

School Strategic Plan 2022-2026

Northern College of the Arts and Technology (7300)



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School Strategic Plan - 2022-2026

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School vision	<p>College Vision: To continue to be a leading provider of contemporary education that values both the conceptual and the practical with specialised high quality programs in the Arts and Technologies</p> <p>College Mission To provide a dynamic learning environment that engages students, embraces diversity and empowers young people to excel and pursue their passions and pathways.</p>
School values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect for each other and the environment• Originality of thought and action• Courage to embrace challenges• Knowledge to seek, question and achieve• Support through relationships and teamwork
Context challenges	<p>The Northern College of the Arts & Technology (NCAT) is located in Preston, approximately 10km north of the central business district of Melbourne. The college has a broad catchment area with students coming from across Melbourne because of its specialist programs and has no zoning restrictions.</p> <p>As a Senior College, NCAT caters for Year 10, VCE, VCE Vocational Major students seeking a specialised education in the Visual Arts, Design, Media, Photography, Performing Arts or Trades & Technologies. The College is also a Registered Training organisation and as such runs Tertiary courses for post Year 12 and adult students.</p> <p>At Year 10 students choose either an Arts or a Technology stream, with students also choosing a Year 11 VCE VET program from either stream. Year 11-12 students can go on to VCE or VCE VM & VET programs in their areas of specialisation or interest. In addition to the traditional VCE subjects and an extensive range of VCE Art and Music subjects NCAT runs unique VCE VM programs including integrated VET/VCE VM in the Arts, Performing Arts and the Trades. Entry to Music and Dance programs at all levels including VCE VM is via audition. Similarly, students wanting to do Visual Arts or the VCE VM Art Immersion program or any of the Tertiary Arts programs must present a folio of work. Because of the extensive range of specialist equipment and adult environment it provides, students seeking enrolment must have a record of excellent behaviour from their previous schools.</p>

NCAT is also a nationally registered training organisation delivering 25 VET programs from Certificate II to Diploma level. NCAT offers the broadest range of VET programs of any school in Victoria including unique qualifications such as the Certificates III and IV in Musical Instrument Making & Repair for which NCAT is the sole provider in Australia, attracting students from around Victoria.

In addition to its own full-time students, NCAT is also a regional VET provider running 13 VET programs for over 700 external students from 75 other State, Catholic and Independent schools who come to the college one day per week.

As an RTO, NCAT runs a range of Tertiary programs including a Certificate IV in Visual Arts, Design, Photography & Digital imaging, Music and Sound Production. They can also do the Certificate IV in Musical Instrument Making & Repair, the Diploma of Photography and Digital imaging or Diploma of Visual Arts.

The college has close ties with industry and tertiary institutions and responds to regional training needs. Many of its programs have been established with the support of industry and in response to where industry is heading whether for the arts or technology. The NCAT College Council includes representatives from industry.

NCAT has extensive specialist facilities. In the performing arts, the college has a recently built dedicated music wing, including ten practice rooms, a large recital room, music technology rooms, industry-standard recording studio, sound booth and mixing room. It also has two dance studios, a theatre studies studio and an auditorium with retractable seating. In the visual arts the college has numerous Drawing, Art, Design & Fashion studios; a dedicated Photography centre with black & white and colour processing labs and four photographic studios as well as Mac labs and iPad & Multimedia suites.

The college is a recognized leader in Technology Education. Its VET programs are highly regarded for the quality and innovativeness of the delivery and the close links with industry. NCAT has unique, \$17 million trades and technology facilities including a \$12m Trade Training Centre. Facilities include extensive workshop for automotive, building & construction, engineering, electrotechnology, furniture/wood, integrated technologies/ robotics & telecommunications, musical instrument making & repair and plumbing.

Students are highly engaged and love coming to NCAT. They enjoy being in an adult environment with peers who have the same interests. This is evidenced in the Student Attitudes to School survey responses which year after year, are well above regional and state benchmarks with students very connected to the college, happy, engaged and motivated. Similarly, the Parent Satisfaction survey results since the college's establishment have been well above that of the majority of other secondary schools and in the top10% in the State.

