



Introducing BUNBURY REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Curriculum and Re-engagement in Education (CARE) school in Bunbury and Busselton.

CARE schools are an alternative to mainstream schools. They acknowledge that not all students thrive in large, complex high schools and that there is a group of students who stop going to school altogether. A CARE school looks for ways to help students to re-engage in learning at school and to prepare for life beyond school.

As a CARE school, BRCC knows that it has to be different to the "normal" schools that students have walked away from.

BRCC is deliberately small:

- There are 120 students in years 10–12 in Bunbury and places for up to 45 in these year groups in Busselton.

At BRCC students do not move from one room to another or from one teacher to another:

- Each student joins an Advisory Class with approximately 16 other students, a teacher and an education assistant. This group stays together throughout the year and ideally from one year to the next.

Students at BRCC are very well known:

- The students and staff in each advisory class get to know each other really well and learn to trust and support each other.

At BRCC we know that it is important to acknowledge all aspects of a student's life:

- At no time does a teacher at BRCC say, "I am here to teach this student this subject and what is going on in her life does not matter".
- At BRCC we know that it is important to acknowledge all aspects of a student's life. School social workers, youth workers and other support staff are available to help students both in and beyond the classroom.

BRCC seeks to work with students, not do things to students:

- Students are encouraged and supported to take responsibility for their actions and for their learning. Mistakes are welcomed as learning opportunities.

At BRCC, families are enrolled too:

- Families and guardians know their young people best. BRCC seeks to use knowledge from them about how best to support the students and to help them to develop and learn.

Students are given opportunities to learn about the things that interest them:

- Students continue to discover and explore their interests throughout their time at BRCC. Projects based on their interests form a large part of their school work.

Every student has an individual education plan:

- All students are different. Staff at BRCC never say “you’re in year 10 (or 11 or 12) and this is what you have to be able to do”. Learning starts at the point where students are.

Assessment of student work is through portfolios and exhibitions:

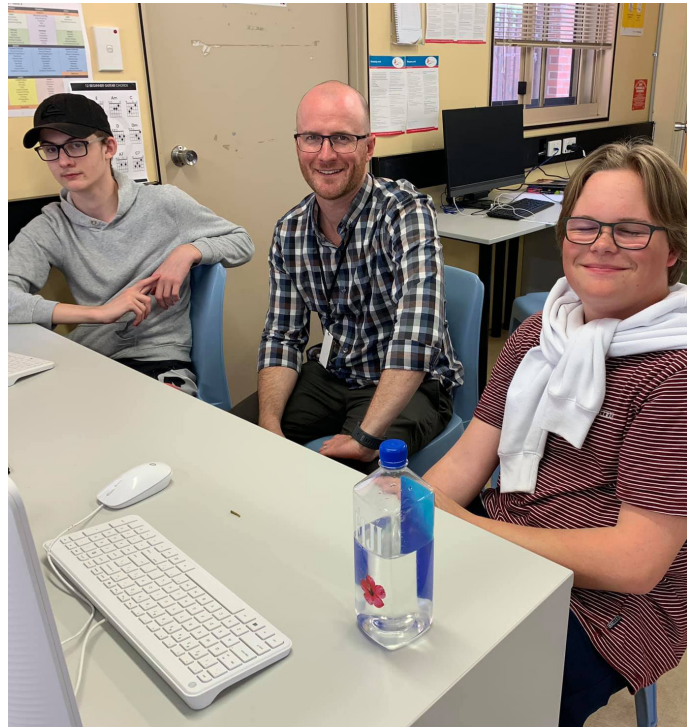
- At BRCC we want assessment to really reflect what a student knows and how they have grown. Students plan their learning, organise products into portfolios and meet with their teachers, family and others to talk about their learning.

Students are encouraged to link with people outside the school who can work with them to help them to explore their interest:

- From their first days at the College, students are encouraged and supported to move outside the classroom to develop their learning; from excursions to interviews and internships learning outside the classroom is seen as an important part of the BRCC program.

Students are given opportunities to complete courses such as training certificates:

- BRCC supports students to enroll in courses at TAFE and other training providers as part of their school program.
- A VET Coordinator at the school helps students to successfully complete a wide range of certificates.



Graduates from BRCC are uniquely well prepared for life beyond school.

