

The Assumption School Bathurst  
Annual School Report to the Community  
2014



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**Principal**

Mr Peter Nugent (2014)

### Principal's Message

On behalf of The Assumption Primary School, and Mr Peter Nugent (Principal 2014) I hereby submit the Annual School Report for 2014. The report provides you with statements on the nature and operations of our school, and our relationship with the wider Bathurst community.

The Assumption Primary School is a welcoming Christ-centred learning community that promotes a quality holistic education, trusting relationships and a caring and supportive environment. Our school maintains a standard of excellence in education, making use of available resources. Above all, our key mission is the education and guidance of each child's faith development, based on Gospel values.

Our school is guided by a dedicated and highly professional staff team who are focussed on the education of each student to his or her full potential. Emphasis is placed on catering for individual needs, across a range of educational opportunities. Students at Assumption have opportunity for enriched learning in all areas of their faith, their academic growth and their social development.

I encourage you to come to know more about The Assumption Primary School through this provided report.

### Parent Body Message

The 2014 P&F Association worked tirelessly on behalf of the students of Assumption Primary School. The activities that were planned and implemented allowed families to come together to raise funds that would assist our school in continuing to be well-resourced. The key activities held in 2014 were:

- family movie night
- student discos
- Mother's Day & Father's Day stalls
- catering for the school cross country and athletics carnivals
- school fete
- golf day
- donut day
- Paddy's Markets

Through the success of these activities, the school was supported in purchasing air conditioning for the library, classroom technology, grounds works and a new fridge for our school canteen.

On behalf of the school community, we acknowledge and thank all members of the 2013 P&F Executive- Alison Knight, Sonia Nunan, Libby Ringrose, Jenny Baker and Karyn Taylor.

### Student Body Message

At Assumption Primary School we are able to participate in a range of activities. While sport is one of our favourite things, we are also conscious of our social obligations as young people of community.

Our Student Council organised some wonderful social justice fundraising activities including an Easter egg raffle, Biggest Morning Tea for Cancer Council, Mini Fete & Melbourne Cup dress up. Funds raised from these events were directed to the works of CARITAS and providing an end of year gift to the school.

All students had the opportunity to participate in the Bathurst Eisteddfod through verse speaking, choral, dance or band performances. Students also had opportunity to be involved in the CWA public speaking competition and the Kids Literacy Quiz.

Our sporting year began with the school swimming carnival and then quickly progressed through cross country, AFL, rugby league, rugby union, athletics, soccer and netball. We are certainly energetic students at Assumption Primary and we are grateful for the range of sporting activities that are available to us.

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## SECTION TWO: SCHOOL FEATURES

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The Assumption School is a Catholic systemic Co-Educational School located in Bathurst.

We were founded in 1952 by the Sisters of St Joseph (Perthville) to meet the needs of the growing population of west Bathurst. The Josephite traditions are proudly kept alive through our commitment to guiding the faith development of our students, maintaining high educational standards and giving life to Mary MacKillop's credo of *'Never see a need without doing something about it.'* We are blessed to have our Assumption Church onsite where we can visit as needed and where we can share community prayer and celebrations.

Our school caters for 393 students in 14 class groups. Our students enjoy well maintained and well resourced learning spaces. Students are able to use our extensive outdoor spaces including two playing ovals, basketball court and handball courts. In addition to this, they have access to an indoor gymnasium/undercroft for all weather sport time and playtimes. The Assumption school hall is a venue that allows us to gather in comfortable surroundings for weekly assemblies, performances and community events. Adjacent to the hall, the students enjoy our well-equipped performing arts rooms where weekly music, dance and drama lessons are conducted.

Classroom learning is supported by grade excursions that expand curriculum content experiences. Excursion highlights in the senior years are the Year 5 Canberra trip and the Year 6 Christian Living Camp at Lake Burrendong. In addition to excursions, students enjoy in-school visiting groups for creative arts performances. Students also have the opportunity to participate in a full range of extra curricular activities including school band program, diocesan spelling competition, public speaking competitions, a wide range of sporting activities, choir performances, literature quizzes, the Bathurst Eisteddfod, chess competition and student leadership programs.

