

# THE SMITH STREET UNIT

## INFORMATION BOOKLET



AN ANNEXE OF  
WOLLONGONG HIGH SCHOOL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

**RESPECT- SAFETY- LEARNING**  
**53 SMITH STREET, WOLLONGONG 2500**

**PHONE: 4228 8884**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Smith Street Unit is an annexe of Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts. The Smith Street Unit offers a specialised learning and behaviour support environment for appropriate students in Years 7-12. Students are referred to the Unit by a Department of Education and Communities placement panel.

The Unit was established in 1990 in response to the growing problem of meeting the learning outcomes for students with severe behaviour needs. Initially the unit had six primary and six secondary students. John Frew (Principal of Holsworthy High School) the founding manager was honoured to put pen to paper to share some of his great memories about the Smith Street Unit, and the special place it holds in his extensive and varied teaching career.

“I remember well the first day I arrived at the run down building that is the celebrated Smith Street Unit. Along with my colleague Sandra May I vividly recall unlocking the front door to be greeted with dirt and filth that had built up over the years of neglect. Of course it was not empty but the home of various breeds of vermin, rats and pigeons that had left their mark on the walls and floor. From such a humble start we commenced a journey that has been continued by a succession of talented and dedicated teachers who carry on opening that door and enter into the most exciting work place.

Another day, not long after the first day, a group of gutsy students arrived. These challenging and difficult students were the first in their line. Together we navigated our way through those early years. Personally I owe these students so much. Their courage just to survive despite their all too often cruel childhood taught me so much more about myself than I could ever teach them. I know that partnership between staff and students is at the heart of the success enjoyed at the Smith Street Unit. I have been honoured to be a small part of its illustrious history.”

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

The Smith Street Unit is committed to providing our students with challenging learning experiences that strengthen resilience, emotional intelligence and promote social responsibility while extending their academic engagement.



*SSU Art Work*

*Illawarra Disability Options Art Competition 2015*

## THE UNIT STAFF

The members of staff are:

### ✓ Executive Staff

Paul Ryan Principal, Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts.

Dale-Myree Dal Santo- Head Teacher

### ✓ Teachers

Chahla Maksour

Ben Hightower

Cyndy Starr

Loretta Smith

### ✓ School Learning Support Officers

Rennay Hogan

Petrina Tairua

Ziik Savu

### ✓ School Counsellor

Sue Bromham –Thursday



## CONTACT US

Our postal address is:

**The Smith Street Unit**  
53 Smith Street,  
Wollongong 2500

We can also be contacted on:

Phone: 4228 8884

Fax: 4226 4052

Mobile: 0434 478 754

## SCHOOL HOURS

Members of staff are on duty from **8.00am to 3.30pm** every school day. Students attend school from 9am to 2.00pm.

## OUR GOALS

The Smith Street Unit aims to give students an opportunity to:

- Achieve important behaviour and academic outcomes while receiving individual academic and behaviour support in a safe, consistent, structured school environment.
- Be supported in succeeding with their education and achieving a recognised educational credential either at a mainstream school, the Unit or another alternative setting.
- Learn strategies to help them to manage their emotions and problem behaviours
- Work out an achievable plan for their future which will help them on the road to success
- Learn to live responsibly in the community
- Successfully exit the Smith Street Unit to an appropriate transition option.



## EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES

Our program encourages students to achieve educational goals while learning to make responsible choices, manage their own behaviour and acquire important social skills to allow them to lead a successful life.

We offer students:

- A clear, assisted pathway to success in education, employment and the community.
- Support, encouragement, and tangible rewards when students decide to make positive changes in their lives.
- Simple, straightforward rules and clear expectations for student behaviour.
- A mixture of both positive and negative consequences, which are clearly explained to the student when they begin in the program.
- Rewards for good choices that are clearly spelled out and achievable.
- Consistently delivered, logical, remedial consequences allowing students to predict the outcomes before they make a negative choice.
- The chance to turn a negative situation around and to achieve a positive outcome.

## INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLANS

Each student has an Individual Learning Plan. This includes:

- An education plan
- A behaviour plan
- A transition plan to help with planning for life after school
- An assisted travel plan (if applicable)

## THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

All students at The Smith Street Unit have an individual program designed to meet their academic, behavioural, social and transition goals.

Students have access to a full range of Key Learning Areas in the secondary school curriculum and a standard academic program. Stage 4 and 5 students access specialist secondary teachers through enrolment in the Karabar Distance Education Centre.

Students are able to study the following subjects up to Year 12:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Human Society Environment and Science
- Physical Education/ Health/Personal Development
- Design and Technology



*Dryden Jack  
TVET Retail Baking Work Experience Project*



## OTHER LEARNING ACTIVITIES

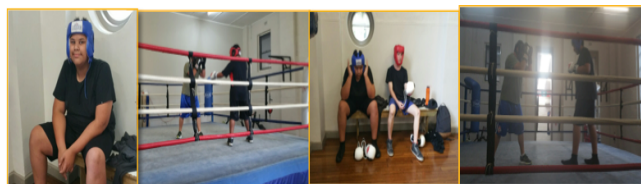
As well as academic skills, some other activities also form a part of the Unit's program for students in Years 7-12.

Some of these activities are:

- Self-management and living skills
- Social skill and behaviour skill activities with outside agencies
- Work experience and job preparation activities through the Unit's Community Link Program and registered work training organisations.

## SPORTS PROGRAM

Every Friday, the students participate in a weekly sports and leisure program. This consists of activities such as: lawn bowls, basketball, indoor soccer, ten-pin bowling, swimming, beach walking, cricket, soccer. Students will miss sport if they have received 3 warnings before sport commences, as we are unable to take students with unsettled behaviour off-site.



## TRANSITION OPTIONS

Planning for an individual student's future and working towards that plan is an important part of the service we offer our students.

In NSW, all students must remain at school until they are 17 years of age or until they complete Year 10 and then transition to work or further training. Students exiting who are younger than 17 years must be involved in education at school, TAFE or with a training organisation or engaged in at least 25 hours of employment per week.

The Smith Street Unit offers students individual behaviour and learning support in order to achieve a Year 10 credential - the Record of School Achievement (RoSA). We will assist you and your child to explore a range of options for achieving the RoSA or an equivalent credential.

We also help Stage 5 (Year 9 & 10) students and their parents plan for a continuation into Year 11 and Year 12 or further training and/or employment in another setting.



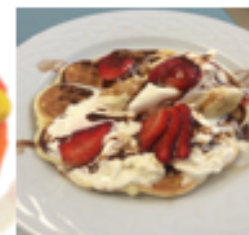
*Art  
Edible Art*



*History  
Viking Diorama*



*Science  
Animal Cell*



*Food Technology  
Waffle Presentation*

## DISTANCE EDUCATION

Students at The Smith Street Unit are usually also enrolled in their school year at Karabar Distance Education Centre (KDEC). This helps us offer the best possible curriculum to our students allowing them to access all the Key Learning Areas, a range of elective subjects and teachers who are subject specialists. The Smith Street Unit staff support and assist students with their lessons and work closely with KDEC teachers to assist students with their learning.

This also means that students who opt to return to their home school do not miss out on important curriculum content and on achieving important learning outcomes, when they are away from their home school. Also students who remain at the Unit for a long period receive the same qualification as other NSW secondary students.

### - Studying the Year 10 RoSA at The Smith Street Unit

Year 10 students at The Smith Street Unit are able to complete the RoSA at The Smith Street Unit. They can study the Year 10 course over one or two years depending on which is the best option for each individual student. Students studying Year 10 over two years are able to do more work experience and may also be able to complete a TAFE Certificate 2 as well as achieving their Year 10 credential.

