



**SUMMERLAND
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE**

2025
Annual Report

**This report has been prepared in accordance with NESA B2.7 requirements
and the Australian Education Regulation 2023.**

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1. COLLEGE PROFILE & CONTEXT



Summerland Christian College is a co-educational K-12 independent Christian school located in Goonellabah, NSW. As a ministry of Centre Church Lismore, the College exists to build hope-filled futures through Christ-centred education that develops wisdom, fosters connection, and equips students for lives of purpose. The college is a member of Christian Schools Australia and also Independent Schools NSW.

During 2025 the College continued to strengthen its focus on whole-child development through its Building Hope-Filled Futures framework, balancing academic excellence, Christian formation, wellbeing, student voice, and community connection.



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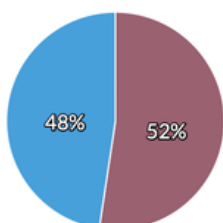
The College served families from across the Northern Rivers region and remained committed to providing a learning environment where students are known, valued, challenged and supported.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDENT BODY

Students

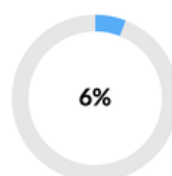
Total enrolments: 628

Boys 299
Girls 329



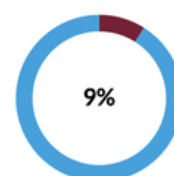
Full-time equivalent enrolments: 628.0

Indigenous students



Language background other than English

Yes (9%)
No (91%)
Not stated (0%)



This information is sourced from <https://myschool.edu.au/school/43771>

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2. FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As I reflect on 2025, I am reminded of the words of Psalm 127:1:

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.”

At Summerland Christian College, we recognise that while plans, strategies and hard work are important, it is ultimately God who sustains and guides our community. As a Board, we remain grateful for His continued faithfulness and provision throughout another significant year in the life of our College.

The year 2025 marked an important transition for Summerland Christian College as we welcomed Mr Tony Ellem into the role of Executive Principal. Leadership transitions naturally bring both challenges and opportunities, and the Board has been encouraged by the wisdom, humility and vision Tony has brought to the role during his first year of principalship.

One of the most significant areas of focus throughout the year has been preparing for the future. Rather than simply maintaining what already exists, the College has undertaken a substantial process of reflection, consultation and planning to help shape the next chapter of Summerland Christian College. Through conversations with staff, students, parents, community members and external consultants, we have sought to listen carefully, identify our strengths, acknowledge areas for growth and discern how God is calling us forward.

The Board has been particularly encouraged by the development of the College’s emerging strategic direction and the continued refinement of the Building Hope Filled Futures vision. These initiatives reflect a commitment not

only to academic excellence, but to the holistic development of young people who are equipped with wisdom, character, faith and purpose.

Throughout 2025 we have continued to witness the dedication and professionalism of our staff. Every day, teachers, support staff and leaders invest themselves into the lives of students, helping them grow academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Their work is often unseen by the broader community, yet its impact is profound and lasting.

We have also been encouraged by the strength of the partnerships that exist between the College and our families. Across enrolment interviews, community

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consultations, strategic planning discussions and everyday interactions, it has been evident that families value the Christ-centred culture, caring relationships and sense of belonging that continue to characterise Summerland Christian College.

The Board remains committed to ensuring the College is well positioned for future generations. This includes responsible stewardship of resources, strengthening governance practices, maintaining financial sustainability and planning for future facilities and educational needs as the College continues to grow and evolve.

Most importantly, we celebrate the evidence of God's work within our community. Whether through classroom learning, chapels, camps, service opportunities, pastoral care, friendships or daily acts of kindness, we continue to see lives being shaped by the truth of the Gospel and the hope found in Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Mr Ellem and the Executive Team, our dedicated staff, our students, and our families for their commitment to the College throughout 2025. Together, we continue to build a community that seeks to honour God while preparing young people for lives of purpose and service.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence and hope, trusting in God's faithfulness and believing that the best days of Summerland Christian College are still to come.

Blessings

Pastor David Winter
Board Chair

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3. FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As I reflect on my first year as Executive Principal of Summerland Christian College, one phrase comes to mind: “Take your marks.”

