



Mackay Christian Colleges Ltd t/a

# Mackay Christian College

a place where you belong

ABN 22 010 555 389 CRICOS 01085D

## ***Independent Study Unit Policy***

Mackay Christian College partners with parents and their student. Our commitment is to support students in their learning and career pathways. At times learning can become interrupted and a student's learning program needs to be adjusted. The granting of an Independent Study Unit for Year 11 or 12 students only is done on a **case by case application** and at the discretion of the Head of Teaching & Learning and the Principal.

All Students in **Year 10, must have a full timetable**. Independent Study Units are extremely rare for students in these year levels and will only be considered with detailed medical documentation and the Head of Teaching & Learning and Principal will make a decision on what adjustments are to be made.

Students in Year 11 must have a full timetable for the first semester. Year 11 and 12 students may apply for 1 independent study unit **only** when the off-site/extra-curricular activity selected is **a part of an intentional learning/career pathway**.

Students, who select a specialised or off-site activity as part of their intentional learning/career pathway, are eligible for an Independent Study Unit under the following criteria:

- a. Enrolled and maintain a TAFE course for a minimum of a term, preferably a semester
- b. Signed up to a School-based Apprenticeship/Traineeship
- c. Specialised students (Athletes, Performers, Artists or Specialised learners) whose participation in regional or national competitions require significant days absent throughout the academic calendar
- d. Have Medical documentation detailing the need for an adjusted academic course

Independent Study Unit eligibility is reviewed at the beginning of each semester. The review will be conducted by the Learning Pathways Coordinator through an interview with students to collect evidence which confirms the need for an Independent Study Unit to continue for another semester. Evidence for continued approval may include Competition Calendar, medical documentation, TAFE report and school academic results.

Students and parents need to **consider** that the majority of Australian and International research find that combining school and work has a negative impact on school performance. The more hours worked, the more negative the effect. Remembering some students are better able to manage the competing demands of combining school and work. In general, the average/advised number of hours with the least level of impact is between 8-12 hours.