

Long suspension and expulsion summary 2008

Note: In 2007, the number of suspensions only was reported. In 2008, for the first time, the report contains data on the number of students suspended, which provides more comprehensive data to inform planning.

Long suspension – state data

Total long suspensions 2008
= 14,405

Total students long suspended 2008
= 10,514 (1.4% of enrolments)

Of the total students long suspended, the percentage of these students long suspended:

- once only: = 73.5%
- more than once: = 26.5%

Average length of long suspension:
= 12.7 days

Percentage of long suspensions of students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background:
= 22%

Number of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students long suspended:
= 2,202

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students long suspended as a % of:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander enrolment: = 5.6 %
- total enrolment: = 0.3 %

Table 1: Long suspensions in year bands 2008

(These figures are based on the total number of long suspensions in 2008 and include students placed on long suspension on more than one occasion).

Year	% of Total Long Suspensions	Long Suspensions as a % of Student Enrolment
K-6	21%	0.7%
7-10	74%	4.7%
11-12	5%	0.8%
All Grades	Rounded to nearest %	2.0%

Table 2: Number of students receiving long suspensions 2008

Year	Number of students suspended	Number of students as a % of Student Enrolments
K-6	2010	0.5%
7-10	7888	3.5%
11-12	616	0.8%
All Grades	10514	1.4%

Table 3: Reasons for long suspensions 2008

	Total	% of Total Long Suspensions
V	6500	45%
PM	6016	42%
CB	970	7%
IS	317	2%
PW	398	3%
UW	204	1%
Total	14405	Rounded to nearest %

V	Physical Violence
PM	Persistent Misbehaviour
CB	Serious criminal behaviour related to the school
IS	Possession or use of a suspected illegal substance
PW	Use or possession of a prohibited weapon, firearm or knife
UW	Use of an implement as a weapon or threatening to use a weapon

Long suspension – regional data

Table 4: Long suspensions in regions 2008

Region	Total Number of Suspensions
Hunter Central Coast	2811
Illawarra and South East	1365
New England	839
North Coast	1722
Northern Sydney	412
Riverina	777
South Western Sydney	2491
Sydney	843
Western NSW	1345
Western Sydney	1800
Total	14405

Table 5: Number of students receiving long suspensions per region

Region	Number of students suspended	Students suspended as a % of Regional Enrolment
Hunter Central Coast	2024	1.9%
Illawarra and South East	984	1.4%
New England	606	2.8%
North Coast	1282	1.9%
Northern Sydney	321	0.4%
Riverina	548	1.7%
South Western Sydney	1880	1.5%
Sydney	631	0.7%
Western NSW	946	2.4%
Western Sydney	1292	1.3%
Total	10514	1.4%

- The suspension procedures mandate principals to take strong action in situations where they believe there is a risk to the health and safety of students and staff, particularly for incidents involving violence or weapons.
- The revised policy, effective from the beginning of 2005, strengthened the authority of principals to take strong action to ensure the safety of staff and students.
- Schools remain amongst the safest places for children in our communities.

Table 6: Reasons for suspensions in regions %

Region	V	PM	CB	IS	PW	UW
Hunter Central Coast	47	41	7	2	2	1
Illawarra and South East	43	46	6	1	3	1
New England	44	42	8	2	2	3
North Coast	39	45	6	6	2	1
Northern Sydney	39	44	5	5	6	1
Riverina	44	44	6	1	3	2
South Western Sydney	45	41	8	2	3	2
Sydney	47	38	8	2	3	2
Western NSW	54	39	4	1	2	1
Western Sydney	41	44	9	1	4	2

Table 7: Students Long Suspended in School Education Groups 2008
Click the following link for a list of schools in [School Education Groups](#)

Please Note: The list of schools is for School Education Groups in 2009. There were adjustments to the schools in School Education Groups at the beginning of the 2009 school year, particularly in Hunter Central Coast Region.

Region	School Education Group	Students Long Suspended	Students Long Suspended per Hundred Students Enrolled
Hunter Central Coast	HCC1 (Central Coast South)	251	2.1
	HCC2 (Central Coast West)	251	1.9
	HCC3 (Central Coast North)	205	1.5
	HCC4 (Newcastle East & Outer West)	152	1.5
	HCC5 (Newcastle Inner West)	167	1.5
	HCC6 (Western Lake Macquarie)	197	2.6
	HCC7 (Eastern Lake Macquarie)	199	1.8
	HCC8 (Upper Hunter / Maitland West)	135	1.5
	HCC9 (Cessnock / Maitland North East)	224	2.8
	HCC10 (Port Stephens / Dungog / Maitland Central)	243	2.2
	Total	2024	1.9
Illawarra and South East	Batemans Bay	172	1.7
	Goulburn Highlands	168	2.3
	Queanbeyan	59	0.9
	Sapphire Coast Monaro	81	1.3
	Shellharbour	172	1.3
	Shoalhaven	166	1.8
	Wollongong	81	1.1
	Wollongong North	85	0.9
	Total	984	1.4
New England	New England Central	167	2.4
	New England North	69	1.4
	New England South	188	3.1
	New England West	182	4.6
	Total	606	2.8
North Coast	Clarence	149	2.3
	Coffs Harbour	140	1.6
	Far North Coast	130	1.5
	Hastings	232	2.5
	Lower North Coast	68	1.0
	Manning Camden Haven	132	2.2
	Mid North Coast	99	2.3
	Richmond Valley	92	2.3
	Southern Cross	99	1.2
	The Wilson	141	2.8
	Total	1282	1.9

