



DOGS CONNECT

BRINGING LIFE TO LEARNING



www.dogsconnect.net.au



Will Dogs Connect be a fit for
our school community?

Before we begin



We are excited to introduce Dogs Connect for schools and parents who are committed to bringing positive change into their school culture.

The program requires various levels of commitment from all those who will be involved and as part of your school's decision making process, and prior to us coming on board, we encourage staff, leadership teams and school boards to familiarize themselves with the outline of the program.

You are about to make a wonderful decision for your school.



Program background

Dogs Connect has been developed over many years. The program is a result of the combination of a broad experience with teaching practices and academic research around student wellbeing and applied learning.

The needs of kids, these days, requires much more from traditional methods of education and to this end, we believe that there are many benefits on offer for both students and staff in having a dog as part of the learning community.

Dogs Connect is about bringing a dog into a unique and particular setting to work on various levels relating to the wellbeing of both students and staff.

The program, with its roots steeped in traditional education and current research, has been designed to address the more complex and deeper issues surrounding social and emotional learning than say, the presence of a reading dog, a therapy dog or a dog for assistance with ASD needs can address.





We believe our kids need more from traditional education.

Discuss results

We encourage you and your colleagues to chat to staff members from schools who have been involved in Dogs Connect.

Contact details can be found on page 10.





Our scope of work

The main components of the Dogs Connect program have been designed to be able to meet very specific needs of individual schools. As a result, many of these components take a variety of forms and time frames and these can include the following:

- All legal considerations are taken care of by Dogs Connect in alignment with existing policies. All policy documents are designed by us and supported by best practice/risk assessment documents that are aligned with individual school mission and vision statements.
- Selection and supply (if needed) of suitable dog/s.
- Training of your school dog includes working with staff member/s who home the dog.
- Communications with the school community and broader community is undertaken by Dogs Connect. This can include initial home surveys, newsletters and social media.
- School community preparation to enable harmonious behaviour with your dog in school setting. This can include assembly presentations, staff meeting presentations and parent discussion forums.
- School specific needs determined, followed by a structured design of how to meet those needs using your dog.
- Timetabling the incorporation of your dog into the many levels of daily school life, encapsulating all possible ways to benefit from the connection between staff, students, families, and the school dog.
- Social and Emotional Learning. A sequence of 6-8 sessions, modelled by Grant and Sonny, demonstrating the many ways to benefit from the connection between staff, students, and your school dog. These sessions are considered staff PD as well as deep learning for students.
- Main behavioural components covered are empathy, awareness of others, awareness of self, self regulation and reactivity.

Data driven reporting of results

Data collection by means of student pre and post assessment in direct relation to S.E.L.

Data collection by means of staff pre and post program surveys.

Data collection through focus group work with relevant parties.

Report of data analysis submitted to school on completion of program implementation. This provides a thorough review and guides the future of the program in your school.

Learning and teaching strategies built into live documents for teachers and students to use as S.E.L skill foundation. This allows teaching and learning to continuously be built around fresh and engaging practices.



Timeline and costing

All of the relevant components for your school are completed through scheduled consultation sessions.

The process takes approximately two school terms and is designed to be very specific to the needs of each individual school. All work is done on site at your school and is built into teaching time, release breaks or outside school hours for relevant staff.

Costing is invoiced in instalments, and ranges between 15K - 25K depending on the needs of your school.

Some examples of determining factors are: supply of which particular canine species, distance of travel, size of school and frequency and number of sessions required.

Follow up consultations over the remainder of the initial 12 months is included in costing.



Talk to schools who have experienced the connection

St. Joseph's, Cobram

Sarah Iddles (Deputy Principal)

siddles@sjcobram.catholic.edu.au - 0428 375 516

Lucy Keath (Principal)

lkeath@sjcobram.catholic.edu.au - 0434 434 929

St. Francis of the Fields, Strathfieldsaye

Grace Scalora (Principal)

gscalora@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au - 0439 271 262

Bernard Kerrins (Principal)

bkerrins@sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.edu.au - 0439 271 224

Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo

Amanda Leonard (Wellbeing Team Leader)

aleonard@ccb.vic.edu.au - 0427 319 035

Leah Cordedda (Martyn Program Coordinator)

lcordedda@ccb.vic.edu.au

California Gully Primary School

Andrew Frawley (Principal)

frawley.andrew.a@edumail.vic.gov.au - 0427 053 440



Your commitment to us

If you decide to commit to one of our packages, we would ask that you then:

View and read Dogs Connect web page content and marketing material to ensure familiarity with our program.

Question and discuss any relevant queries or possibilities within your school community. Feel free to invite us to be involved in such discussions.

Ensure that our Service Agreement is reviewed and signed by school Principal or Administration staff no less than 14 days prior to commencement. This contract outlines costing and payment requirements, scheduling of sessions, and clarity of roles and responsibilities.

Allocate time weekly for us to come into your setting and work. Weekly timeframes range from 45 minutes to 2.5 hours depending on the needs. These are mapped out in a term planner. We understand the need to be flexible as we move through the program and require 7 days notice, if possible, prior to changing dates and times.

Commit to ongoing support of students by incorporating follow up practices and activities into the daily lives of young people in your school community.

Commit to a sustainable program for your dog's health and wellbeing.

Further enquiries - please contact us to clarify any detail or to ask any questions.

Contact Dogs Connect

Grant Shannon - 0438 374 759 - grant@dogsconnect.net.au

Facebook: Sonny Boy Shannon, Dogs Connect





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