Family Group Home Program
A unique boarding program based on living as a family in a Christian home

Unique Boarding

Marrara Christian College has a Boarding Program for approximately 100 remote indigenous students. This is part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that Territorians have access to quality Christian secondary education.

Our Boarders come from Broome in Western Australia, the Tiwi and Crocker Islands and the tip of Cape York Peninsula, as well as numerous other remote communities throughout the Northern Territory. We currently have Boarders from 35 remote indigenous communities throughout Northern Australia. Boarders range in age from 12 to 18 years and have all been assessed for ABSTUDY by Centrelink.

There are currently 10 Family Group Homes - 6 for girls and 4 for boys.

Beyond the Classroom

Our Family Group Homes aim to be very much like ordinary family homes, except that there are a few more children (up to 10). A mature Christian, married couple, live in each suburban home as House Parents (a “Mum and Dad” figure) and look after the Boarders full-time. As well as normal in-house activities, House Parents take the Boarders to Church and Youth Group and arrange sport and health care appointments. Boarders learn to live in harmony, to be good neighbours and to take on responsibilities in the home. We call it 24-hour learning.

Sport

We are involved in local sport teams and school cluster teams, as well as state teams. We compete in Community Carnivals such as Barunga, Daly River and Oenpelli.

Weekend Activities

Weekends are special “family” times and House Parents take their Boarders to Youth Group on Friday evenings and as a family they attend Church on Sundays.

On Saturdays, Boarders assist with household chores, helping to keep their home and garden neat and tidy. However, it is definitely not “all work and no play” as there are plenty of opportunities for shopping at Casuarina Square, watching footy games, visiting Leanyer Water Park or the Darwin Waterfront Wave Pool, or taking a special trip to Litchfield National Park, or just going for a walk along the beach.
Class Placement

Students are assessed during the term for literacy and numeracy and placed into appropriate classes. Highly focused classes work on literacy and numeracy skills to prepare students for mainstream classes.

Every student is assessed on arrival and placed into
- Year level by results
- Indigenous stream class
- Bridging class between Indigenous and Mainstream

Teachers assist students to map an educational process that enhances their individual flexible learning pathways to NT Certificate of Education and Training and beyond.

Camps

Camps are an important part of each year’s curriculum. Our programs focus on raising Godly young men and women who know their value, potential and capabilities. Camps significantly contribute towards the growth of a student in these areas and as such are compulsory to attend.

* Year 7 - classes spend 3 nights in Katherine
* Year 8 - classes go to Kakadu for 3 nights
* Year 9 - The pinnacle of our camping program is the Year 9 Larapinta Camp, which has been running since 2000. This is a much anticipated event where students complete up to 100km, or sections of the world class Larapinta trail, in 10 days. It is a fantastic time of enjoying creation, each other and God.
* Year 10 - students travel, by bus, through central Australia to Adelaide, Canberra and Sydney returning via the Queensland outback. The trip is for 3 weeks, and students find it to be a life changing experience.
* Year 11 – students participate in a 2 night study camp at Batchelor Outdoor Education Centre
* Extra camps are available to Senior students participating in Outdoor Education units.

Camp fees are not covered by ABSTUDY and the costs to families are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>$160.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>$850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>$1,750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
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</tbody>
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Families have the option to pay the full amount, pay regular instalments or seek assistance from a local community group for funding.

Depending on the year level of your child, you will be sent a letter explaining in detail how to make payment towards your child’s camp fees.

Payment is compulsory and is non-refundable.
Employability Skills

Year 11 and 12 students are encouraged to enrol in the School Based Apprenticeship programs. This gives them an opportunity to gain real skills for real jobs back in community.

Over the years we have seen an increasing number of our students gain apprenticeships across a range of industries and Government sectors (Financial Services, Engineering & Construction, Department of Health, Police, to name a few) and it gives us great joy to students achieving this excellence!

Facebook

*Family Group Home Program @ Marrara Christian College* has their own, secure, Facebook page. This is a wonderful way to keep up to date with travel details for all our Boarders as well as general information on their School and Family Group Home achievements and activities. Please send a request to join this page if you are a parent or guardian of a student at Marrara Christian College, or a current student or staff member. Your friend request will be authorised by the Boarding Registrar and will give you access to view posts.

Website and Enrolment Application Form

Would you like to have your child considered for a place at Marrara Christian College as a Boarder in our wonderful Family Group Home Program?

Then go to our website at [www.mcc.nt.edu.au](http://www.mcc.nt.edu.au) click on Boarding Enrolment and complete the following 3 documents:

- Enrolment Application Form
- Family and Student Profile Form
- School and Students Profile Form

You will also need to lodge a claim for ABSTUDY Remote Areas. To do this, simply phone Centrelink on 1800 132 317 and speak to a Centrelink staff member. Alternatively you can complete the [ABSTUDY Remote Areas form](http://www.humanservices.gov.au) which you can download from [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au). If you would like our Boarding Registrar to make enquiries on your behalf, please also complete the form – *Authorising a person or organisation to enquire or act on your behalf form (SS313)* and lodge this with Centrelink too.

Marrara Christian College is located at the corner of Amy Johnson Drive and McMillans Road, Darwin

Postal Address: PO Box 84, Karama NT 0813
Phone: 08 8920 2005
Fax: 08 8920 2001
Email: boarding.mcc@ntschools.net