Students with additional learning needs are supported by our learning support staff who offer in-class support, and where applicable, specialised withdrawal programs. Students are given additional support by in-class teacher assistants. Indigenous students, and their families, are supported by the Aboriginal Education Worker. Our learning support staff, and all classroom teachers, benefit from the partnerships established with the Catholic Education Office and Charles Sturt University in monitoring student reading achievement through the DIBELS intensive reading program.

Assumption School has a strong community presence with participation in the annual ANZAC Day march, nursing home visits, community events and parish activities.

### Student Enrolment

The School caters for students in Kindergarten to Year 6. Students attending this School come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities. The following information describes the student profile for 2014:

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Total Students
198	195	7	393

\* Language Background Other than English

### Enrolment Policy

The school enrolment policy has been developed in the context of government, system and parish requirements. Children from families who are prepared to support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church may be considered eligible for enrolment. Total fees are made up of the Diocesan school fee, the Diocesan Family Building Levy and local fees and charges.

Detailed information about enrolment at the school is available from the school administration office.

### Student Attendance Rates

The average student attendance rate for 2014 was 93.56%. Attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group	
Kindergarten	95.57%
Year 1	92.97%
Year 2	93.52%
Year 3	92.76%
Year 4	92.36%
Year 5	93.82%
Year 6	93.92%

### Managing Student Non-Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. The School, in partnership with parents, is responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, School staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

School staff, under the Principal's leadership, support the regular attendance of students by:

- providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the School community;
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance;
- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance;
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise.

The Principal is responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by ensuring that:

- parents and students are regularly informed of attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance;
- all cases of unsatisfactory attendance and part or full day absences from school are investigated promptly and that appropriate intervention strategies are implemented;
- documented plans are developed to address the needs of students whose attendance is identified as being of concern;
- the Executive Director of Catholic Schools or designated Catholic Education Office Bathurst officer is provided with regular information about students for whom chronic non-attendance is an issue and for whom School strategies have failed to restore regular attendance.

## SECTION FOUR: STAFFING PROFILE

The following information describes the staffing profile for 2014:

Total Teaching Staff*	Total Non-Teaching Staff	Combined Total
22	14	36

\* This number includes 14 full-time teachers and 8 part-time teachers.

Percentage of staff who are Indigenous	2%
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### Professional Learning

The ongoing professional development of each staff member is highly valued. Professional learning can take many forms including whole school staff days, subject specific in services, meetings and conferences and a range of professional learning programs provided by the Catholic Education Office Sydney. The School takes responsibility for planning, implementing, evaluating and tracking of its staff professional learning and individual staff members take responsibility for their ongoing professional development. All teachers have been involved in professional learning opportunities during the year related to improving student outcomes.

The School held the equivalent of five staff developments days this year with areas of focus as follows:

<b>Term 1</b>	2014 School Planning and Organisation
<b>Term 2</b>	Staff Reflection Day
<b>Term 3</b>	1. Professional Learning Communities 2. Mathematics Syllabus
<b>Term 4</b>	School Compliance- First Aid Certification

In 2014 Assumption introduced the diocesan initiative of Professional Learning Communities. This initiative involved staff developing collaborative teams, forming common understandings, teaching programs and identifying essential learnings for students.

Staff also participated in other professional learning including:

NAPLAN data analysis

Literacy- Vocabulary Development & Sentence Structure

ICT- iPads in Maths; using Share Cloud

Kodaly Music Program

Learn to Communicate- nurturing children's speech & language

Using PAT Data to Inform Teaching and Learning

Implementing the English K-10 Syllabus

### Teacher Standards

The following table sets out the number of teachers who fall into each of the three categories determined by the Board of Studies:

Teacher Qualifications		Number of Teachers
1	Those having formal qualifications from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	22
2	Those having graduate qualifications but not a formal teaching qualification from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	0

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## SECTION FIVE: CATHOLIC LIFE AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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Catholic Schools have a unique role in the evangelising and educating mission of the Church. As a key ministry of parishes and the diocese, Catholic schools encourage and support parents in their responsibility for the faith formation of their children. This formation is supported by prayer and opportunities to participate in the life, mission and liturgy of the broader Catholic community.

