



“The Pathway to Inclusion”

Insight Annual Report 2014



**Specialist Primary School &
Centre of Excellence
for the Blind & Vision Impaired**
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Insight Education Centre for the Blind and Vision Impaired was founded by parents in 2009 to provide education services for blind and vision impaired children and young people and their families in Victoria. With the establishment of Insight, families now have real and viable educational choice for their children. Insight's educational services hub is located at the Monash University campus in Berwick and includes a Centre of Excellence and Specialist Primary School with experienced and expert professionals in the education of children who are blind or vision impaired.

Insight Specialist Primary School is a positive choice for the education of children who are blind or vision impaired. The bar is set high for our students within a model of educational excellence which incorporates a carefully planned transition to mainstream schooling when the time is right. Access to worldwide best practice in Explicit Instruction and the Expanded Core Curriculum specifically designed for blind and vision impaired students in combination with the Australian National Curriculum ensures systematic and measured progress through primary, secondary and tertiary education, fully supported by highly qualified and specialist staff. Each day in the classroom, our students learn in a way which develops their individual strengths and talents and creates an effective blueprint for future learning as well as the opportunity for a happy and fulfilling career in adult life.

The Insight Mission

To educate, support and empower blind and vision impaired Victorian children and young people so that they may reach their potential, independence and self-worth.

Insight Education Centre works in partnership with the mainstream education system so that every blind and vision impaired child in Victoria has access to a specialist education as a pathway to inclusion. We also provide Early Years support sessions for parents of children aged 0 - 6 years and our Centre of Music Excellence program develops our students' musical talents in master classes including Braille Music - all located in our new state of the art facility at Berwick. Insight takes enrolments on a short/long term basis or as a shared enrolment with a mainstream school.

The Insight Board and School Council

Ms Naomi J O'Brien, Parent and Chair

Mr Alan B Lachman, Parent

Mr Maurice Gleeson OAM, President of Blind Sports Victoria

Prof Leon Piterman AM, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Berwick and Peninsula campuses), Monash University

Dr Harry Unger, Ophthalmologist & Chief Executive Officer of Eyescan

Ms Kay Berry-smith, Foundation Principal (resigned and retired in December 2014)

Insight Specialist Primary School Annual Report 2014

The 2014 Academic Year

The Principal role was filled by Maree Matthews at short notice for the start of the 2014 school year until the appointment of the permanent Principal Timothy Hemphill at the end of 2014. This report was prepared jointly by Principal Timothy Hemphill and Founder / Managing Director Alan Lachman.

The beginning of Term 2 marked an important moment for Insight Education Specialist Primary School's blind and vision impaired students and teachers with the move into the new purpose built school in Berwick on Tuesday 22 April, 2014. Students began exploring the space with confidence, with the support and guidance of their teachers. At 120 Enterprise Avenue, the new learning environment has many innovative features including three specific outdoor learning environments. Nurturing school life for our current students has been essential including this move into the new buildings and widening the curriculum opportunities to enhance learning for the students. We have had several excursions to the local community throughout the year including discovering the Monash University grounds, visiting story time at the City of Casey library, engaging in Orientation and Mobility at the local shops, buying the ingredients for the weekly community lunch, learning how to sail and participating in a local art

exhibition. These experiences have all formed part of the Expanded Core Curriculum that provides real life experience to develop the necessary independent living skills.

What has Insight Specialist Primary School provided to our students and families that is different to mainstream schools in terms of meeting the specific learning needs of blind and vision impaired students throughout 2014?

