

Christian Outreach College Brisbane Promotional Visit to South Africa

Headmaster's Address

1. **The purpose of our visit**

For over 20 years COCB has enrolled expatriate South Africans and this continues to the present day. A number have commented to us that it was difficult for them to know where to find suitable schooling for their children when they arrived. This visit is about making it easy for those who have decided to emigrate to Australia to find us, if they are considering Brisbane.

2. **COCB's expatriate South African community**

We have 16 staff and nearly 60 families who are expatriate South Africans. As well, Citipointe Church Brisbane to which we belong has a number of expatriates as do the other large churches near us.

3. **COCB's location**

The College is located in the south-eastern suburbs which is a heavily family-orientated region of Brisbane, with most people living in detached houses or units in medium-sized estates and some on acreage. There are many churches and schools in this area.

4. **COCB's shared campus**

The College has over 1 520 students from Preparatory (4½ year-olds) to Year 12 (matriculation; 17-18 year-olds) with an international college for overseas visa students; it shares a campus of over 100 acres with Citipointe Church Brisbane, a prominent evangelical, charismatic church of over 4 000; Citipointe Child Care; an institute of higher education - Christian Heritage College; a Bible College - Citipointe Ministry College; and some other facilities.

5. **What type of school is COCB?**

The College is private, independent and church-owned and in receipt of government funding; 29 years old; one of the largest single-campus Christian schools in Australia; a member of Independent Schools Queensland and Christian Schools Australia; highly respected as a quality Christian school with a mature, diversified curriculum; the international college is medium size and high-quality; College alumni number several thousand.

6. **Enrolment is easy**

Visit the website and complete an on-line inquiry form or phone/fax us to have the prospectus etc mailed to you; complete an application form per student and attach the latest school report; pay a small application fee; attend an interview with the Registrar and Headmaster. We do all the rest.

7. **For Afrikaans-speakers**

Your child will be eligible for English as a Second Language support; the level of help they need is assessed on arrival. We do all the rest.

8. **What are the standards of the College?**

High standards of behaviour are expected; behaviour management and anti-bullying strategies policies are in place; uniforms are worn – the uniform is appropriate to our temperate/sub-tropical climate; students with learning difficulties get specialist support; learning extension and support is available for gifted and talented students; ESL support, counselling, careers advising, are all available; pastoral care is a strong feature of the College;

9. **How do COCB's fees compare with other schools?**

COCB is a moderate fee private school; older denominational colleges or newer independent schools are usually high fee; Catholic schools are low to moderate fee; state or public schools have only minor fees; In Queensland high fee is \$6 000 - \$11 000 pa; moderate fee is \$3 000 - \$6 000; low fee is \$1 000 - \$3 000; in other states fees are likely to be considerably higher (\$figures are AUD and are to be taken as a guide only).

10. Where do COCB graduates go?

Typically they finish Year 12 and go to university or technical colleges; some go directly to work and training; some take time out for one year after school to work or travel or both; none go into unemployment.

11. What kind of student goes to COCB?

Typically, students come from committed church-attending families; there is a wide range of family backgrounds, but most would be from middle-class backgrounds (by far the largest group in Australia) frequently with both parents working; most students are mid to high achievers, but the very best students are probably in the top 100 in Queensland, with several in the top 600.

12. Do South African children “fit” into COCB?

There is no doubt that South-African students fit easily into the COCB community; they find Australian students friendly and they enjoy the Christian environment of the College. We have 107 students from 59 expatriate South African families; of these 65 have Afrikaans as their first language.

13. How do private and state schools compare?

Australia does not have the separation of church and state problems that America does; state schools may have religious education depending on the Principal and surrounding community; 33% of all Australian students are in private schools and this is increasing around 1% per year; Catholic schools have around 21% of students; the independent sector is the fastest growing sector.

14. Do expatriate South Africans “fit” in Australian society?

Yes, apparently with ease. They find Australians generally warm and friendly towards them; they usually connect well with the expatriate community; they find a similar range of church environments in Australia as in South Africa, although Australia is generally a more secular country.

15. What is the Australian economy like?

Currently Australia has a skills shortage as unemployment is below the 5% level; wages are moderately high; GDP per head of population puts Australia near the top of the table; cost of living is moderate in Brisbane as Queensland is a low-tax state; Australia has had sustained economic growth for over a decade; the resources boom is driving a buoyant economy with no end in sight due to economic expansion in USA, China and India; you should have no trouble finding work, but it may take effort to adapt to an Australian environment in some fields of work like accounting.

16. What about safety?

Most Australians do not own firearms and would not dream of doing so; armed crimes are treated severely by the courts; most older homes are unfenced at the front, although new estates for units may be gated; Australia is 85% urbanised around the coastal strip with by far the larger proportion in the major cities with some larger regional cities and rural towns tend to be small

17. What is the expatriate South African community like in Brisbane?

There is a strong expatriate community in Brisbane, but integrated readily into Australian society.

18. What is Brisbane like?

We love it; Brisbane is considered one of the most liveable cities in the world and has one of the best climates; it is not as multi-cultural as Sydney or Melbourne; the population is about 1 750 000; an hour and a half to the north is the popular Sunshine Coast region, while an hour to the south is the famous Gold Coast region; the south east corner of Queensland although not heavily-populated is one of the fastest growing regions of the world.

*Pastor Ron Woolley
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