

Queensland Department of Education Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres

Inspiring learning and leading through outdoor and environmental education

The 25 Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres (O&EEC) are State educational institutions in the Queensland Department of Education. O&EEC provide specialised residential and day visit programs which are designed to assist partner schools in meeting goals linked to: Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline, Australian Curriculum (P–10), and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority Senior Syllabuses (11–12).

With a focus on outdoor and environmental education, we authentically integrate the cross-curriculum priorities of Sustainability, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, the General Capabilities and STEM connections.

The strengths of our programs are in their clarity of purpose, interdisciplinary design, place-responsive pedagogy, culturally informed practices, and deeply connected ways of learning.



Outdoor Learning Curriculum Connection — Australian Curriculum

Outdoor learning facilitates the development of positive relationships with self, others and the environment through interaction with the natural world. These relationships are essential for the wellbeing and sustainability of individuals, society and our environment. Students engage in practical and active learning experiences in natural environments and settings, which typically take place beyond the school classroom. In these place-based learning spaces, students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to live and move effectively, while enhancing relationships, their own health and wellbeing, and a sense of social justice. They also learn to value and promote a positive and sustainable relationship with natural environments.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

CONNECTIONS

CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

HEALTH & WELLBEING

How we Enrich, Enhance and Extend Learning

- We accurately align and integrate curriculum content across multiple learning areas within the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline, Australian Curriculum, and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority Senior Syllabuses.
- We use high impact pedagogies, our unique contexts, expert teaching teams and state-of-the-art resources and facilities.
- We create opportunities for learners to explore the links between human–nature relationships, health and wellbeing, highlighting how sustainable engagement with natural environments benefits individuals, communities, and ecosystems.
- We support learners in building connections to themselves, others and the natural environment.
- We authentically integrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, connections and ways of being by learning about and on Country.
- We encourage and assist the implementation of effective environmental education for sustainability through programs and in schools.
- We build partnerships with other schools, government and non-government organisations, and community networks to expand learning opportunities provided at our site and beyond.
- We welcome individuals and groups into safe, inclusive and collaborative spaces.

Student Impact

O&EEC provide authentic, place-responsive experiences that extend learning beyond the classroom.

STUDENTS:

- Engage authentically through experiential learning and develop ecological literacy.
- Strengthen outcomes across curriculums and syllabus areas while building creative and critical thinking.
- Are empowered to care for the natural environment and Country, deepening respect for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Grow as curious, confident and connected learners with resilience and adaptability.
- Extend teamwork, communication and leadership through collaborative experiences.
- Experience challenge, wonder and joy in natural settings, laying foundations for lifelong learning and wellbeing.
- Gain exposure to real-world industry and career pathways in environmental and outdoor fields.

What Sets Us Apart: Our Diverse Settings and Unique Strengths

PLACE

Across Queensland, our centres are uniquely embedded in diverse environments — from coastlines, islands, reefs, beaches, and mangroves to rainforests, bushland, wetlands, historical and cultural sites, and even urban landscapes, all of which encompass some of the most biodiverse ecosystems in Australia. Each centre draws on its place to connect learners with the environment, culture, and community, fostering belonging, deep respect, and custodianship of Country.

HIGH IMPACT PEDAGOGIES

O&EEC deliver immersive learning experiences through evidence-based, high impact pedagogies embedded within our distinctive settings. Place-responsive learning facilitates the development of positive relationships with self, others and the environment through interaction with the natural world.

EXPERT TEACHING TEAMS

Our teaching teams are passionate, highly skilled educators with expertise across outdoor, environmental and experiential learning. They bring curriculum to life in specialised contexts, providing programs to meet a wide range of learning needs and styles. With a deep understanding of people, place and respect for Country they inspire learners to think critically and creatively, act sustainably, and engage purposefully with the world around them.

WORLD CLASS FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

O&EEC provide access to facilities and resources rarely available in school settings. These include mobile and floating classrooms, adaptive indoor and outdoor learning spaces, and specialist equipment designed to enrich hands-on learning. Students engage in real-world contexts across a wide variety of environments and ecosystems — each offering powerful opportunities for connection, discovery and application of learning.

COMMUNITY, PARTNERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

The strength of our centres are in strategic, meaningful partnerships with schools, P&Cs, other O&EEC, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations, National Parks, land managers and stakeholders, university and vocational institutions, industry, environmental sustainability and conservation organisations, and global networks. Together, we create connected learning pathways that build capacity across communities and enhance opportunities for students, teachers, schools and the wider community.

QUALITY ASSURANCE: Visiting teacher feedback survey / Long-term returning clients / O&EEC Visitation data / Alignment to Australian Curriculum, Senior Syllabuses, EYLF and QKLG / Collaboration with Principals, HoDs and teachers / O&EEC sector collaboration, moderation and communities of practice / Student assessment / Evidence based — Australian Research Council research*



Queensland Association of Outdoor & Environmental Education Centre Leaders

Queensland Department of Education Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres



1 Holloways Beach EEC
Holloways Beach, Cairns
Far North Queensland Region
Day visit and Residential / P-12
hollowaysbeacheec.eq.edu.au

2 Tinaroo EEC (Barron River and Black Gully campuses)
Tinaroo, Atherton Tablelands
Far North Queensland Region
Day visit and Residential / K-12
tinarooeec.eq.edu.au