- All material, resources and equipment is provided in the student's preferred format: Braille, large print and/or audio. All learning tasks are planned to focus on interaction with real objects and experiences
- Braille teaching and learning is integrated into all daily classroom and curriculum activities: a Braille-rich environment where Braille and other print alternatives (audio, magnification, synthetic speech, tactile materials) support powerful learning pathways for students
- There is a clear focus on structured, sequenced and scaffolded development of independence in all areas: Independent Living Skills and Social Skills are integrated across all areas of the curriculum and taught explicitly
- Assistive technologies are also taught explicitly and are an integral part of all learning areas including Literacy, Numeracy, and Science etc. The development of high levels of competence with these technologies significantly increases the ability of students to succeed academically
- Orientation and Mobility is supported in all movement around the school and on excursions: cane usage, environmental cues, echolocation and practice with regular routes. The school is purpose-built to ensure that students learn to use a variety of environmental features to support independent mobility
- Focus on meaningful experiential learning: use of real objects, scaffolding learning by moving from real objects, to models of objects, to tactual representation of objects
- Small class groups ensure that the specific and individual learning and vision needs and goals of all students are identified and achieved
- The school functions as a hub for families and students, assists students to develop their self-esteem and wellbeing, and enables them to establish and practice social interactions in a safe environment. Families are enabled to develop supportive relationships with each other in a meaningful and relevant way
- The clustering of students at the school enables the provision of welfare support and therapies including occupational therapy, speech therapy and physiotherapy
- The hub enables group activities and integration with mainstream sighted peers including sports days, musical performances, camps and excursions – all of which focus on the specific learning needs related to vision loss, and provide full and effective participation for all students

Insight's SPS is Victoria's only specialist education placement option for blind and vision impaired students. The school is purpose built to support the development of skills in all areas of the curriculum. Special features of the school include:

- High quality acoustics
- Adjustable lighting to cater for students with varying vision conditions
- North/south orientation of building to eliminate glare and to support orientation
- Tactile markers, changing surface materials and textures, braille and large print room signs to support independent mobility
- Independent living skills classroom, including a fully equipped kitchen
- Specially designed desks to enable good posture, independent storage and organization of materials and equipment
- Sensory Playground and Garden (to be completed in early 2015)

Official Opening

The official opening of the new Insight Education Centre in Berwick was held on Friday 18 September, 2014. It was a memorable day that will be cherished by everyone. It is important to acknowledge the Lachman family as the founders of Insight, together with the ongoing support of the Board. We had many distinguished guests attend the opening including: Federal and State politicians, our colleagues from Monash University, the N.S.W. Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood including the State-wide Vision Resource Centre and Nossal High School, Guide Dogs Victoria, Vision Australia, Independent Schools' Victoria, Beacons Hills College, St Margaret's Grammar School, City of Casey, Bionics Institute of Australia, Philanthropic Trusts and Foundations, Association for Children with a Disability, Rotary Clubs, and **many other** valued partners, supporters and volunteers.

The Specialist Primary School was beautifully presented, paying testament to our talented and eager learners. It was great to see everyone actively engaging and demonstrating the work that we have all been doing and will continue to do for students who are vision impaired or blind.

The students performed the inaugural school song with pride and enthusiasm. The teachers meticulously set up the prepared learning environment which provided an opportunity to refine some of our thinking about how best blind and vision impaired students learn. We received valuable feedback from many of the visitors to Insight. We would like to acknowledge the teachers and their dedication in preparing the students for such a big event. The students were all well behaved and delighted to participate in the program.

Specialist Primary School

Work in the Specialist Primary School has focused on the development of the Mobile Classroom program (MC), enrolments, further compliance with the Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA) regarding the MC, liaising with the Department of Education and Early Childhood (DEECD) to build relationships, Insight curriculum and ongoing professional learning. The Insight team has commenced a professional development program: 'Priority Resilience'.

Insight Specialist Primary School is staffed by teachers trained to support students with vision impairments, with an excellent staff-to-student ratio. Small classes enable each student to receive the level of support required to fully access and participate in all areas of the curriculum, and to develop the ability and motivation to work independently. Students at Insight participate in a dual curriculum: the Australian National Curriculum (AusVELS) and the Expanded Core Curriculum for students with vision impairments. All students participate in the AusVELS curriculum at a year level appropriate to their development, with individualized programs for literacy and mathematics ensuring optimal learning.

Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC)

The Expanded Core Curriculum is fundamental to a blind or vision impaired student gaining all the essential skills and within Victoria is taught explicitly available at Insight. It is taught in several ways:

- Integrated across all areas of the core curriculum
- Specific instruction in identified areas
- Individual focus areas for each student
- In the community to ensure relevant and contextual, experience-based learning

The ECC includes instruction in:

- Braille and alternate formats
- Orientation and Mobility
- Assistive and adaptive technologies (screen readers, magnifiers, refreshable braille displays, braille printers, CCTVs, video magnifiers, talking books, speech synthesizers, e-books, Braille Note, etc.)
- Training to maximize the use of functional vision
- Independent Living Skills
- Social skills
- Self-advocacy
- Career skills
- Transition skills
- Recreation and leisure

Individual Learning Plans

Each student has a highly specialised *Negotiated Individual Learning Plan*, in which parents, therapists, and specialist Insight teachers collaboratively determine the focus areas of the core curriculum and the ECC. Students participate in all curriculum areas except LOTE (language other than English). This allows time to address ECC learning.

Specialist Subjects

Physical Education and Health, Science and Visual and Performing Arts:

Participation in Physical Education and Health is essential for students who are blind or vision impaired. Insight supports and teaches students to participate in mainstream physical activities (dance, soccer, skating, scooters and bikes, gymnastics, power walking and cross-country, swimming), in addition to Blind Sports (goalball, swish and blind cricket). These skills enable participation in accessible recreational activities for the students, their families and their sighted friends. Students can

confidently participate in a safe and non-competitive learning environment including Monday morning attendance at *Funtastic Gymnastics*, a gymnastics program designed to meet the specific needs of our students and created in partnership with, and supported by, Blind Sports Victoria. Students have also been working on their independent living skills this year. In our fully equipped and purpose designed kitchen dedicated to teaching our students this dimension of the Expanded Core Curriculum, they has been planning, shopping, preparing, cooking and cleaning in the kitchen alongside their peers.

At Insight SPS our curriculum includes making Science and Technology real with experiences and activities that are concrete and connected: i.e. hands-on and activities which are relevant to the student’s world. Lessons are engaging, and designed to extend their curiosity and understanding of science in all areas. Science at insight SPS is often a part of an integrated /cross-curriculum topic or theme and all learning strands (Physical, Personal and Social learning, Discipline based learning and Interdisciplinary learning) are incorporated in lessons for our blind or vision impaired student to help them make learning connections.

Insight Specialist Primary School ensures that art, art history, and visual culture is accessible to our students. Our goal is to provide and promote the tangible benefits of art education, museum visits, and art making for every student to give them equal access to the world’s visual culture and the opportunity to experience the life-enhancing power of art. Students delight in exploring texture, shape and contrast in colour whenever possible and work with a variety of media including paint, clay, wood, pens and textiles.

The Music program include cross curriculum learning in Maths (time, beat, rhythm, patterns, chords, scales) and Oral Language: lyrics, poetry, composer information, music genre. Lessons cover music knowledge (styles, genres and nationalities) and explore the attributes of each style to determine how it compares and is different to other styles. Lessons and exploring instruments: percussion, woodwind, strings, brass, orchestra, big band, band, quartet, trio, solo and using your voice as an instrument. Creating music is a favourite for all of our students, as individual musicians or by participating in ensembles. These experiences provide students with a wealth of experience in tone, pitch rhythm, beat and melody. Many students have developed their own compositions and genuinely enjoy the sounds of the different instruments both loud and soft.

Intensive and targeted intervention across all levels of learning empowers our students to find their place in the world with confidence and purpose alongside their sighted peers.

