



Ngairé Gamack

Towards 2020 Submission
Copland College
Feedback with reference to Media

It is with great sadness that, as a teacher of Media, I have to contemplate the future of Copland College as a Year 7-12 school. Students of Media will be severely disadvantaged under this model and would have fewer opportunities than students attending other ACT Colleges.

The comments voiced by the Departmental Representatives visiting the Copland College over the past months have been of concern. It has been suggested that specialist areas such as the Multimedia Skill Centre, Retail Lab and the Community Services Skill Centre will be divided into smaller traditional classrooms. This return to an outmoded school environment does not provide students with hands-on education in these very practical areas. Students must be allowed to put theory into practice if they are to demonstrate that they have the skills necessary to work in these highly specialised areas. Community Services and aged care are areas where there is a shortage of skilled labour in the ACT. The multimedia and IT areas also suffer similar shortages. This is well known to the ACT Government which is undertaking recruitment drives for IT workers from interstate. The inclusion of years 7-10 on the Copland College campus will result in the destruction of these facilities to cater for the extra students.

Years 11 and 12 afford students freedoms which set those years apart from the time spent at High School. Expensive equipment in the way of computer hardware and software, cameras and sound recording devices are essential for the completion of Media projects which comply with course and Frameworks requirements. Furthermore, students in Media need to complete these projects to meet the requirement of the Multimedia Certificates 1 and 11 which are delivered at Copland College. Students at College level are also given more freedom to work independently to complete their projects.

It has been my experience and that of other teachers of younger students, that equipment is more often mistreated and broken. Damaged equipment takes many weeks to repair and students cannot be without it at the times when they are completing projects for subjects they intend to count towards their UAI. Students in years 7-10 would also be disadvantaged as there would always be an underlying feeling that the senior students have priority when it comes to using equipment.

Copland College must remain as an independent college if it is to meet the needs of its diverse range of students. The ACT College model must be preserved as it is a model which is now being viewed by schools interstate as a preferred option.