A graduation portfolio from BRCC does not contain the West Australian Certificate of Education but it does demonstrate what the student knows and who they are. With the OLNAs, certificates, a significant senior project and other examples of work, evidence of work placements with testimonials, a resume and post-school plan, the BRCC Graduation Portfolio is being successfully used by former students to obtain employment and entrance to training, TAFE and university.



Big Picture Education is important.

The design principles of Big Picture Education (www.bigpicture.org.au) help staff at BRCC to respond to the needs of individual students and to support them within a community of learners. The unique interests, needs and abilities of each student are at the heart of the educational program.



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Unedited comments from year 10 students attending the BRCC Satellite Program in Busselton.

At the start of second term, students were asked to make some observations about BRCC.

Student 1:

BRCC is very different to the mainstream. For example there are lots of classes in the mainstream but only one class at BRCC. I really do want to stay at BRCC because mainstream schools did not go well for me in put me in a very bad place in my life and I do not want to go through that about. BRCC makes me so much more happier and I do enjoy working here. It is so different from mainstream schools because mainstream schools have small spaces and at BRCC we have a very big amount off space for a few amount of people. Another difference is at mainstream schools you don't get much freedom to be ourselves and at BRCC we get that freedom that is very much appreciated. Although some people might like mainstream schools there is so much more opportunities at BRCC that I really want and I do truly want to stay at this school.

I feel like I fit in more at this school rather than at a mainstream school where I do not feel like I fit in at that school. I would be so upset if I got kicked out off this school because this school is the only option to finish my school life and if I fail this school and end up getting kicked out then I would be lost in life and it would not look good when I try to get a job. So I do realize that if I do want to stay at this school then I need to behave more better that this school and start following the rules rather than taking this school for granted and just doing what I want all the time. I do realize and understand that I can do better and I can work better I just need to put



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my mind to it and stop getting distracted by other students in the class and just get my work done. Like I should be doing for the rest of my school times. I am very sorry that I have come across as a bad student or something but I do know in my heart that I am way better than that and I promise that ill change and prove to you guys that I can work better. And actually get my work done.

Student 2:

BRCC has an amazing environment and atmosphere in the class rooms.

Student 3:

At BRCC the teachers always listen to your ideas and always help where it is needed.

Student 4:

The teachers at BRCC are always supportive of us and our ideas.

Student 5:

It has been really good and fun. It's way better than the mainstream because its more free and easier to work in the classroom, since there's less people in the classroom. This school gives you more opportunity to choose what you want to do with your life. We get to choose our interest projects. I'm currently writing a story I hope to turn into a book. The book is part of the fantasy science fiction genre.

Student 6:

I like BRCC because it is different from mainstream school and another reason, I like it is because some of my friends are here too. The teachers help me with what I am good at and the work is not that mainstream.

Reflection at the end of year 11 from a student who started at BRCC in Bunbury in 2019:

A huge change I have made in the past year was my schooling, last year I really didn't want to be at school at all, the whole environment just spiked my anxiety and made me feel like I was trapped almost. I went from going every day to it being a struggle to get out of bed because the thought of going to school made me feel physically ill, to now wanting to go to school every day because I genuinely do enjoy it and feel like it's a comfortable and



good place to be where I feel as though I thrive. I feel like since attending BRCC my whole view of school has changed as it's such a different approach to mainstream schooling, it's a nice environment where rather than a teacher shoving a piece of work in your face with a due date and then having to freak out about it, you choose what you would like to learn about and what you're interested in and you choose a date that you are aiming to complete your own goals which I personally feel makes me proud as I am completing something which I can take pride in. BRCC has been the most efficient form of school that I have attended to date and I've bounced back and forth from schools since the beginning of high school.

I am now in duration of completing a Cert II in Automotive servicing and technology which I am doing online as well as a work placement in a workshop at Ed's Mechanical in Busselton, I absolutely love my job and compared to other jobs where I would check the time to see how long I had until I was able to go home, I now lose track of time as I am so invested in the project I am working. I attend work every Wednesday from 8.00am until 4.30pm and complete my theory work in any spare time that I have and honestly, it's the only written work I've ever really enjoyed doing.

A comment from a student who completed year 12 at BRCC in Bunbury in 2019:

I came to this school with so much disappointment in myself, I felt at 15 that I had failed as a person. However, BRCC welcomed me with open arms into the most supportive and understanding environment, that replaced the doubt and resentment that I had towards myself with resilience and self respect and proved to me time and time again that I am worthy of succeeding.

I think I now finally understand that being in a position that enabled me to come to BRCC was in no way a failure and instead the exact opposite.

