



## **KINGSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

### **GIRL'S EDUCATION STRATEGY**

#### **RATIONALE:**

In order to improve the education for the girls of Kingswood High School it is necessary to implement strategies to combat instances of disadvantaging cultural values, low self esteem of female students, underachievement of girls in certain areas, entrenched community and school attitudes and to provide opportunities for the maximisation of their potential in both traditional and non-traditional areas.

#### **OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY:**

Kingswood High School has a coeducational population with 49% female students.

The socio-economic status of the drawing area covers a wide spectrum, from professional people, to an increasing number of families affected by unemployment and other socio-economic pressures.

21% of the student population are from a Non-English speaking background, with over twenty cultural groups being represented.

#### **AIMS:**

- \* To foster community and school attitudes that eliminate gender bias.
- \* To improve educational outcomes of girls, thereby increasing their opportunities for career choices, personal growth and development.
- \* To improve the ability of girls to make informed decisions, thereby increasing their capacity to participate as active contributing members of society.
- \* To create a climate in which girls of all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds are encouraged to reach their optimum potential.
- \* To ensure the provision of equal access for girls and boys to programs, facilities, equipment and human resources.

#### **OUR SCHOOL CAN:**

- \* Expand Girls' awareness of career opportunities
- \* Encourage girls to select subjects that are suitable to their learning needs and career aspirations.

- \* Raise awareness among staff and the school community of the changing status of women and the specific educational and welfare needs of girls, taking into account that girls are not a homogeneous group.

## **STRATEGIES:**

- \* Raising awareness through School Development Days, Staff Seminars, Faculty, Student Representative Council and P & C meetings.
- \* Investigating successful programs in Girls' Education Strategies operating elsewhere.
- \* Ensuring that curriculum choices offered to students do not discriminate against girls or boys and that accurate career information is provided to girls.
- \* Establishing links with the community, including employer groups, TAFE and Universities to enhance opportunities for students to gain knowledge and understanding of the world of work.
- \* Ensuring that there are no discriminatory practices in the educational program and school organisation.
- \* Holding a Girls Career Forum looking at careers in non-traditional areas.
- \* Introducing assertiveness and self-esteem programs for girls.