As the RoSA is a nationally recognised credential students must:

- 1- Attend school regularly
- 2 Complete the course materials for each Key Learning Area and
- 3- Finish to a satisfactory standard all assessment tasks set by their course teachers.

Students, parents and carers receive regular feedback on the student's progress and are involved in the development of each student's Individual Education and Transition Plan and in developing a workable plan for their child's future directions.

### - Life Skills "Transcript Of School Achievement"

Students with a secondary disability who are unable to meet any of the standard curriculum outcomes are eligible to study a Life Skills pattern of study in some or all Key Learning Areas. This is an individual pattern of study designed and evaluated by Smith Street Unit teachers. To qualify for a Life Skills Transcript Of School Achievement students must attend regularly and complete the course materials and set assessment tasks. Parents will be consulted if a Life Skills pattern of study is the recommended academic pathway for their child.

## TRANSITION TO OTHER SETTINGS

### - Stage 4 (Years 7 & 8) Transition to Mainstream School:

Transition to school may take place when:

- The student has spent at least 10 weeks full-time at The Smith Street Unit
- There is improvement in the student's behaviour and self-management demonstrating that they can manage a day at their home school.

Transition days will increase when:

- The student shows a sustained pattern of improvement in the mainstream school environment.
- The school agrees that the student is improving and is ready to return full-time.

When we believe there is no possibility of a student sustaining a successful, mainstream enrolment, we work with parents and carers, the home school and other support agencies to look at alternative options. Our aim is to find the right fit for each child's needs.

### - Stage 5 and Beyond

After achieving Year 10 through Karabar Distance Education Centre, or through a Life Skills pathway of study, the transition pathways available to our students are:

- Transition to apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship
- Transition to TAFE vocational courses
- Transition to work training with accredited training agencies
- Transition to Five islands Secondary College – Higher School Certificate.

*Please note, The Smith Street Unit staff has negotiated transition pathways and supports with staff at TAFE and the Five Islands Secondary College. However, enrolment is NOT guaranteed. Each student's enrolment application will be judged on the student's individual merits by the intake committee at the College.*

Students are encouraged to think, plan and work towards meeting goals in their schooling and future lives. They are encouraged to view their time at The Smith Street Unit as a chance to move towards those future goals. They are also encouraged to realise that while The Smith Street Unit staff can help and support them, they must take personal responsibility for achieving these goals and for working on any problems, which may be barriers to their success.

“I was fortunate enough to be a member of staff at the Smith Street Unit from 1995-2000 and I spent the last 18 months of that time as relieving Head Teacher. My time at the Unit ignited a passion for providing students with best practice in student behaviour support. This passion has defined my teaching career.

I have fond and vivid memories of the staff, students and teaching experiences that were a part of my life while at the Unit. These relationships and experiences have made me a better teacher, school leader and a more patient, thoughtful and resilient person. It was a privilege to be a member of staff at the SSU and I am pleased and proud that the Unit endures and continues to provide a high quality, specialised learning environment for students who need expert behaviour support. I wish the current staff and students every success as they write their own chapter in the SSU's long history of student success.”

*Robyn Christofides: Manager “Flametree”- an annexe of Figtree High School.*



## ATTENDANCE

Students in NSW who are under 17 years must attend school whenever school is open. Students at the Smith Street Unit must also attend regularly to maintain their valuable place at the Unit.

Most students will attend the Unit 5 days per week. However, some students may attend some days at mainstream school working towards returning there full-time. Full-time students in Stage 5 (Years 9 & 10) may also go to TAFE, attend work experience or work training programs as part of their individual pattern of study. These programs are approved variations to school attendance.

Punctuality and regular attendance are essential school and workplace skills, consequently we expect students to be punctual and regular in their attendance. Stage 5 students need to attend regularly to meet attendance requirements and indicative hours for RoSA course completion.

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring your child is at school on all school days. We expect you to contact us if your child will be away or late for any reason. If we do not hear from you, we will phone you regularly to notify you of your child's absence or find out why your child is away. We will also notify you by mail when your child is habitually absent. We also closely monitor punctuality and attendance at the student's home school, TAFE, work training and work experience.

