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## Principal's foreword

### Introduction

Our school's successes are well known in the Toowoomba community. And that has meant that more and more young people want to come to Toowoomba High. All of our students want to take advantage of the opportunities that exist within our learning environment of high expectation and standards.

Year 8 students select their elective subjects and have greater time to learn in depth and develop their interest. And we continue to offer 47 Subjects in senior school. Multiple pathways provide all students with subjects and community learning that matches their needs and interests.

Toowoomba High teachers are a highly qualified and skilled team. I am proud of their expertise, diversity and skills in getting the best from students. They have deservedly won awards and recognition in the past and this is certain to continue as they nurture the next generation of Queenslanders.

Christopher ZILM  
Principal

### Future outlook

The future continues to be very positive for TSHS. With a sharp focus on improving student learning outcomes, the school will invest considerable time and planning in maximising student learning time. The focus for the future will continue to be heavily on developing an outstanding curriculum with focus on:

- Renewing Year 10 and developing it further as a transition year.
- Aligning reporting comments with curriculum
- Reflecting on assessment and supports for improved performance
- NAPLAN preparation and response

The support of the Toowoomba community continues to be strong with increasing enrolments being the trend likely to continue into 2009. The School will engage in an Enrolment Management Plan to ensure that the capacity of the school's facilities are not exceeded.

# Our school at a glance

## School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school: 1844

Year levels offered: 8-12

Coeducational

## Curriculum offerings

### Our distinctive curriculum offerings

#### Senior School

- Aerospace Studies
- Film, TV & New Media
- Year 10 transition curriculum
- Science electives in SuperScience, Agricultural Mechanics and Animal Husbandry

#### Middle School

- Student elective choice in Years 8 & 9
- Science electives in Year 8 & 9

### Extra curricula activities

- The school staged a musical extravaganza in 2008 showcasing a range of hits from popular Broadway musicals.
- A range of annual co-curricular activities in the Arts continues to form an important part of the school's student activity calendar.

### How computers are used to assist learning

Investment in ICTs (Computers) continues to be significant. As well as a research and document production tool, computers are used for creating art works, communicating using web pages, programming and calculating. Students in Year 8 & 9 participate in a compulsory ICT unit to establish a core set of skills. A range of ICT skills are mapped across the curriculum and used as an integrated part of learning.

## Social climate

The school has participated in a Values Education project along with the cluster of schools and this work was recognised nationally in publication. The HRE program is provided with lesson time and is structured by the Year Coordinators and their Pastoral Care teams to support student development and relationships.

	Student mean scores	Parent mean scores
Safe at School	2.51 (Like Schools 2.42)	2.28 (like Schools 2.10)
Treated Fairly	2.30 (Like Schools 2.25)	2.74 (like Schools 2.78)
Behaviour	1.86 (Like Schools 1.76)	2.28 (like Schools 2.10)
Happy to go to this school	2.61 (Like Schools 2.44)	3.02 (like Schools 2.89)

## Involving parents in their child's education

Communication with the home is an important activity for the school. The use of Early Intervention notes to inform parents of concerns at an early stage was introduced in 2008. This accompanies the strategy in place of sending postcards to students acknowledging their good performances or achievements.

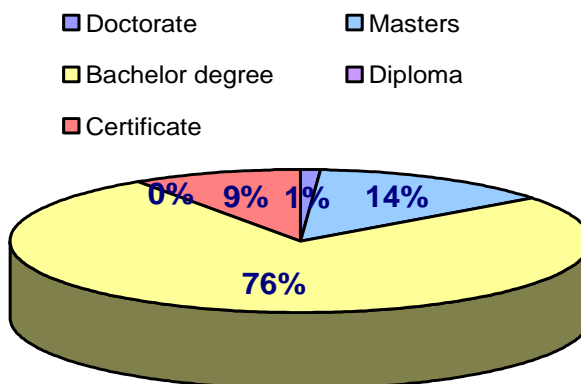
The P&C continues to pose challenges in terms of effectively recruiting members. Attendance at Parent Teacher interviews and a range of social activities has continued to be strong.

The school has an online complaints & concern management process to assist in better communicating and resolving issues being experienced by students or families.

## Our staff profile

### Qualifications of all teachers.

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	1
Masters	13
Bachelor degree	72
Diploma	0
Certificate	9



### Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 was \$48048.17. This represents 13%.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows: QCARF unit writing, ICT for teachers, Student Behaviour Management.
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 93 %.

### Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 96% in 2008.

### Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 97% of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

# Performance of our students

## Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 88%.

## Key outcomes

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results - our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Year 9.

Domain	Measures	Yr 9
Reading	Average score for the school	570
	Average score for Queensland	568.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 87.5 %
Writing	Average score for the school	552
	Average score for Queensland	555.3
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 83 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	563.5
	Average score for Queensland	567.8
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 82 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	557
	Average score for Queensland	563.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 81 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	563
	Average score for Queensland	570.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 86 %

The above figures are combined for the Year 9 cohort.

## Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12.

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort. 133 %

# Performance of our students

## Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2008

Number of students awarded a Senior Statement.	214
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement (QCIA).	1
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	154
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	0
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications.	135
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	40
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	119
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	73 %
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification.	95 %
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer.	96 %

## Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2008 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be incorporated into this Report in September.

## Value added

Toowoomba State High School continues to promote public education in the local community by providing excellent learning opportunities for young people and links with the community.

The leadership of teachers raises the profile of Sciences, The Arts, Mathematics and Languages in particular in the community through teacher professional development and community involvement.

The school also plays host to several significant District and Regional projects aimed at promoting the wellbeing and development of young people experiencing disadvantage. The TALES and TRIP programs provided alternative learning environments for young people 11-14 and 15-17 off school site with a focus on personal development, literacy and numeracy as well as returning to school or training.

## Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Percentage of parents satisfied that this is a good school: 88.5%

Percentage satisfied that they are getting a good education: Students 72%, Parents 90.5%

Percentage of staff members satisfied with morale: 83.5%

# Performance of our students

In 2009, 51.1 per cent of young people who completed their Year 12 at Toowoomba State High School in 2008 continued in some recognised form of education and training in the year after they left school.

The most common study destination was university (20.7 per cent). The combined VET study destinations accounted for 30.4 per cent of respondents, including 13.6 per cent in campus-based VET programs, with 7.6 per cent of Year 12 completers entering programs at Certificate IV level or higher.

16.8 per cent commenced employment-based training, either as an apprentice (11.4 per cent) or trainee (5.4 per cent).

In addition to the above study destinations, a further 8.7 per cent of respondents from this school deferred a tertiary offer in 2009 (deferrers are shown in Figure 1 in their current destination).

48.9 per cent did not enter post-school education or training, and were either employed (39.1 per cent), seeking work (8.2 per cent) or neither studying nor in the labour force (1.6 per cent).

**Figure 1 Main destinations of Year 12 completers**

