



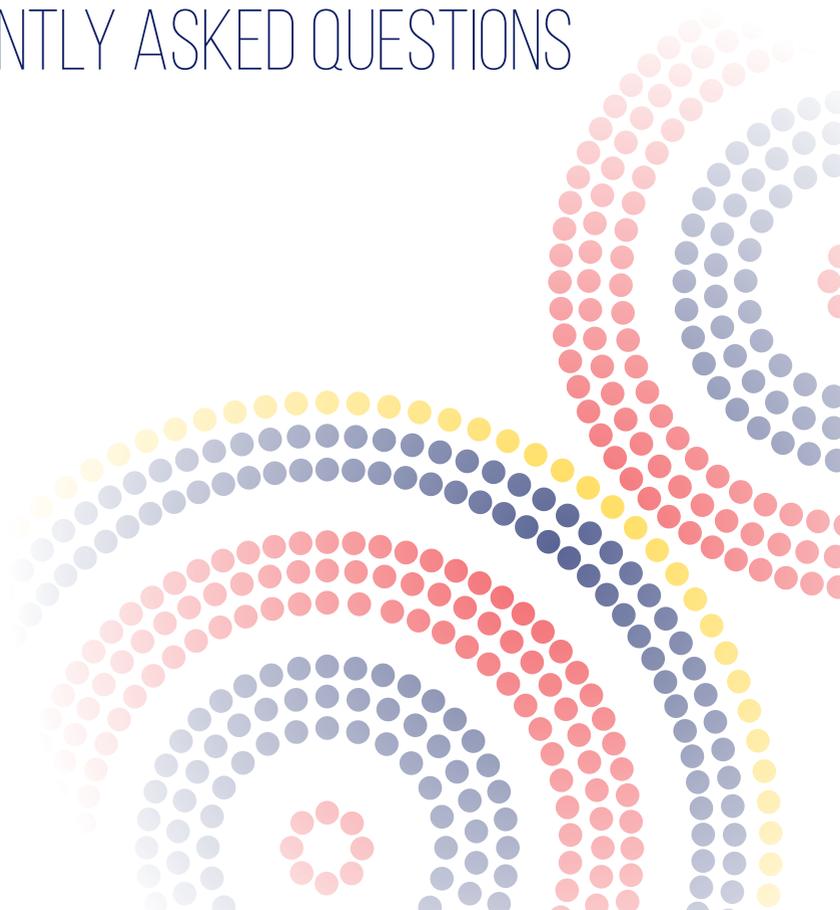
**Barker College**  
An Anglican School



*Darkinjung Barker*

# **DARKINJUNG BARKER COLLEGE**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS





# Honor Non Honores

## Mission

An Anglican community inspiring  
each learner  
every experience  
every day

## Vision

To be a leader in Christian education  
that is characterised by a global vision  
that inspires hope

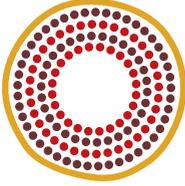
## Values

Commitment  
Compassion  
Courage  
Integrity  
Respect



*We acknowledge the Darkinjung people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the Darkinjung Barker campus stands. We pay respect to the Elders past and present and to our youth who are the future leaders of the Darkinjung nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people within our community.*





*Darkinjung Barker*

# **DARKINJUNG BARKER AN INITIATIVE IN PRACTICAL RECONCILIATION**

In June 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC) and the Council of Barker College (Barker) to jointly establish a small Primary School for Aboriginal children living in the DLALC area. The Darkinjung Barker Campus commenced as a campus of Barker College in January 2016, providing school education for 25 Aboriginal children in a culturally sensitive and affirming setting. The new school is located on the site of the former Yarramalong Public School on a leasehold basis in cooperation with the Yarramalong Community and the NSW Department of Lands. The Yarramalong Public School opened in 1870 and operated until its closure in 2009. The establishment of Darkinjung Barker returns children and education to the site, upholding the long heritage of education in Yarramalong. By providing education to Aboriginal children, Darkinjung Barker is an example of practical reconciliation that lies deep in the heart of a local community group, which has strived to preserve and protect the integrity of the Yarramalong Public School since its closure in 2009.

This leaflet provides answers to some frequently asked questions by the broader community in NSW

## **1. Why has a school been established for Aboriginal children only?**

For many years, Aboriginal children have been on the lowest rung on the academic and social ladder. According to the NAPLAN report for 2013, Aboriginal children reach Year 7 with academic proficiency at least two years less than non Aboriginal children. On the Central Coast, these national figures are also observed. Long term data suggests that poor achievement levels in early years of education can lead to repeated social and educational difficulties that can linger for a life time. It is essential that we close the gap BEFORE it opens. If the nation is serious about reconciliation we must take steps that are both practical and respectful.

Following the success of the Gawura School for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Central Sydney ([www.gawura.nsw.edu.au](http://www.gawura.nsw.edu.au)), it has become apparent that placing Aboriginal culture and identity at the heart of the educational experience leads to strong academic and social outcomes. Attendance rates rise and consequently

achievement levels in literacy and numeracy also excel as the children's confidence levels increase. By keeping the school community small, individual attention for each learner is assured in a culturally sensitive and respectful manner. It is a little like the old-fashioned and once flourishing "One Teacher School", of which the Yarramalong Public School was a prime example during its long history.

## **2. Why does the School favour Darkinjung children only?**

Under the terms of the MOU between the DLALC and Barker College, the confirmation of Aboriginal heritage rests with the DLALC. Members of the community who identify as Aboriginal people are endorsed by the DLALC and, through this process, are made eligible for admission to Darkinjung Barker.