The School follows the Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student textbooks *To Know, Worship and Love*, as authorised by the Bishop of Bathurst.

Assumption Catholic Primary School is a pastoral ministry of the Cathedral Parish, Bathurst. Our mission is to develop the faith of our students according to Gospel values, maintaining educational excellence, in a safe and supportive environment. Explicitly and implicitly, Religious Education forms an integral part of the total curriculum of our school. It is broader than the classroom teaching of religion, and is directed towards the personal and religious development of our students.

Students have opportunity for daily prayer and religious education instruction using the diocesan units of study. Sacramental life is celebrated through daily prayer, classroom instruction, liturgies and Mass. The sacramental program is incorporated within the parish, emphasising the participation of parents, support people and our parishioners. The sacrament of Reconciliation is received in Year 2, First Eucharist in Year 3 and Confirmation in Year 6. Assumption staff and students are involved in parish ministries and activities.

The school program is aligned with the liturgical calendar with key celebrations being the season of Lent/Easter, feast days including St Patrick, St Joseph, St Mary of the Cross, The Feast of the Assumption, All Saints Day and the season of Advent/Christmas. Other significant celebrations include our Opening School Mass, the Welcome Mass, Mother's Day and Father's Day. A special celebration each year is our Rosary program in August.

Catholic Schools' Week is celebrated in March each year. A highlight in 2014 was joining with the six Catholic schools of the parish for a combined celebration at weekend Mass.

Our faith is brought to life through our pastoral care and social justice outreach. Students and staff willingly undertake fundraising activities to support initiatives such as CARITAS, St. Vincent De Paul, Mission Week and community appeals.

Students in Years 6 and 8 in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bathurst undertake the Diocesan Religious Education (RE) Test annually. The test consists of fifty multiple-choice questions. Results of the test are analysed by teachers and are used to inform teaching and learning in Religious Education.

Our School's average result (as a mark out of 50)	
Year 6	32.89

Further information about the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum and the RE Tests may be accessed at the [Religious Education and Evangelisation](#) site on the Catholic Education Office Sydney website.

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## SECTION SIX: CURRICULUM

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The school provides an educational program based on, and taught in accordance with the BOSTES syllabuses for Primary Education. The Key Learning Areas (KLAs) are English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. In addition, the school implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Education Office Bathurst. School effectiveness is monitored by the Quality Catholic Education self review process and through regular school reviews conducted by CEO personnel. Staff members are committed to continuous improvement of teaching and learning in all facets of the curriculum.

The Assumption School adheres to the prescribed Board of Studies curriculum guidelines for all key learning areas in Kindergarten to Year 6. Teachers develop units of work that address the learning outcomes, key skills and understandings of the set syllabus areas. Courses of study develop the student's understandings and skills at their point of need; aiming for the implementation of a differentiated curriculum that recognises that all students learn at a different pace. This is further supported through the school's learning support structures for students experiencing difficulties, and through enrichment activities for those students requiring learning extension.

Our school has two specialist Creative Arts teachers who develop dance and drama programs for our students from Kindergarten to Year 6. This is further supported by our partnership with the Mitchell Conservatorium of Music who provide individual instrument tuition, and with a drama tutor who provides private tuition in drama and speech.

The sporting life of Assumption Primary School is indeed rich in opportunity for students to find their preferred physical activity. Our school has annual carnivals for swimming, athletics and cross country; participation in these can see students progress to representative school, diocesan and state teams. Students receive skills training in AFL, cricket and football. As students enter Years 3-6 that have opportunity to participate in teams for soccer, AFL, rugby union, rugby league, netball, tennis and cricket gala events.

Parents receive school reports twice a year, in June and December. These reports summarise student learning, set ongoing goals and provide meaningful feedback to parents. These are supported by half yearly parent/teacher meetings and parent/teacher meetings at other times as requested by either parents or teachers.

## SECTION SEVEN: STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN STATE-WIDE TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. An analysis of these results assists School planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

The tables below show the percentages of students who achieved particular skill bands in numeracy and the aspects of literacy. The School results shown are compared to students nationally. Literacy is reported in four content strands (aspects): Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. Numeracy is reported as a single content strand.