Anyone who has watched a race knows that some of the most important moments occur before the starting gun is fired. There is a season of preparation, positioning and focus that lays the foundation for everything that follows. In many ways, 2025 has been that kind of year for our College.

When I commenced in the role, I inherited a school with many strengths, a dedicated staff, supportive families, strong Christian foundations and a genuine commitment to helping young people flourish. Rather than rushing into change, we intentionally took time to listen. Throughout the year we sought feedback from students, parents, staff, educational leaders, consultants and Christian school colleagues to better understand both our strengths and the opportunities before us.

What emerged was both encouraging and exciting.

Again and again, people spoke of the caring relationships that define our community, the commitment of our staff, the sense of belonging experienced by students, and the strong Christian values that continue to shape life at Summerland Christian College. These qualities remain the heart of who we are and provide a strong foundation for the future.

At the same time, the conversations helped bring greater clarity to where we are heading. As our College continues to grow and mature, we have begun strengthening the systems, structures and leadership pathways that will support the next season of development. Significant work commenced on future strategic planning, master planning for facilities, communication systems, operational processes and leadership structures, ensuring that our growth is intentional, sustainable and centred on what matters most, our students.



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One of the most significant developments during the year was the creation of our Building Hope Filled Futures Teaching and Learning Framework. This framework captures what we believe great Christian education looks like at Summerland Christian College.

It is built on three key pillars: High Impact Teaching, Learning Partnerships, and Purpose Driven Flourishing. At its heart is a commitment to balancing challenge with support, agency with structure, and high expectations with genuine care. More than a framework, it provides a shared vision for the type of learners, people and graduates we hope to develop, young people who are equipped academically, grounded in faith, and prepared to make a positive difference in the world.

We have also continued planning for future facilities that will support contemporary learning opportunities, including the proposed development of new science learning spaces. While these projects take time, they reflect our commitment to ensuring students have access to environments that match the quality of learning we aspire to provide.

Perhaps what gives me the greatest confidence for the future is not any particular initiative or project, but the people who make up this community. Every day I have the privilege of seeing staff invest deeply in students, students rise to challenges, and families partner with us in meaningful ways. These moments remind me that Christian education is ultimately about shaping lives, nurturing character, growing faith and helping young people discover the hope and purpose found in Christ.

As we look ahead, I believe Summerland Christian College is well positioned for its next chapter. We have listened carefully, clarified our direction and laid important foundations for the future.

2025 was a year of taking our marks. And as we prepare for the opportunities ahead, I am filled with optimism about what God has in store for our College community. Together, we remain committed to building hope filled futures for every student entrusted to our care.

Tony Ellem
Executive Principal



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4. STUDENT OUTCOMES

NAPLAN

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been a part of the school calendar since 2008. NAPLAN tests the skills which are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The

assessments are undertaken nationwide every year and consist of tests in the four areas (or ‘domains’) of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.



	2023	2024	2025		
				<<	>>
Compare to	☒ Students with similar background		☐ All Australian students		
	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Year 3	454	458	417	469	431
Year 5	524	502	492	529	511
Year 7	560	569	543	566	548
Year 9	609	622	594	604	598
NAPLAN participation for this school is 95%					
NAPLAN participation for all Australian students is 95%					

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5. SENIOR SECONDARY OUTCOMES

HSC & VET

All students who completed Year 12 in 2025 pursued further study or entered the workforce.

Of the cohort, 56% commenced full-time study at university, TAFE or private colleges, while 44% transitioned directly into employment. A number of students also indicated that their post-school pathway included traineeships, apprenticeships or deferred tertiary offers, reflecting the diverse and flexible opportunities available to graduates.

The College offers three senior pathways: an ATAR-eligible pathway, a Combined Vocational and HSC pathway, and a Non-ATAR pathway.

Of the 2025 cohort, 6% of students undertook vocational education or trade training during their senior years, while 94% completed an ATAR-eligible pathway. One student completed the HSC through the Life Skills pathway. All students successfully completed their HSC studies.

The 2025 HSC results continued the College's strong academic performance, with many courses achieving outcomes above the State average. This reflects the commitment of staff to high-impact teaching and the dedication of students to engaging deeply with their learning. Of the 21 subjects studied in 2025, 15 achieved results that were above, on, or close to the State average, with Modern History, Ancient History, Music, CAFS, PDHPE, Food Technology, Industrial Technology - Timber, and Textiles and Design performing considerably above the State average.