The Staff School Survey results on School Climate, which demonstrates the extent to which staff are positive, actively involved in school activities and promote a culture conducive to learning, show that morale and staff being positive about the school climate continue to be well above the median for all government secondary schools. Staff work as a team to support students and enhance their learning.

	<p>The improvement in its VCE results over the past few years led to NCAT receiving The Age newspaper's. "2022 Schools That Excel Award," As well, the uniqueness and excellence of its integrated VCAL programs were recognised state-wide with the NCAT VCAL Learning Specialist, receiving the VCAA VCAL Teacher Achievement Award in the Integrated Program category in 2022.</p> <p>Key challenges over the next four years include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To cater for the different range of student abilities & aspirations, within the context of being a specialist Arts & Technology education provider - To improve staff capacity and consistent use of High Impact Teaching Strategies, particularly the areas of differentiated teaching & learning, and metacognition. - To improve student resilience, both in terms of personal wellbeing, and workload management. - To translate the excellence and uniqueness of its integrated VCAL programs into the new Vocational Major. - To continue to offer viable further education & training pathways in the areas of Arts & Technology for our student cohort, in changing economic and social external settings.
<p>Intent, rationale and focus</p>	<p>NCAT intends to continue to be a leading specialist provider of contemporary education in the Arts and Trades and Technology in terms of the programs it offers, the student outcomes achieved, the very positive relationships it has with students and parents and the staff culture of collective efficacy and focus on getting the best from students.</p> <p>Over the next four years the college will further enhance its VET offerings in its areas of specialisation and will investigate the feasibility of the establishment of a STEAM centre on site in order to address pathway needs for Technology students, and broaden some Arts pathways options using new technologies.</p> <p>Priorities over the next four years are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to optimise student learning through strengthening and embedding a whole school culture of collaboration that shares and celebrates excellence in teacher practice. - Continue the Implementation of Professional Learning Communities - A continued focus on the use of High Impact Teaching Strategies, particularly Differentiated teaching & learning. - A continued improvement in VCE study scores - The effective implementation of the VCE Vocational Major so that NCAT Integrated VM programs continue to be unique, engaging and challenging, with high quality, authentic & relevant tasks & assessments - Improving student wellbeing and resilience through a focus on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the introduction of targeted Tier 1 and 2 health & wellbeing programs b) Strengthening a tiered model of support for students including providing increased Mental Health Practitioner time to support student wellbeing.

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Goal 1	Optimise student learning.
Target 1.1	By 2026, achieve a completion rate for all VCE students (One VCE) of 95 per cent.
Target 1.2	By 2026, increase the VCE All Study mean score from 28.23 in 2021 to 29.
Target 1.3	By 2026, increase the percent positive responses score on AtoSS for the factor: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Differentiated learning challenge from 63 per cent in 2021 to 70 per cent.
Target 1.4	By 2026, increase the per cent of positive endorsement in the Staff Opinion Survey measures of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic emphasis from 60 per cent in 2021 to 70 per cent• Teacher collaboration from 69 per cent in 2021 to 75 per cent
Key Improvement Strategy 1.a The strategic direction and deployment of resources to create and reflect shared goals and values; high expectations; and a positive, safe and orderly learning environment	Strengthen and embed a whole school culture of collaboration that shares and celebrates excellence in teacher practice.

<p>Key Improvement Strategy 1.b Documented teaching and learning program based on the Victorian Curriculum and senior secondary pathways, incorporating extra-curricula programs</p>	<p>Enhance the quality and consistency in the delivery of school programs.</p>
<p>Goal 2</p>	<p>Enhance student wellbeing outcomes.</p>
<p>Target 2.1</p>	<p>By 2026, increase the per cent of positive endorsement in the Attitudes of Students to School survey in the measures of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience from 67 per cent unknown, normal and high in 2021 to 72 per cent unknown, normal and high • Self-regulation and goal setting from 61 per cent in 2021 to 70 per cent
<p>Key Improvement Strategy 2.a Responsive, tiered and contextualised approaches and strong relationships to support student learning, wellbeing and inclusion</p>	<p>Ensure that tier 1 supports are available to students across the College</p>
<p>Key Improvement Strategy 2.b Responsive, tiered and contextualised approaches and strong relationships to support student learning, wellbeing and inclusion</p>	<p>Define and strengthen tiered model of support.</p>