NAPLAN RESULTS 2014		% of students in the top 2 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 3	Grammar and Punctuation	42.00%	50.00%	5.00%	12.00%
	Reading	57.00%	46.00%	6.00%	13.00%
	Writing	48.00%	39.00%	3.00%	11.00%
	Spelling	55.00%	44.00%	11.00%	15.00%
	Numeracy	42.00%	36.00%	3.00%	14.00%

NAPLAN RESULTS 2014		% of students in the top 2 bands		% of students in the bottom 2 bands	
		School	Australia	School	Australia
Year 5	Grammar and Punctuation	48.00%	37.00%	9.00%	16.00%
	Reading	36.00%	34.00%	10.00%	16.00%
	Writing	10.00%	16.00%	7.00%	21.00%
	Spelling	31.00%	33.00%	7.00%	16.00%
	Numeracy	22.00%	26.00%	14.00%	18.00%



### Student Welfare Policy

The Assumption School Welfare Policy focuses on respect for both staff and students. We aim to develop in the children a deep respect for one another in the classroom, in the playground, at home, and in the wider community. The school expects strong support from parents in developing common understandings and expectations. The school works with parents to develop a successful and happy young person.

A successful and harmonious group of students contribute to our success as a school community. Students are encouraged to accept personal responsibility for the actions, and to recognise that incidences of inappropriate behaviour will have consequences. Behaviour expectations are discussed in class, raised at school assemblies and shared with parents in weekly newsletters. The protection of the individual from all forms of harm is paramount - a responsibility and commitment that staff and parents advocate.

A school counsellor is available to assist students and families as needed. Referral to this service is through the school.

There were no changes to this policy during the 2014 school year.

The full text of the School's Pastoral Care Policy may be accessed on the School's website or at the administration office.

### Discipline Policy

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this School. The School does not sanction administration of corporal punishment by School persons and non-School persons, including parents, to enforce discipline in the School.

### Discipline Policy

The discipline policy at Assumption School aims to facilitate the development and experience of responsible self-discipline among students. Our policy determines acceptable student behaviour and appropriate corrective measures, intrinsically related to the principles and values of the Gospel.

Each class teacher develops class expectations, reward systems and consequences for inappropriate behaviour choices. Where students fail to adhere to classroom or playground expectations, they are referred to the Assistant Principal or Principal for further discussion and action.

Parent communication is vital in ensuring that home and school work together to correct inappropriate behaviours. Therefore, parents are contacted by class teachers, or members of the school Executive, to discuss major breaches of school rules by their children.

We are pro-active in our approach to discipline, with close connections made to our Welfare Policy.

The full text of the School's Student Discipline Policy may be accessed on the School's website or at the administration office.

### Anti-Bullying Policy

The Diocese of Bathurst has established a *Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy* which is used to guide the school's Anti-Bullying Policy. It provides a framework for school communities to work together to prevent and address issues of student bullying, in order to build respectful relationships that respond effectively and sensitively to the needs of each person. The Catholic Education Office (CEO) monitors the implementation of this policy as part of school compliance requirements. No changes were made to the policy this year.

The full text of the *Anti-Bullying Policy* may be accessed at the administration office.

### Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy

The Diocese of Bathurst has established *Guidelines for the Management of Complaints* which is implemented by our school through the Complaints Policy. The rationale for the policy is that within the reality of the schooling experience, it is recognised that, from time to time, misunderstandings and differences of opinion will occur, and that these need to be resolved satisfactorily. Addressing such matters within a framework of dignity, respect and truth can provide powerful opportunities to model the love of Christ in the reality of our contemporary world. The Catholic Education Office (CEO) monitors the implementation of this policy. No changes were made to the policy this year.

The full text of the *Complaints Policy* may be accessed on the School's website, or the administration office.

### Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

The students of Assumption are always reminded about the living of Gospel values of respect for self and others, and our responsibilities as people of God. These are brought to action through the way the children are encouraged to speak to others, to treat others and to present oneself.