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The following table shows the average percentage achieved by students across subject areas. These results highlight areas of academic strength, particularly in English Advanced, Food Technology, Textiles and Design, and Music, and reflect the continued commitment of both students and staff to achieving excellence.

SUMMERLAND CHRISTIAN COLLEGE VS. STATE HSC RESULTS 2025

Course Name	Students	School Mean	State Mean	Band 4-6	Band 1-3
Biology	12	72.05	73.04	7	5
Drama	3	75.47	81.3	3	0
Studies of Religion	6	68.43	77.38	2	4
Modern History	4	78.75	73.72	4	0
PDHPE	24	76.24	74.09	7	4
CAFS	12	76.88	74	11	1
Music	5	87.48	81.27	5	0
Ancient History	7	74.4	72.92	6	1
Business Studies	7	74.4	73.45	7	0
Chemistry	7	69.94	73.45	3	4
Food Technology	9	78.96	72.94	9	0
Industrial Technology; Timber	8	77.53	70.77	5	2
Legal Studies	19	75.42	75.55	15	4
Software Design and Development	7	55.23	74.22	1	6
Textiles and Design	10	81.66	76.81	10	0
Visual Arts	12	80.28	81.9	11	1
English Standard	15	70.76	71.62	9	6
English Advanced	15	80.64	81.8	15	0
English Extension 1	3	41.1	42.38	3	0
Mathematics Standard	16	65.31	71.56	5	11
Mathematics Advanced	7	65.71	71.56	3	4

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6. WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

The school workforce comprises people from many cultural backgrounds demonstrating our community's multicultural diversity. There are 2 staff who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander though we confidently expect that future recruitment will result in applications from First Nations teachers and non-teaching staff.

The teaching staff and students receive support from staff who work as learning assistants, library assistant, computer administrator, counsellor and a chaplain. Administration and maintenance teams are also employed to ensure that positive operation of the school's educational program is soundly delivered.

School Staff 2025	
Teaching Staff	50
Full-time equivalent teaching staff	42
Non-teaching staff	36
Full-time non-teaching equivalent	27.8

ACCREDITATION OF TEACHING STAFF

Throughout 2025 staff engaged in extensive professional learning aligned with College priorities, curriculum reform, wellbeing, compliance and Christian education. Staff participated in internal and external professional development opportunities focused on effective teaching practices, curriculum implementation, student wellbeing, leadership development and child safety.

All teaching staff who are responsible for the delivery of NESA curriculum under the Education Act (1990) have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or are recognised within the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) guidelines.

All teaching staff were accredited during 2025 to teach in NSW by NESA at the following levels:

- Proficient Teacher level - 48
- Conditional/Provisional Teacher level - 7

We also maintain a pool of teachers for casual employment to meet our needs for teacher relief, all of whom possess accreditation at Proficient Teacher or Conditional/Provisional Teacher.



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7. STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Year Level	Attendance Rate %
Kindergarten	92%
Year 1	91%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	91%
Year Level	Attendance Rate %
Year 5	92%
Year 6	90%
Year 7	90%
Year 8	89%
Year 9	89%

Year Level	Attendance Rate %
Year 10	87%
Year 11	91%
Year 12	92%
Whole School	91%

MANAGING STUDENT NON-ATTENDANCE

All legitimate absences from school must be explained by the student's parents or caregivers to the school as soon as possible following a student's absence. Absences not explained after all reasonable attempts have been made to obtain a note will normally be recorded as an unexplained absence.

For more information on student attendance and absences please refer to the school's Enrolment Policy and Attendance Policy for an explanation of all prerequisites for continuing enrolment.