Staff Name	Qualifications & Victorian Teacher Registration
Ms Maree Matthews	Principal – PhD (in Principal role for 2014 only)
Mr. Lachman	Managing Director – B. Engineering
Mrs Jenny Crupi	Finance, Administration & Compliance Officer – Hospitality/Management
Mrs Kerry Kelly	Finance, Administration & Compliance Executive - B Comm (Accounting) ICAA Chartered Accountant
Ms Maria Franca Galanzi	Communications & Fundraising — Diploma of Translation
Mr James Duncan	Teacher - B Ed Prim / Studies in Blind and VI
Miss Hilary O'Haire	Teacher - B Ed Prim / Studies in Blind and VI
Mr Michael Evans	Teacher - Grad Dip Ed Prim / B Bus / Grad Cert Tech Eng
Mrs Amelia Rodgers	Specialist Teacher’s Aide – Dip. Specialist Support for T & L in Schools Working with Learners with a Visual Impairment
Mrs Kim Batten	B. S. Sp. Ed. Blind & VI - English, Biology, Physics and Performing Arts

Student attendance at school

Enrolling at Insight (Including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Composition)

Students can enrol at Insight for their primary schooling full time, short term (one or two years), or as a dual enrolment with their local mainstream school.

The attendance rates for each year of schooling: 2014

Junior Primary 88.71%
Senior Primary 86.61%

Year Level Attendance Data

Prep	0%
Year 1	88.71%
Year 2	0%
Year 3	0%
Year 4	88.25%
Year 5	0%
Year 6	84.97%

How non-attendance is managed by the school

If a student is absent, the parent or guardian is required to notify the school administration. The absence and reason for the absence is recorded. If a student is regularly late, the teacher discusses the reasons for the absence with the parent/guardian and then refers to the Principal as required. The Principal follows-up with the parent/guardian to ensure every effort is made to support the student's attendance at the school.

Monitoring Attendance

“A school must maintain an attendance register of students of compulsory school age and record in it each student's attendance at least twice per day as well as any reason (given or apparent) for a student's absence.” Sch. 2, 11 Attendance register / *Minimum standards and other requirements for school registration*, Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority, pg12.

Storage of and Access to Attendance Records

All records are maintained in the class Roll and locked in the classroom after hours, including all written absence forms and letters. Insight Education Centre will also store this data electronically. Any person authorised by the Minister of Education may inspect these records during school hours. Insight Education Centre will publish the average student attendance rate in its end of year report of student outcomes. This is a part of the School Performance Information reporting requirement stipulated by the Australian Government.

Student composition, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander composition

No Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students attended Insight Specialist Primary School in 2014.

Student results in NAPLAN annual assessments

One vision impaired student completed the NAPLAN test in Reading, Persuasive Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. The results have provided a snapshot of this student's learning which has informed the child's future learning priorities.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

Insight staff and parent surveys were completed at the end of the academic year. The purpose of the surveys was to provide an opportunity to collect further information on particular statements, or any other issue deemed as important by our community. The data collected was used by the leadership team to determine areas for future improvement.

The surveys were anonymous in order to provide participants with every opportunity to share their views and experiences of Insight Education Centre. It is Insight's policy to collect feedback from parents and staff each year to ensure high levels of satisfaction with the school's curriculum and processes. The general themes of the surveys included the level of quality in staff, learning environment, safety, resources, behavioural management, leadership, opportunities for professional learning, level of engagement, participation in the ECC, information dissemination and support. Responses were evaluated ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The overall feedback was very positive. The responses provided additional opportunities for how Insight Education Centre can improve.

Thank you to the members of the community who took the time to participate and contribute to our further growth.

