

CASE STUDY:

Catholic Education Services – Diocese of Cairns

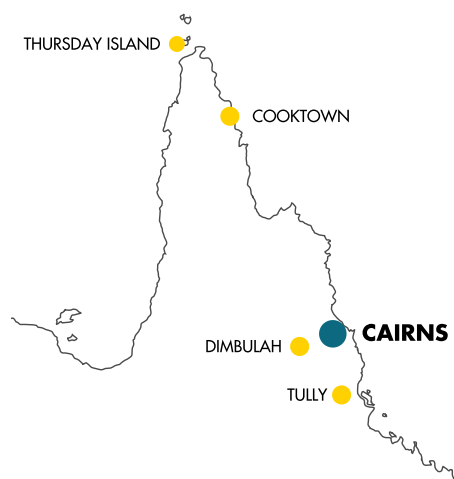
29
Schools

15,352
Students

Empowering a network of schools, parents and students

The Catholic Education – Diocese of Cairns oversees a network of 29 Catholic schools and colleges, serving over 11,000 students. Their schools span across an incredibly far-reaching region (encompassing 377,000 km²), extending from Thursday Island in the north to Tully in the south and Dimbulah in the west.

EdSmart has been serving the Diocese of Cairns since early 2017, and has been used in a variety of applications in order to meet the needs of all schools in the network, including boarding schools and those in remote locations.



The network now uses EdSmart to manage parental communications for excursions, incursions, media consent processes and much more.

EdSmart has supported the Diocese's priorities, improving parent engagement and streamlining digital processes to encourage consistency and accuracy across the board.

Since deploying EdSmart, the network has seen a substantial increase in parent engagement, bettering the way that their schools communicate with parent communities.

Administrators are supported by the system's accurate data insights and response tracking.

When discussing the response from parents and any initial resistance to change, Alison Forster, who manages all School Information Systems across the network, says parents have expressed their enthusiasm: "They just get it. I have parents telling me how much they love [EdSmart] and how easy it is to use with everything in one place."

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Schools in the Diocese of Cairns have embraced the use of EdSmart for Parent Slips and Broadcasts. Across our Primary, Secondary, P-12 and Boarding Schools, users have discovered a myriad uses for EdSmart.

The capacity to schedule slips, track opening and responding (and bounces!) has been welcomed. Our users refer to it as "amazing" and a "God-send"!

Contact with parents in our remote locations has been facilitated by EdSmart. The options for managing collated data (individual printouts, Excel spreadsheets, etc.) means our schools use Parent Slips for a range of purposes – from Instrumental Music Programs to Overseas trips.

EdSmart smoothly integrates with our student database to provide lists and contact details that are always accurate.

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ALISON FORSTER
Manager, School Information Systems
Catholic Education Services – Diocese of Cairns

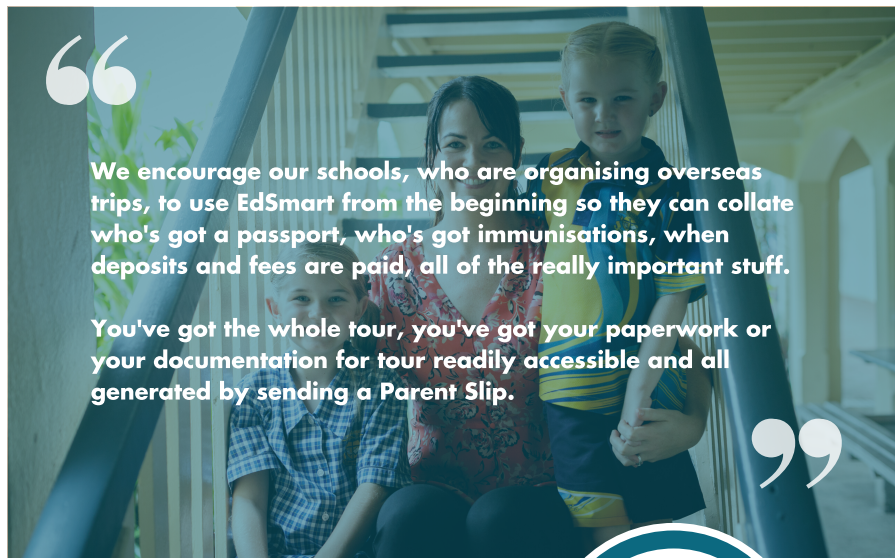
Rising to the occasion and meeting the unique needs of diverse school communities

As for staff in the schools, Alison was met with a wave of excitement when first rolling out the system.

"When we first launched it, I ran drop-in sessions or information sessions, and people wanted to get on-board with it more quickly than I could keep up with!"

Alison, who has a background in secondary education, welcomed the deployment of EdSmart in place of "cumbersome paper-based systems, which made school staff feel snowed-under and were difficult to manage."

She shared that one of her schools had been using a quadruplicate carbon copy book to hand out detention notices: "When a student got a detention after school, they would write it in this handmade carbon copy book – one slip would go to this person, one would go to the year coordinator, one would go to the teacher, one would go home, one would go to the office!"



“We encourage our schools, who are organising overseas trips, to use EdSmart from the beginning so they can collate who's got a passport, who's got immunisations, when deposits and fees are paid, all of the really important stuff.

You've got the whole tour, you've got your paperwork or your documentation for tour readily accessible and all generated by sending a Parent Slip.”

With EdSmart, the school has set up a digital Parent Slip for detention, which can be easily actioned by an educator or administrator with required details (e.g. selected students, reason for detention, etc). A copy is then sent to all relevant stakeholders (e.g. parents of the student and staff).

EdSmart has been used to transform the way schools in the Cairns Diocese operate, and has created consistency across a diverse and widespread group of schools.

Joined in
2017

849,247
Forms sent

1,800
Teachers

