



Evolving Learning

Evolve: A New Track for Education & Leadership

Our tailored *Evolving Learning* programs are aimed at providing opportunities for young people to reach their potential and get the most out of their education. We work with students with diverse needs and circumstances, from a range of communities and cultural backgrounds, all of whom can benefit from enhanced engagement with their schooling.

Research is clear on the outcomes for young Australians who leave school early without clear pathways - they invariably have limited ideas about their future vocations, are perceived negatively by their community, receive inadequate career advice and, significantly, have difficulties in finding employment, leading to deeper issues like poverty, homelessness and poor mental health.

Working primarily with students in the middle years of secondary college, our staff work intensively with the group of nominated students, with staff, and with the community to make space for them to grow, to change and to learn about themselves. Broadening their horizons is also a vital part of our programs, enabling participants to think about themselves in a different way, and as a result, careers they had not thought possible to pursue before.

Evolving Learning is not just about those individuals. Working with teachers and curriculum development committees, we are able to influence the structures and approaches within each school we work with to more broadly influence learning and retention across the entire school community.



How & Why These Programs Work



Evolving Learning is highly flexible, enabling each school to tailor our offering to suit their structures, students or specific needs. All programs under this banner, however, are based on these elements:

- * Students creating their own study path, focusing on projects of interest to them and their groups
- * Providing professional development sessions for teachers to broaden the reach of our successful approach
- * Deep and long-term relationships between our staff, the young people, their families, schools and communities



Delivery of these elements might include devoted elective blocks for Evolve students, ongoing online support, time at our remote properties and on challenging hikes and outdoor activities, and staff training days.

With a focus on project work with the in-school component of our programs, students are able to learn valuable skills beyond the textbook and classroom. Choosing topics that they are interested in increases their participation and creates context for learning e.g. mathematics through building projects, communication through community projects, financial literacy through fundraising projects.

Introducing structured time at our remote properties, and hikes through challenging wilderness areas, puts students and teachers together in different environments, requiring vastly different skills and is often an awakening to their abilities, resilience, trust and endurance.



Case Study: Leah - Self Directed, Self Confident...

Since her school introduced Evolving Learning, Leah has led hikes, made a second home of our rural property and designed her own study plans. Passionate about homelessness, Leah has dedicated her 'Evolve' time at school towards projects that raise funds and awareness for the cause.

"The project work has made me more confident and it means we're more motivated to get our work done because we're interested. We're more responsible. We don't get told what to do, which is hard when you get stuck, but you figure it out, learn from it."



The teachers we work with are also studying, with our delivery of teacher professional development a vital part of Evolving Learning, ensuring that the success the students in our program enjoy can permeate the whole school community. *"They're a pleasure to teach"*, says one of Leah's teachers, *"They're different. Capable. Highly motivated."* Her polished and confident presentation to a room of over 100 of Evolve's high-end donors about the difficulties in her life and her growth in this program is certainly testament to that.