3 Daradgee EEC
Daradgee, Far North QLD
Far North Queensland Region
Day visit and Residential / K-12
daradgeeeec.eq.edu.au

4 Paluma EEC
Townsville
North Queensland Region
Day visit and Residential / P-12
palumaeec.eq.edu.au

5 Kinchant Dam OEC
Kinchant Dam, Mackay
Central Queensland Region
Day visit and Residential / P-12
kinchantoec.eq.edu.au

6 Camp Fairbairn OEC
Gindie, south Emerald
Central Queensland Region
Residential / P-12
campfairbairnoec.eq.edu.au

7 Konomie Island EEC
Keppel Bay, off Yeppoon
Central Queensland Region
Day visit and Residential / P-12
konomieislandeec.eq.edu.au

8 Boyne Island EEC
Boyne Island, south of Gladstone
Central Queensland Region
Day visit and Residential / P-12
boyneislandeec.eq.edu.au

9 Barambah EEC
Wratten's Forest, near Gympie
North Coast Region
Day visit and Residential / K-12
barambaheec.eq.edu.au

10 Columboola EEC
Columboola, east of Miles
Darling Downs South West Region
Day visit and Residential / P-12
columboolaec.eq.edu.au

11 Amaroo EEC
Kleinton, Toowoomba
Darling Downs South West Region
Day visit / P-12
amarooeec.eq.edu.au

Sunshine Coast EEC (Bilal and Sunday Creek campuses)
12 A North Coast Region
Bilal Office, Maroochy Wetlands
Sanctuary, Bli Bli
Day visit / P-12
12 B Sunday Creek Campsite
Sunday Creek Road, Jimna
Residential / 4-12
sunshinecoasteec.eq.edu.au

13 Stanley River EEC
Lake Somerset
North Coast Region
Day visit and Residential / K-12
stanleyrivereec.eq.edu.au

14 Nudgee Beach EEC
Nudgee Beach, Brisbane
Metropolitan North Region
Day visit / K-12
nudgeebeacheec.eq.edu.au

15 Bunyaville EEC
Bunyaville Conservation Park,
Brisbane, Metropolitan North Region
Day visit / K-12
bunyavilleec.eq.edu.au

16 Pullenvale EEC
Pullenvale, West Brisbane
Metropolitan North Region
Day visit / K-12
pullenvaleec.eq.edu.au

17 Brisbane Urban EEC
Newmarket, Brisbane
Metropolitan North Region
Day Visit (+ Ekka Show Camp) / P-12
brisbaneurbaneec.eq.edu.au

18 Moreton Bay EEC
Wynnum, Brisbane
Metropolitan South Region
Day visit / P-12
moretoneec.eq.edu.au

19 Toohey Forest EEC
Griffith University Nathan Campus
Metropolitan South Region
Day visit / P-12
tooheyforesteec.eq.edu.au

20 Jacobs Well EEC
Norwell, Gold Coast
South East Region
Day visit and Residential / K-12
jacobsweleec.eq.edu.au

21 Runaway Bay Sport and Leadership Excellence Centre
Gold Coast
South East Region
Day visit and Residential / 3-12
runawaybaysportlec.eq.edu.au

22 Tallebudgera O&EEC
Palm Beach, Gold Coast
South East Region
Day visit and Residential / P-12
tallebudgeraoeec.eq.edu.au

23 Numinbah Valley EEC
Gold Coast Hinterland
South East Region
Day visit and Residential / P-12
numinbahvalleyeec.eq.edu.au

24 Maroon OEC
Maroon Dam, Scenic Rim
South East Region
Residential / 4-12
maroonoec.eq.edu.au

25 Currumbin Valley EEC
Currumbin Valley, Gold Coast
South East Region
Day visit and Residential / P-12
currumbinvalleyeec.eq.edu.au

Map Key:

- = Day visit only
- = Residential and Day visit
- = Residential only

EEC = Environmental Education Centre
OEC = Outdoor Education Centre

Brighter Futures

The work of O&EEC supports the Department of Education's strategy of delivering excellence in every state school, for every student.

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Knowing and responding to each student's learning needs is essential to making sure they are on track to achieve their educational goals.

Our common goal is for every student to progress in their learning each year to achieve individual excellence, and to invest in the capability and expertise of our people to support them.

BELONGING AND ENGAGEMENT

Welcoming every student and supporting their unique needs creates a positive culture that promotes a sense of belonging, wellbeing and safety to support their engagement in learning.

Our common goal is to create positive and inclusive teaching and learning environments where all staff and students feel confident, resilient and supported to thrive.

Connections to communities enrich the learning of every student and strengthens all of our work.

We acknowledge the Aboriginal ancestors and the Torres Strait Islander ancestors of the lands, seas, skies and waterways across all the Countries of Queensland. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and the continuation of cultural, spiritual, and educational practices of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres, we have a unique opportunity to engage with the world's oldest continuous living cultures through truth telling, building strong authentic community connections, listening to Elders and by working and learning on Country.

Artwork: 'Map of Country' by Glenn Barry (Gamilaraay Artist).
Refer: *Charter for Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres
*Brighter Futures Education Strategy *Introducing a Fifth Pedagogy: Experience-Based Strategies for Facilitating Learning in Natural Environments' by Roy Ballantyne and Jan Packer * 'Learning for Sustainability: The role and impact of Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres' by Roy Ballantyne and Jan Packer.