Referrals for habitual non-attendance are made to the Department of Education and Communities Student Services team to assist parents or carers in remedying their child's non-attendance. A referral to the Home School Liaison Team may be made where attendance problems persist. Chronic non-attendance may result in legal action.

## PARTIAL TRUANCY

Students leaving the Unit without permission are breaching the discipline policy and will receive negative consequences as a result.

These are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offence that term parents/carers contacted
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offence parents/carers contacted, interview with the Head Teacher and further consequences as assigned by the Head Teacher as necessary.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offence in a two week period, parents/carers contacted, short suspension for persistent disobedience.

Persistent partial truancy can also lead to a Home School Liaison Team referral.

Parents are contacted by staff if we feel that your child needs to leave early because of illness or emotional distress. Parents must contact the Unit by phone or letter if they wish their child to leave school early on a particular school day otherwise the student will not be permitted to leave.

**School hours cannot be varied for individual students unless there is exceptional circumstances e.g. medical condition, unique family circumstances. The Principal Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts must approve all exceptional attendance variations.**

## STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

At “The Smith Street Unit” we have 3 school values:

### *RESPECT, SAFETY and LEARNING*

We expect students to display these values by displaying the behaviour expectations below at all times and in all school settings.

RESPECT	SAFETY	LEARNING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Right words</b>, right place, right time, right way</li> <li>• <b>Be tolerant</b> of others</li> <li>• <b>Accept</b> differences</li> <li>• <b>Care</b> for self and others</li> <li>• <b>Care</b> for the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Follow</b> staff instructions</li> <li>• <b>Behave</b> sensibly</li> <li>• <b>Report</b> any problems</li> <li>• <b>Get permission</b> to leave</li> <li>• <b>Keep hands, feet and objects</b> to yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Be</b> on time</li> <li>• <b>Be</b> prepared</li> <li>• <b>Stay</b> on task</li> <li>• <b>Do</b> your best work</li> </ul>

*We also have behaviour expectations for each setting in our school. These expectations can be found in a table on page 17 of this booklet.*

## POSITIVE REWARDS FOR POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Each day student can earn up to 60 *points* in any school day:

- 10 points for uniform
- 10 points for being on time for class
- 5 points per “Weekly Work” for completing distance education work
- Up to 5 points for meeting their target behaviours
- *Bonus points* are awarded for other cooperative and sensible behaviour
- Up to 25 points for on-task and cooperative behaviour in each session of our school day

Students can earn more than 60 points in a day for exceptionally cooperative behaviour and good work.

Points may be used to buy negotiated rewards (hats, t-shirts, games, DVDs, iTunes vouchers) lunch, stationery and stickers, computer time, excursions or free time.

Students who complete 5 Weekly Work *-of high standards and with minimal support-* will be awarded two hours to work on a project negotiated with the Head Teacher.

## STUDENT AWARDS

We have a formal assembly each fortnight where class awards and subject awards are given. Assembly awards are worth extra points. We encourage students to keep a personal portfolio of awards and to develop a resume which they can keep to help them gain future employment. At our annual awards ceremony at the end of Term 4, we recognise the sustained achievements of students over the current school year. We encourage all parents to attend this very important ceremony.

## NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR NEGATIVE BEHAVIOUR

It is sometimes necessary to give students feedback about poor behaviour choices to allow them to decide to make a better choice.

### - Reminders and Warnings

We use a system of verbal reminders and warnings for times when students do not meet behaviour targets or make poor behaviour choices.

If a student fails to meet a behaviour expectation or ignores their target behaviours, the teachers will give up to 2 verbal reminders for a minor issue.

Reminders are given for low level behaviour infringements such as:

- Refusal to follow instructions
- Unconscious swearing
- Disrespectful tone and/or volume of voice
- Passive /aggressive, uncooperative behaviour
- Off task

A third reminder for any of these behaviours is recorded as a warning and students are reminded of where they are with consequences.