Student leadership is fostered through in-class studies, leadership programs such as the GRIP Leadership Day in Bathurst and the Halogen Foundation's Young Leaders Program in Sydney in March each year. Year 6 students have the opportunity to take up formal leadership roles as school captains and sport captains.

Our Student Council develops in our students a strong sense of contributing to our school community, our local community and our wider world. Each meeting they discuss issues of school importance, they share information at school assemblies, they address students in their classrooms and they lead

fundraising activities.

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## SECTION NINE: QUALITY CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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The School implements the Catholic Education Office Bathurst Quality Catholic Education Framework which outlines the processes and benchmarks for creating the culture and practice of continuous improvement with students as the focus.

Each year, the School develops an Annual Improvement Plan indicating the intended key improvements for student learning outcomes. The plan is drawn from the School's Strategic Improvement Plan. The School engages in an annual evidence-based evaluation of its effectiveness against standards in collaboration with the School Consultant.

### **Key Improvements Achieved in 2014**

#### *1. Professional Learning Communities:*

Introduce the practices and protocols of Professional Learning Communities.

#### *2. Information Communication Technologies:*

Develop staff and student skills in accessing and using contemporary technology tools - including iPads, Google Chrome, Google Docs, Share Cloud, Skootle.

#### *3. National Curriculum:*

- Implementation of national curriculums in English and Mathematics, including the refinement of teaching programs, classroom based activities, assessment.
- Explore and resource national curriculum in Science, with key use of Science Connections program & resources.

#### *4. Community:*

Design and development of updated school website to meet community needs.

### **Priority Key Improvements for 2015**

#### *1. Vision & Mission:*

Review of the school's vision and mission statements so that the vision, mission and Catholic culture of Assumption Primary school will be clearly articulated and brought to life by all.

#### *2. Religious Education:*

- The foster and support the spiritual formation of staff, and their teaching vocation.
- To provide relevant and contemporary RE resources.

#### *3. Professional Learning Community:*

- Use prior learning to develop student centred learning experiences.
- Use of data to inform classroom planning, teaching and assessment.
- Develop communication, collaborative planning and team teaching practices between class teachers & learning support staff so that the learning experiences provided to students is focused & timely.

#### *4. School Compliance:*

Assumption school will be compliant in legislated and mandated requirements in the areas of WHS & Child Protection.

#### *5. Community:*

Review communication processes to be timely and informative using resources including Skoolbag app, Facebook, school website, redesign of school newsletter.

#### *6. Resourcing:*

Review, evaluate and update resources for learning in the areas of ICT, English, Mathematics and school library.

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## SECTION TEN: PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION

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The opinions and ideas of parents, students and teachers are valued and sought. Their suggestions are incorporated into planning for and achieving improved outcomes for students. This year, the School has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the School from parents, students and teachers.

### Parent Satisfaction

Parent comments:

The relationship between the church and school has solid foundations, and is constantly being reinforced through liturgies, celebration of the Eucharist and other activities. The Assumption school has close ties with the local and wider community.

Our school provides my child with a well rounded education experience. The focus on faith, academic, sporting and extra curricula activities ensures all bases are covered; delivered by dedicated teaching and support staff who go 'above and beyond'. The one aspect of the school that ensures my satisfaction, is the sense of family and school spirit that is so unique to the fabric of Assumption, making it a very special school community.

As a new family to the school, our daughter's transition to 'big school' was smooth, welcoming and enriching. The buddy program with Year 5 students provided so many opportunities for growth for both the new starters and their buddies.

The sacrament of First Eucharist was beautiful and reverent - it took my breath away as the students entered the church to begin the Mass. The care and compassion that radiates from the school is wonderful; the children are always encouraged to do their best.

### Student Satisfaction

The following comments were provided by students:

The Yr 5 camp was great. It was a great to experience to go to Parliament House, the Botanical Gardens and of course Questacon was fun!

Our teacher gave us every opportunity to expand our knowledge and encourage each other.

The Year 1 excursion around Bathurst to 'Find Fergus' was amazing. We tripped around the town and experienced lots of new things. We had a great teacher.

My teacher was very encouraging. She loved my story writing and gave me lots of encouragement for my work.