The DLALC provide places for the children of members of the DLALC. Membership of the DLALC is the means by which Darkinjung Barker authenticates a claim of Aboriginal family heritage.

## **3. How is Darkinjung Barker funded?**

The School commenced following the generous donation of a former Barker College student. Additional voluntary fundraising has provided sufficient funds for the near future. The NSW and the Commonwealth Government provide around 30% of the funding through existing provisions.

## **4. What is the curriculum of Darkinjung Barker?**

Darkinjung Barker is a campus of Barker College and is subject to the requirements of Registration and Accreditation of the NSW Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards, which registers all non-government schools. In 2016, Darkinjung Barker was inspected and accredited by BOSTES for a period of five years, which is the maximum registration period available.

The Primary School Curriculum taught at Darkinjung Barker is the Australian Curriculum accredited by the NSW BOSTES. The Darkinjung Barker children will complete the NAPLAN tests at the same time as other children in Australia and are subject to all requirements of any other school registered by the BOSTES in NSW.

In addition, important traditional cultural and language education is supported by members of the DLALC community.

## **5. How many students will attend Darkinjung Barker?**

Darkinjung Barker commenced in January 2016 with 25 children from Kindergarten to Year 5. During the second year of operation, the enrolment will rise to 30 pupils and this is full. In subsequent years a maximum enrolment of 30 students will be maintained. As mentioned above, it is essential that the School is kept small and personal with a strong emphasis on family groupings.

## **6. What will happen to the children once they complete Year 6?**

Barker College will continue to provide places for children through the Middle School and Senior School in Hornsby as appropriate. For families wishing to remain on the Central Coast, discussions have commenced with other schools who are interested in placing the Darkinjung Barker graduates.

## **7. What future plans do the DLALC and Barker College share?**

Discussions have commenced about the possibility of forming other small campuses in partnership with the DLALC although no plans are yet established.

## **8. How long is the lease on the Yarramalong Public School site?**

The present lease is for three years (2016-2018). Darkinjung Barker continues to work closely with the Yarramalong School Community Centre to ensure that community usage of the Yarramalong Public School is maintained.

Barker College assists with the general maintenance of the site and ensures that the property is suitable for educational and community purposes.

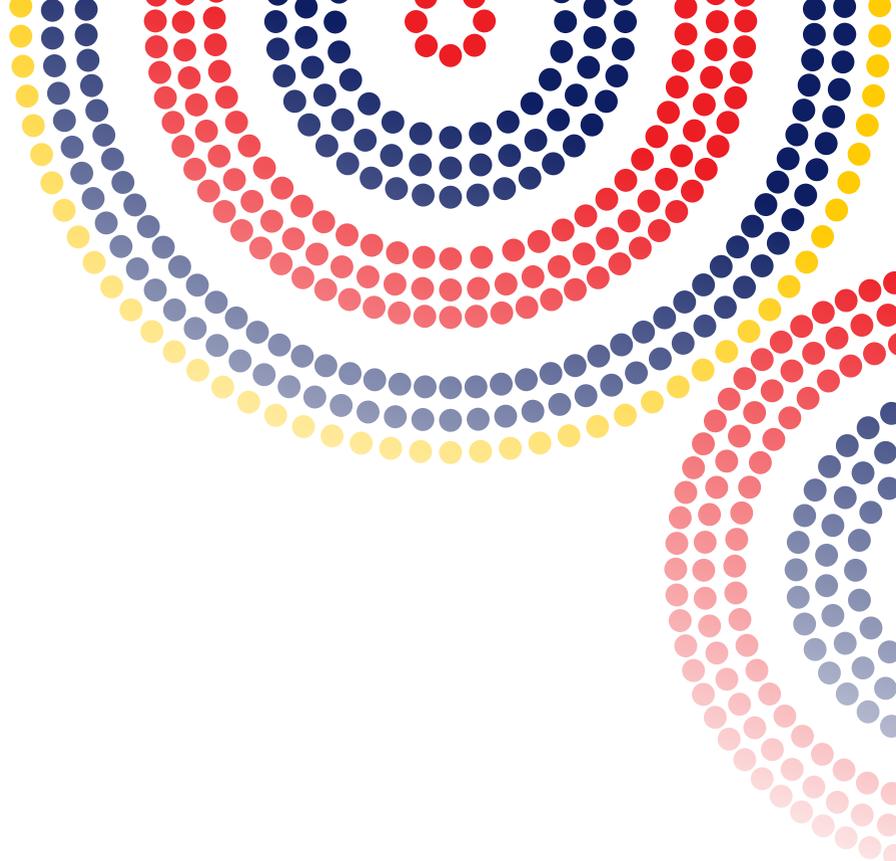
## **9. Do the children pay school fees? What do they receive for their fee?**

Each child pays a fee of \$100 per term. They receive all books, educational materials, school uniforms, daily transport by bus, excursion and camps costs and access to specialist support provided by Barker College staff.

## **10. Is it possible to become involved?**

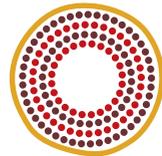
Darkinjung Barker welcomes volunteers, asking that they approach their work respectfully and agree to completing their Working With Children Clearance. For further information, please contact Barker College ([reception@barker.nsw.edu.au](mailto:reception@barker.nsw.edu.au)). The children enjoy working with volunteers and benefit greatly from the enthusiasm that this brings to the School Room.





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