Warnings are given automatically for more serious rule breaking or repeated minor misbehaviour such as:

- Arguing with staff
- Aggressive manner, disrespect
- Minor swearing at staff and other students
- Disrupting learning
- Repeated refusal to follow instructions
- Unsafe behaviour

We let students know straight away when their behaviour deserves a *reminder or warning*. Students are allowed *eleven reminders or three warnings* in any school day. On the *fourth warning*, you will be contacted and the student is asked to go home and to have *Time Out* for the remainder the day. Students who are timed out at the end of the day will receive another consequence on the next school day such as, time on an In-School suspension, time off playground games, or not being able to participate in reward activities. Remember students who receive 3 warnings before a reward activity will not be able to participate.

Staff and carers decide on the consequence according to the behaviour chosen.

*A third time out in a two week period, will earn a suspension for continued disobedience.*

Parents and carers are asked to agree to the time out system at the placement interview. The time-out system is designed to encourage students to make clear, informed choices. This is part of our strategy to allow students the chance to avoid a more formal suspension process for minor misbehaviour and to spend more time at school. If parents do not agree to the time-out process, it may be necessary to move to formal suspension when the students make poor choices.

*Inappropriate behaviour or illegal activity on an excursion at TAFE or on work placement will earn a time-out or a suspension.*



## BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

### MINOR PROBLEM BEHAVIOURS - *Managed by Classroom Teachers*

<b>Verbal reminders</b>	Off task	Going slow or deliberately failing to complete work
	Out of seat	Failing to stay in seat, leaving seat without permission
	Fail to follow instructions	Failing to follow reasonable staff instructions when they are given, arguing with staff
<b>Warnings</b>	3X verbal reminder's	Failing to respond to 2 previous verbal reminders to change a behaviour
	Arguing with staff	Arguing with staff after instructions or consequences are given
	Swearing at staff or students	Using an insult or swear word when responding to a member of staff or student
	Swearing or using sexist, racist or sexualised language at another student or Staff member	Using a swear word or being aggressive towards another student or staff member

### MAJOR PROBLEM BEHAVIOURS - *Managed by Head Teacher or Principal*

<b>Time Out Short Suspension Long Suspension Police Action</b>	Defiant, disobedient	Continuing to fail to follow a reasonable instruction after warnings have been given
	Disrupting others	Behaviour that causes distress and upset to the teaching and learning of staff and students
	Threats of violence	Any verbal or body language action which indicates a reasonable expectation of harm to others
	Drugs	Being in possession of any prohibited substance
	Weapons	Being in possession of or using a prohibited weapon, or using any object to harm another student or member of staff,
	Criminal Behaviour	Damage to personal property, or school property, intimidation of staff or students,

## SUSPENSION

As in all NSW schools, students at The Smith Street Unit are suspended for major breeches of discipline. Students are not allowed to attend school while they are suspended. The following table describes the behaviours which may earn a short or long suspension.

SHORT SUSPENSION (up to 4 school days)	BEHAVIOURS
1. Continued Disobedience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refusal to obey instructions</li> <li>Defiance</li> <li>Disruption of other students' learning</li> <li>Minor Criminal behaviour (tagging type graffiti, minor damage)</li> <li>Use of alcohol</li> <li>Persistent use of tobacco</li> </ul>
2. Aggressive Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hostile behaviour to students and staff</li> <li>Verbal abuse, threats or abuse transmitted electronically by email and SMS</li> </ul>