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8. SCHOOL POLICIES

The following policies are publicly available on our website:
<https://sccollege.nsw.edu.au/policies-and-procedures>

Policy Requirement and Reference Number	Name of Policy
Anti-Bullying Policy	Bullying and Harassment Policy
Discipline Policy	Student Discipline Policy and Procedures
Child Protection Policy	Child Protection Policy Child Safety Code of Conduct Student Friendly Guide to Safety
Complaints Policy	Complaints Policy
Enrolment Policy (B7)	Enrolment Policy



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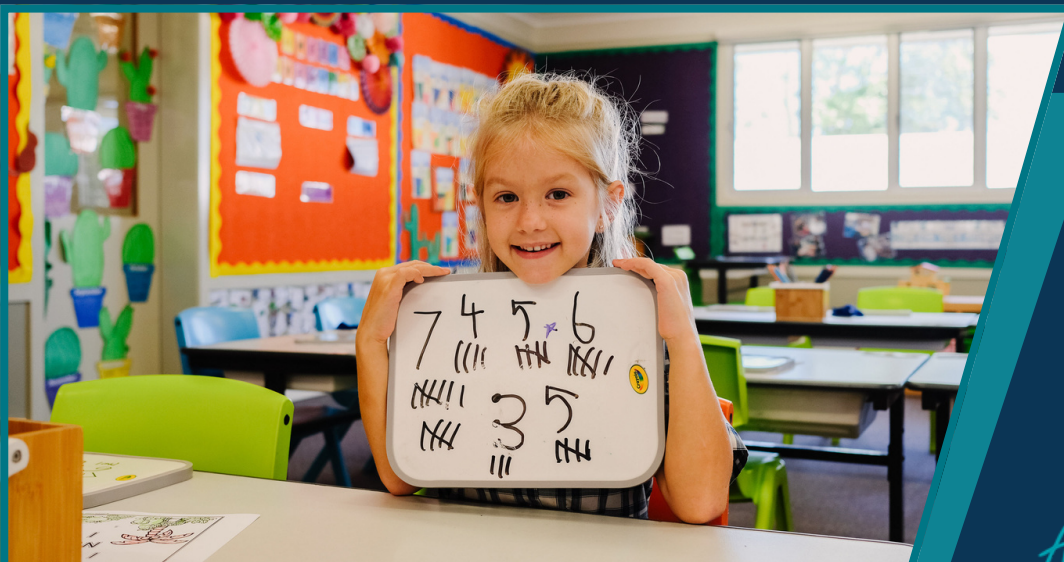
9. SATISFACTION MEASURES

Summerland Christian College values the feedback and perspectives of students, parents, staff, and the wider community as part of our commitment to continuous improvement. During 2025, stakeholder satisfaction was monitored through enrolment trends, parent engagement, student voice initiatives, staff feedback, external reviews, and ongoing conversations with families and community members.

While the College did not conduct a formal whole school satisfaction survey during the reporting period due to the robust and lengthy AIS Perspective Survey in 2024, there were many indicators of strong stakeholder confidence and satisfaction.

Parent confidence in the College remains evident through continued demand for enrolment, particularly in Pre Kindy and Year 7, where enrolment enquiries and applications continue to be strong. Across enrolment interviews and information sessions, families consistently identify the College's Christian values, safe and caring environment, faith based education, and strong academic foundations as the primary reasons for choosing Summerland Christian College.

Parent engagement throughout the year remained exceptionally high. Attendance at parent information evenings, parent teacher interviews, sporting events, performances, chapels, camps, and community activities demonstrated the strength of the partnership between home and school. End of year performance events regularly attracted close to full family participation, while major community events such as the College Bush Dance brought together more than 1,000 members of the wider community in a celebration of connection, belonging, and family. Feedback from parents consistently highlighted the welcoming nature of the College and the strong sense of community that exists across the school.



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Student voice continued to play an important role in shaping College life. Feedback gathered through student leadership groups, graduating student reflections, and ongoing conversations with students informed a number of initiatives during the year, including the development of enhanced mentoring structures and additional stage based leadership roles in Secondary School. Students regularly expressed appreciation for the supportive relationships they experience with staff and the opportunities available to participate in academic, sporting, cultural, service, and leadership activities.

The College's reputation within the wider community continues to be strongly associated with student wellbeing, safety, and support. Many families enrolling at the College share that they are seeking a school where their children will be known, cared for, and supported to flourish. Summerland Christian College is widely recognised as a nurturing environment where students from a diverse range of backgrounds and learning needs are welcomed and supported. The College continues to maintain settled learning environments and a strong culture of positive relationships, contributing to a sense of safety and belonging for students.

