning by deepening understanding of each student's background and interests, and formulating individualised learning opportunities for each student. Stakeholders also highlighted the need to better maintain and enhance the physical environment to better support student needs. Students expressed a desire for additional wellbeing programs aimed at fostering resilience and positive peer relationships. Furthermore, developing the school's leaders through coaching and mentoring was identified as a strategic opportunity for 2024 and beyond.

## Net promoter score (NPS)

The net promoter score for Aspect Macarthur School was 68 in 2024, indicating strong stakeholder satisfaction and strong likelihood of recommendation.

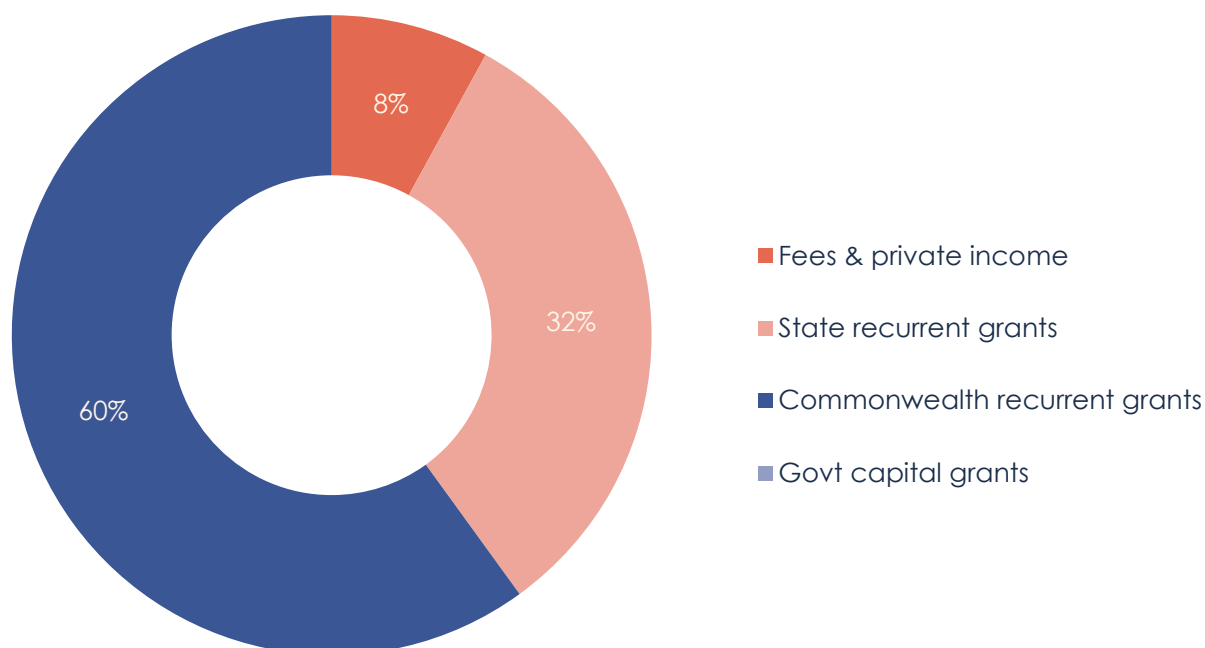




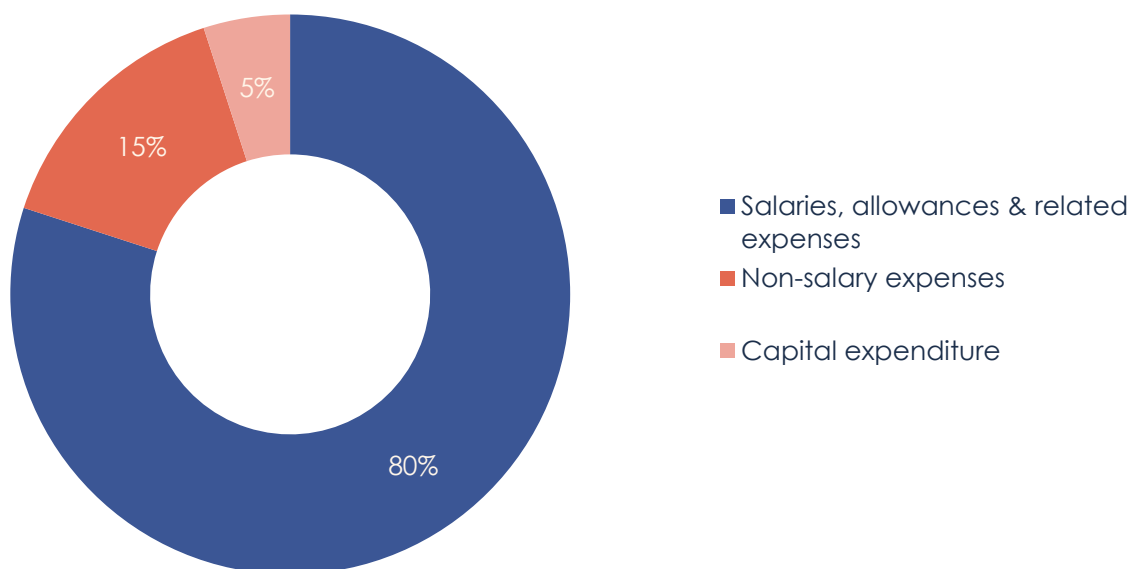
## Financial information

---

### Recurrent/capital income



### Recurrent/capital expenditure





[aspect.org.au](http://aspect.org.au) | 1800 277 328 | [customerservice@aspect.org.au](mailto:customerservice@aspect.org.au)