Playing with different musical instruments in our Music lessons was fun.

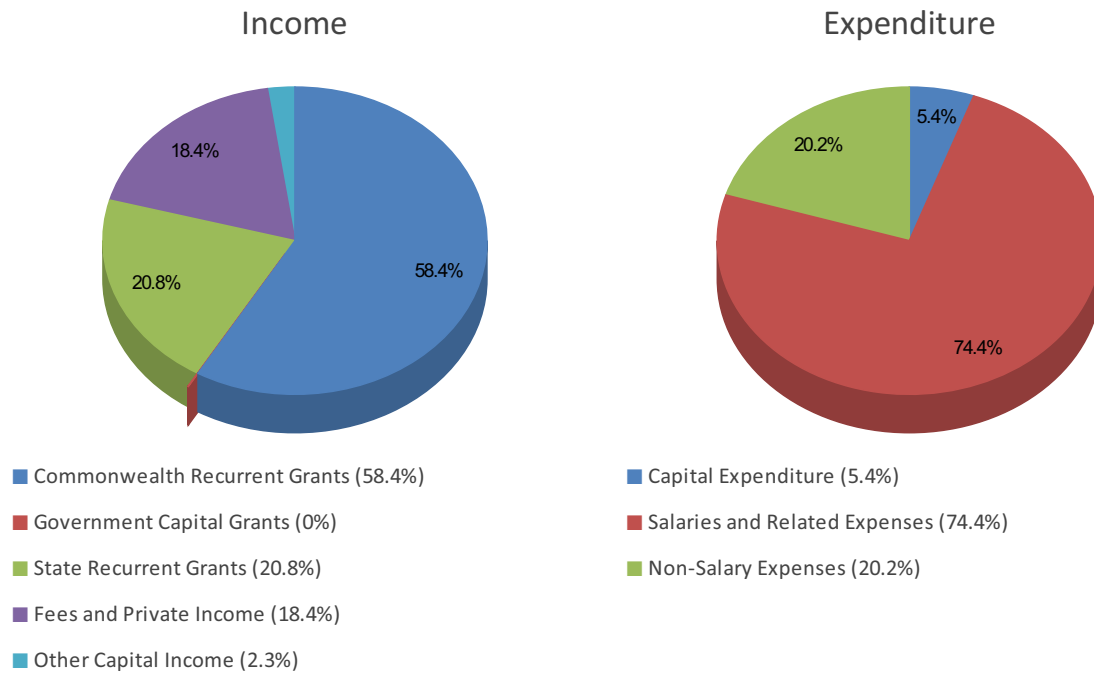
### Teacher Satisfaction

Teacher survey comments:

The staff of Assumption always work well together in ensuring that event and activities for the students are well organised, have great educational merit and they run smoothly. These include sporting events, concerts, Bathurst Eisteddfod, diocesan spelling bee, Country Women's League public speaking and international study events.

Really appreciated the opportunity to study the use of Google Chrome in the contemporary classroom. It was then beneficial to all staff when these new skills could be shared during a staff meeting.

The staff of Assumption willingly share their personal faith, and their commitment to the faith development of their students, through their open practice of the faith. Staff enthusiastically support sacramental programs, parish liturgies, and the very beautiful Rosary evenings in August each year.



This School Financial Information is based on the detailed information provided to the Commonwealth Government in the Commonwealth Financial Questionnaire.

**Notes**

1. Commonwealth Recurrent Grants include recurrent per capita grants and special purpose grants.
2. Government Capital Grants includes all capital grants received from the Commonwealth and State Governments.
3. State Recurrent Grants includes recurrent grants per capita and special purpose grants.
4. Fees and Private Income include school based fees, excursions and other private income.
5. Other Capital Income includes capital funded through the central Capital Fund.
6. Capital Expenditure includes expenditure on School Buildings, and Plant, Furniture and Equipment.
7. Salaries and Related Expenditure include all salaries, allowances and related expenses such as superannuation and workers compensation insurance.
8. Non-Salary Expenses include all other Non-Salary Recurrent Expenditure covering resources, administration, operational expenses, utilities, repairs and maintenance.