Staff feedback during the year reflected a strong commitment to the College's mission and a deep sense of care for students and families. An independent leadership and organisational review conducted during 2025 found that staff expressed a deep love for the College community, a strong connection to its Christian mission, and genuine optimism about the school's future. The review identified the relational culture of the College as one of its greatest strengths, while also highlighting opportunities to strengthen systems, leadership structures, role clarity, and long term sustainability as the College continues to grow.

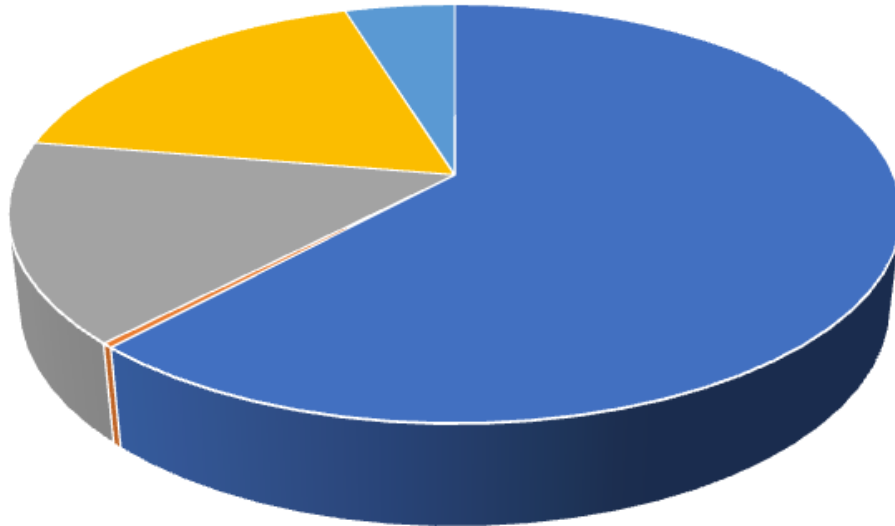
The College remains grateful for the trust and partnership of its families, students, staff, and wider community. Feedback received throughout 2025 affirmed the strong foundations of Summerland Christian College while also helping shape the priorities that will guide the next season of growth as we continue building hope filled futures.



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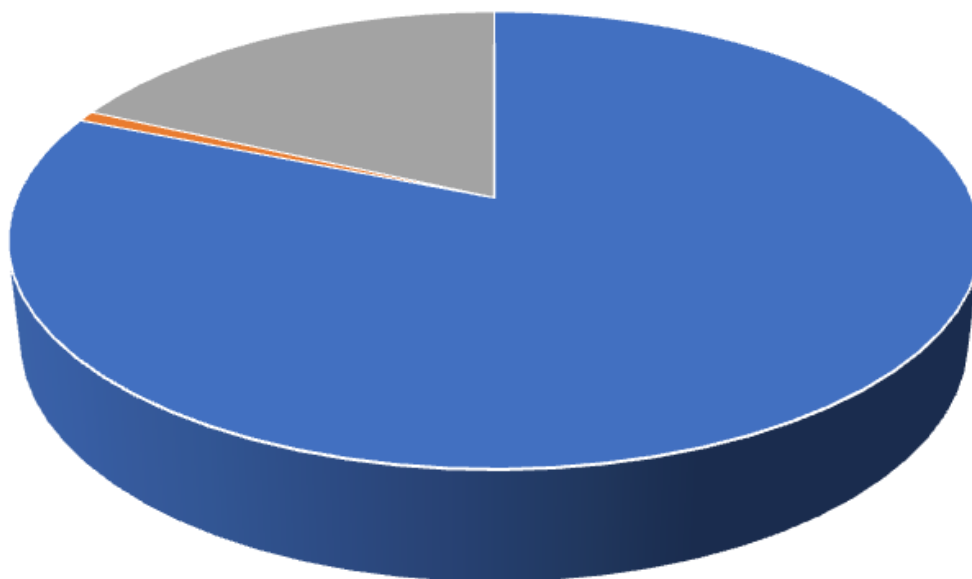
10. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue



- Commonwealth Recurrent Grants - 61.8%
- Tuition Fees & Charges - 17.6%
- State Recurrent Grants - 15.5%
- Other Income - 4.8%
- Other Government Grants - 0.4%

Expenditure



- Salaries & Related Expenses - 81.1%
- Non-Salary Expenditure - 18.1%
- Capital Expenditure - 0.7%



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