LONG SUSPENSION (up to 20 school days)	BEHAVIOURS
1. Physical Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aggressive behaviours which results in pain or injury or interferes with the safety and well-being of staff and students.</li> </ul>
2. Use or possession of a firearm, knife or weapon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objects under the <i>Weapons Prohibition Act</i></li> <li>Possession of a knife which has no reasonable purpose</li> <li>Possession of a firearm of any type</li> </ul>
3. Possession and use of a suspected illegal substance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use or possession of illegal drugs not including tobacco or alcohol</li> </ul>
4. Use of any implement as a weapon or threatening to use an implement as a weapon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using any item in a way which threatens the safety and well-being of staff and students</li> <li>Using any implement which is made or adapted to cause injury to a person.</li> </ul>
5. Persistent Misbehaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeated refusal to follow school rules</li> <li>Making a serious threat against staff or students</li> <li>Persistently disruptive behaviour</li> </ul>
6. Serious criminal activity related to the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malicious damage to property in the school or community or against the property of staff or students at school or in the community.</li> </ul>

Students will be suspended immediately for the following

- Physical violence resulting in pain or injury
- Possession of a firearm prohibited weapon or knife
- Use or possession of a suspected illegal substance.

Police will be called when students break the law at school. This can include:

- Violence against staff or students
- Intimidation of staff or students
- Possession of a firearm prohibited weapon or knife
- Use or possession of a suspected illegal substance
- Damage to school property

## SMOKING

The Smith Street Unit, like all schools in NSW, is a non-smoking environment. **Staff and students are not permitted to smoke on the Smith Street Unit grounds.** Students may wish to explore nicotine gum or patches as a way of controlling the craving for cigarettes during school hours.

Consequences for smoking are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offence, a warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offence, a time-out
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offence during the school term earns a short suspension

We can direct students to the CHAIN Adolescent Health service to access free nicotine replacement therapies if parent would like us to assist in this area.

## MOBILE PHONES

Students are permitted to bring their mobile phones to school; however, we need to ensure that staff and students are safe and secure at all times. Our experience tells us that inappropriate use of phones in our school environment can pose a serious risk to staff and student safety.

Safety risks can include:

- Accessing inappropriate websites
- Conflict arising from theft of devices
- Threats, intimidation and cyber-bullying
- Inviting unwanted visitors and arranging criminal activity while at school

Therefore, we insist that mobile phones are handed to the Unit manager at the beginning of the school day for safe keeping. Phones are returned to students at the end of the school day or whenever a student leaves the school for any reason.

This means we are able to ensure that all phones are kept safe in a secure place so there is no possibility of theft or other inappropriate use.

We contact parents/carers immediately if their child refuses to cooperate with this rule. Students failing to obey this rule will be asked to hand over their phone to staff immediately. If they refuse to follow the rule, the student will receive an immediate time-out and be asked to leave school immediately-you will be contacted if this occurs.



**You may contact your child at any time during the school day on the school number 42 288 884 or 0434 478 754**

## **SCHOOL CLOTHING**

Students at The Smith Street Unit are encouraged to wear either their home school uniform or The Smith Street Unit school shirt (available from the staffroom). Students receive 10 points for making this choice. Potentially a student can earn 1970 points a year simply by wearing their uniform.

Students choosing to wear their own clothing rather than a school uniform will not receive uniform points. We would like to remind parents that as we are a NSW Department of Education & Communities facility this requires us to ensure certain dress standards from our students and although we do not insist that students wear school uniform there are some restrictions on what is appropriate dress for school. The guidelines for appropriate dress are:

- Any clothing worn **must be appropriate. T-shirts or hats** with slogans or logos which are to do with drugs or alcohol, sexist images, swear words, logos or slogans encouraging dangerous behaviour, displaying sexist, racist or antisocial messages are **NOT acceptable** school wear at The Smith Street Unit.
- Students **must wear closed shoes**. Students failing to wear safe footwear will not be allowed to participate in practical activities.
- Clothing should cover the chest and upper arms (e.g. T shirts NOT singlets).
- Female students must wear clothing which is **modest** and **covers their shoulders and midriff**. Short shorts or very short skirts **are not appropriate school wear**.
- Staff safety during class and practical lessons.
- **Hoods are not permitted in the school grounds as they can mask aggressive body language. Baseball caps, and beanies** can be worn in the playground but are NOT to be worn during lessons as taking off headgear is a mark of RESPECT.