Finance Report (audited) for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

1. The Finance Report contains the following 4 pages, beginning overleaf:

- a. Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income
- b. Notes on Revenue, Cash, Other Receivables and Events after the Reporting Period
- c. Statement of Financial Position
- d. Statement of Cash Flows

2. Audit Report

C W Stirling & Co. (Chartered Accountants) conducted the annual audit and confirm that Insight's 2014 Financial Statements present a true and fair view of the financial position of Insight at 31 December 2014 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year. The Auditors confirm that the 2014 Financial Statements were prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory reporting requirements in Australia.

a. Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014**

	Note	31 DEC 2014	31 DEC 2013
		\$	\$
Revenue	2	462,169	2,015,427
Administration expenses		(84,656)	(153,881)
Advertising costs		(102,782)	(21,674)
Consulting & professional fees		(41,285)	(32,707)
Depreciation expenses		(104,177)	(44,240)
Education costs		(12,068)	(3,651)
Employment costs		(758,792)	(713,525)
Finance costs		(1,771)	(4,961)
Occupancy expenses		(48,742)	(34,369)
Current year surplus / (deficit) before income tax		(692,104)	1,006,419
Income tax expense		-	-
Net current year surplus / (deficit) after income tax		(692,104)	1,006,419
Total other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income / (deficit) for the year		(692,104)	1,006,419

b. Notes on Revenue, Cash, Other Receivables and Events after the Reporting Period

NOTE 2: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME	31 DEC 2014	31 DEC 2013
	\$	\$
Revenue comprises:		
– Student income	6,995	4,445
– Recurrent non-government school funding	149,515	123,543
– Scholarship grants	-	180,000
– Other grants	-	81,663
– Government grant	-	1,500,000
– Donations	293,415	105,713
– Other	2,041	343
	451,966	1,995,707
Other revenue:		
– interest received:		
– Financial institutions	10,203	19,720
	462,169	2,015,427
NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank – operating	(25,731)	1,481,772
Cash at bank – term deposit	-	10,847
Cash at bank – building & scholarship funds	1,532	290,473
Petty cash	205	132
	(23,994)	1,783,224
NOTE 4: OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Debtors	637	598
Sundry debtors	-	38,465
	637	39,063

NOTE 11: EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

Following the 2014 Victorian State election pledge by James Merlino (Victorian Minister for Education and Deputy Leader) for **\$2.4M for Insight’s Centre of Excellence and to support *InsightOut*** and Berwick operations, Treasury confirmed the state budget allocation for 2015-16 (Budget Paper no. 3, Page 47) and the Department of Education & Training sent a letter to Insight confirming the grant for a July 2015 drawdown.

c. Statement of Financial Position

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Note	31 DEC 2014 \$	31 DEC 2013 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	(23,994)	1,783,224
Accounts receivable and other debtors	4	637	39,063
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		(23,357)	1,822,287
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment		2,848,834	1,889,652
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		2,848,834	1,889,652
TOTAL ASSETS		2,825,477	3,711,939
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables		168,274	340,306
Provisions		24,847	47,173
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		193,121	387,479
TOTAL LIABILITIES		193,121	387,479
NET ASSETS		2,632,356	3,324,460
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		2,632,356	3,324,460
TOTAL EQUITY		2,632,356	3,324,460

d. Statement of Cash Flows

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Note	31 DEC 2014	31 DEC 2013
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from grants, bequests and donations		490,392	2,069,669
Interest received		10,203	19,720
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,244,454)	(650,662)
Net cash provided by operating activities		(743,859)	1,438,727
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,063,359)	(1,195,747)
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		(1,063,359)	(1,195,747)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		(1,807,218)	242,980
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		1,783,224	1,540,244
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	3	(23,994)	1,783,224

How the Annual Report is distributed and promoted

The annual report is available on the Insight website and available to all key stakeholders including all philanthropic partners.

A copy of the Annual Report is placed on the Victorian State Register which is managed by the VRQA.



For further information please contact:

The Principal Timothy Hemphill

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Insight is a Registered Specialist Primary School, no. 2085

Insight is a Charitable Institution

ACN: 134711292; ABN: 12134711292

School Website

www.insightvision.org.au