Region	School Education Group	Students Long Suspended	Students Long Suspended per Hundred Students Enrolled
Northern Sydney	Hills Network	39	0.2
	Hornsby Network	45	0.5
	Lane Cove Network	90	0.7
	Middle Harbour Network	46	0.3
	North Shore Network	36	0.3
	Peninsula Network	65	0.4
	Total	321	0.4
Riverina	Riverina Central	55	1.1
	Riverina East	57	1.2
	Riverina North	139	2.8
	Riverina North West	83	2.7
	Riverina South	110	1.7
	Riverina South West	41	1.1
	Riverina West	63	1.2
	Total	548	1.7
South Western Sydney	Bankstown	157	1.3
	Campbelltown	320	2.7
	East Hills	113	1.0
	Fairfield	168	0.9
	Granville	238	2.2
	Hoxton	155	1.0
	Ingleburn	189	1.6
	Liverpool	203	1.8
	Macarthur	144	1.2
	Strathfield	193	1.4
	Total	1880	1.5
Sydney	Botany Bay	84	1.1
	Georges River	81	0.5
	Inner City	81	1.2
	Inner West	73	0.7
	Network 8 (Technology Network)	91	0.8
	Port Hacking	83	0.7
	Port Jackson	67	0.7
	Woronora River	71	0.6
	Total	631	0.7

Region	School Education Group	Students Long Suspended	Students Long Suspended per Hundred Students Enrolled
Western NSW	Bathurst	152	2.3
	Bourke	147	6.3
	Broken Hill	66	1.5
	Dubbo	229	3.1
	Lachlan	126	2.1
	Orange	108	1.7
	Warrumbungle	118	2.0
	Total	946	2.4
Western Sydney	Blue Mountains	79	0.8
	Cumberland	164	1.3
	Hawkesbury	78	0.9
	Minchinbury	243	1.7
	Mt Druitt	262	2.3
	Nirimba	191	1.3
	Penrith Valley	173	1.4
	The Hills	102	0.6
	Total	1292	1.3

Expulsions

Table 8: Expulsions 2008

Region	Misbehaviour	Unsatisfactory Participation	Total
Hunter Central Coast	41	2	43
Illawarra and South East	15	4	19
New England	3	1	4
North Coast	45	14	59
Northern Sydney	1	0	1
Riverina	6	2	8
South Western Sydney	64	45	109
Sydney	10	32	42
Western NSW	8	4	12
Western Sydney	21	5	26
Total	214	109	323

Misbehaviour:

Misbehaviour of a student of any age

Unsatisfactory Participation:

Unsatisfactory participation of a student of post compulsory school age

Good Practice Regional Initiatives

Specialist assistance is provided to students with behaviour problems to ensure they have targeted support including plans that address the behaviours that led to their suspension to enable them to continue their learning.

Schools are implementing effective strategies to maximise student engagement in learning, and minimising the likelihood that students will be suspended from school.

Suspension centre programs are assisting students placed on long suspension to make a successful return to school. Suspension centres, first established in 2004, focus heavily on addressing the causes of poor behaviour and involve conflict resolution and self esteem building, along with literacy and homework support.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) students the use of Personalised Learning Plans has enhanced student behaviour and learning.

A number of regional and school initiatives aim to improve behaviour, social skills and student welfare outcomes, including reduction in suspensions and the number of days lost to suspension. For example:

Seven Regions report that schools that have introduced *Positive Behaviour for Learning* have demonstrated a decrease in long suspensions. In 2008 there were more than 300 schools implementing *Positive Behaviour for Learning*. Cambridge Park High School in Western Sydney has had a significant reduction in suspensions since 2005 with the introduction of *Positive Behaviour for Learning*.

Illawarra and South East Region has introduced online support and training for teachers through the *Behaviour Focus Web Board*. The Web board gives staff better access to strategies to manage difficult behaviour particularly in small and isolated schools with support available from a range of regional staff, behaviour and mainstream teachers, and outside specialists.

Riverina Region has introduced a pilot program for students in year 7 following their first long suspension. The recidivist rate amongst year 7 students receiving a long suspension was lower than previous years.

South Western Sydney Region has introduced several targeted intervention programs. For example, in 2008, the *Steps2Success* program was implemented for stage 4 students at Lawrence Hargrave School. It is a practical approach to teaching Aboriginal culture and values. The ten week course involves a student program and community action plan. Analysis of suspension data for Lawrence Hargrave indicates a significant reduction in suspensions from 2007 to 2008 for all students including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Professional development programs such as *NonViolent Crisis Intervention* operate state-wide to teach school staff effective behaviour management practices. To date more than 130 departmental staff members have become accredited instructors delivering the training to school staff. Training in the *Advanced Course in Autism Spectrum Disorders and Enhanced Verbal Interventions* has commenced across the State.