Students who do not follow the appropriate dress rules will be given a choice and asked to either:

- Change into other clothing provided by the school.
- Turn offending T-shirts inside out
- Put on a jacket or longer pants

Students refusing to do this will be asked to go home and change.

## COLLECTION OF MONEY

All money collected from students in class for excursions, activities or school contributions is recorded with students name, purpose and amount and banked at WHSPA. Money for cancelled events will be refunded after parents have been called to ask how the refund should be made.

## SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

The School Counsellor, Sue Bromham is available at the Unit each **Thursday**. Parents and carers can make an appointment to see the counsellor by phoning the Unit prior to that day each week.

## BEHAVIOUR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Student progress is monitored daily by the use of the Unit's points and warning system. Students are able to evaluate how they are progressing with their plan to improve their behaviour. Daily comments are also recorded.

Student attendance is monitored weekly by the student's home school and the DEC Student Services Team. Student placements are reviewed each term.

A Regional Review Panel of student placement and progress in the program is also held annually. The review team is made up of representatives from the DoE and the Student Services Team. At this meeting, each student's on-going placement is discussed. **Students must maintain regular attendance to keep their place at the Smith Street Unit.**

Parents and carers are asked to attend the last review meeting in Term 4 to help us make decisions about your child's placement at The Smith Street Unit, and ongoing academic pathway.

## REPORTS

Semester reports on students' behaviour and academic progress are issued twice a year at the end of Terms 2 and 4. Reports will consist of progress towards School to Work outcomes and comments from the Unit teachers as well as a report from Karabar Distance Education Centre if the student is enrolled.

Other reports for health professionals, court or custody matters will be issued on request. In keeping with school policy, reports to assist students regarding court matters will be forwarded directly to the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice or the Children's Court Magistrate, rather than to the child's solicitor.

## CANTEEN

The Smith Street Unit canteen provides the students with a range of healthy meals that they may purchase with points earned from the reward program. We also run a breakfast program every morning to help our students kick start their day.

The Breakfast program is free and runs every morning from 9.00am to 9.30am and consists of toast, cereal, fruit juice and flavoured milk. There is also an opportunity for students to work in the canteen to gain valuable school to work experience to assist in securing work.

## TEAM WORK

The staff at The Smith Street Unit believe that developing a positive plan, which includes all the agencies and parties who deal with the student, will best meets the needs of students in the program. Therefore, we have close links with parents/carers and other agencies such as:

NSW Department of Family & Community Services  
 NSW Police Service  
 NSW Department of Health Adolescent Mental Health Centre  
 Headspace Illawarra  
 CHAIN  
 NSW Department of Juvenile Justice  
 NSW DEC Out-of-Home Care Teacher  
 NSW DEC Transition Teacher  
 Mission Australia  
 TAFE Illawarra  
 Community Training and Employment Providers  
 Local Youth Accommodation providers



*Art Collage  
SSU 2015*

## CONTACT WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

We look forward to developing a strong partnership to support your child. Parents and carers are encouraged to maintain regular contact with The Smith Street Unit staff. We are happy for you to visit and to help with problems, which may arise in each child's life. The Unit staff and the School Counsellor are happy to provide support for parents should they need assistance.

“The challenge to continue the momentum established by previous leaders and to address the complex learning needs of our students has proven to be the most rewarding position I have undertaken during my long and varied teaching career.

The opportunity to work with such a fantastic team while creating a therapeutic environment full of colour, a thriving vegetable garden, Lebanese cooking, period fixtures, laughter and learning has re-ignited the passion to achieve the best for all.

In the words of B.B.King:

“The beautiful thing about learning is no-one can take it away from you”.

*Dale-Myree Dal Santo*

*Head Teacher “Smith Street Unit”- an annexe of Wollongong High of the Performing Arts*