



INFORMATION BOOKLET 2017

Alesco: from the Latin, to grow or mature

For young people who are ready to take responsibility for themselves, their learning and their future, in a safe and supportive environment for change

50-56 Auburn Street
PO Box 1472
Wollongong NSW 2500
P: (02) 4226 1622
F: (02) 4226 1156
E: alesco@weaillawarra.com.au
www.alescoillawarra.nsw.edu.au

Alesco Illawarra operates under
the auspices of WEA Illawarra
ABN 14 062 944 950
NSW Board of Studies School Number 78007
Aust Govt DET School Number 29085



Stage 6 Marine Studies Excursion

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SCHOOL INFORMATION

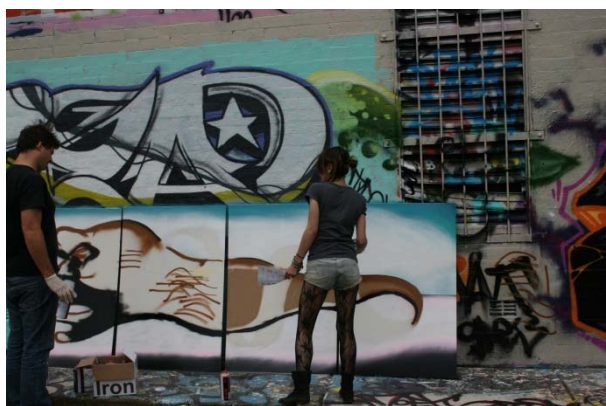
Alesco Illawarra is a registered and accredited non-denominational, independent school, specifically designed for the inclusion of young people who would flourish with the right support in an alternative school environment.

We can offer you an alternative education option if you are eligible for enrolment in Stage 5 or Stage 6 (years 9 to 12), believe you are unsuited to continuing your education in a traditional school or at TAFE, but you are ready and willing to take control of your own learning and your future.

Alesco Illawarra offers you exactly the same curriculum for year 9 and 10 mandatory subjects as you would study in a mainstream school and the opportunity to complete your Higher School Certificate. The difference, however, is in how we deliver education.

Smaller class sizes (approximately 15 per class) will allow you a greater opportunity to identify your strengths and work to improve the areas in which you lack confidence.

We employ a qualified and experienced Youth Support Worker and Learning Support staff, who work with the teaching staff to provide individual support for you to keep involved at Alesco



Illawarra and reach your goals. We also have strong relationships with many other youth health and welfare service providers, with whom we will work to ensure extra support is available for those issues which impact on your educational success and general wellbeing.

Alesco Illawarra provides an opportunity to learn in an environment that is based on adult learning principles. In return for higher levels of **self-responsibility**, you can enjoy some **greater freedoms**. Choice, independence, mutual respect and accountability all have a significant role to play.



Some Vital Differences

- Every student attends because they have a desire to make a difference to their future.
- We don't take students who think they are being 'forced' to attend.
- Every student has the opportunity to make choices about their role as a student.
- Additional support is available for those students who need it.
- Students and teachers are on a first name basis.
- Smaller class/school size means we get to know you as an individual.
- The more you put in, the more you get out of the program.
- There are no school uniforms, school bells or school assemblies.
- It is not an equivalent or a time out program. You will study the same subjects as you would in a mainstream school. If you decide not to continue your secondary school education before completing the Higher School Certificate, you will be able to receive the NSW Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) Record of School Achievement (RoSA).

**The significant key is
EMPOWERMENT**

COURSES ON OFFER

Stage 5

Our Stage 5 program is a full year program beginning in February each year. Like students in other schools, you will participate in learning activities and assessment tasks which help you to achieve the BOSTES outcomes for each of the mandatory Stage 5 key learning areas. In order to enrol in the Stage 5 program, you must be able to demonstrate that you have completed all previous years of high school.



All students are legally required to attend school regularly until they complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they turn 17, students must be:

- in school, or registered for home schooling, or
- in approved education or training (eg TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
- in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours/week) or
- in a combination of work, education and/or training.

Therefore, throughout the year, we will regularly review with you your personal education, training or employment goals and discuss your pathway to get there. You will leave our school with your Record of School Achievement (RoSA) along with a clear plan for your next steps, depending on your stated goals, or have the opportunity to continue with us to complete your Higher School Certificate. As we are co-located with a Registered Training Organisation and Community College (WEA Illawarra) you also have access to a range of accredited vocational training and other non-accredited courses.

Stage 6

Alesco Illawarra is registered and accredited for Years 11 and 12 and offers a limited range of Preliminary and Higher School Certificate (HSC) courses.

With our support you will have the opportunity to complete your HSC in a timeframe that is manageable for you. Please contact us for more information about our Stage 6 program and to determine whether Alesco Illawarra is the right place for you to work towards your HSC.



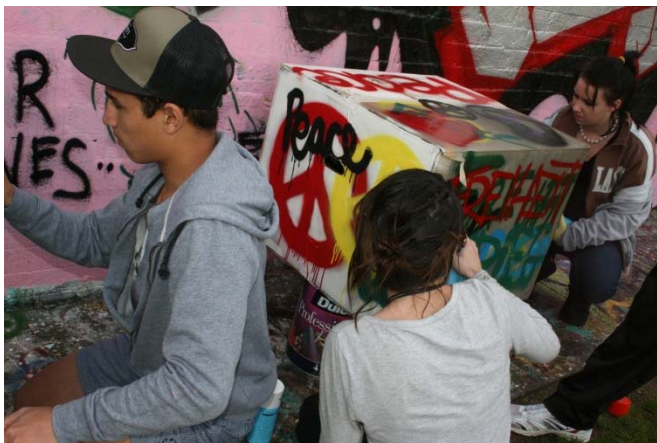
HOURS OF OPERATION

School hours are generally 9.00am to 3.00pm Monday to Friday for all year levels. However, school hours and timetable are confirmed at the start of each school year and term.



SCHOOL FEES

We ask students/families to contribute a small amount towards the administrative costs of the program when they are able. This Resource Fee is \$25 per student per term (a total of \$100 per year).



CURRICULUM

At Alesco Illawarra we have the ability to tailor your learning program to your capabilities. We are registered and accredited to offer either general curriculum subjects, generic Life Skills or a combination of both programs, depending on your needs.

In **Stage 5** we offer the BOSTES mandatory subjects of

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- History
- PDHPE

Please contact Alesco Illawarra to discuss your **Stage 6** course options.



TERM DATES

Alesco Illawarra terms generally correspond to NSW public school term dates. There are some variations, including start and end of the school year, orientation week, assessment dates and graduation etc. All school term dates will be confirmed if you are successful in gaining a place and your enrolment is finalised.

You will be notified of pupil free days, staff development days or school excursions throughout the year as they arise. Alesco Illawarra always provides written information when the regular school hours are disrupted.



CAMPUS INFORMATION

Wollongong Campus

Shared space with WEA Illawarra
Community College
50-56 Auburn Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
Ph: 02 4226 1622
Fax: 02 4226 1156
E-mail: alesco@weaillawarra.com.au
www.alescoillawarra.nsw.edu.au



Bulli Outreach Campus (Stage 5 Only)

Co-located with Bulli PCYC

Koonawarra Outreach Campus (Stage 5 Only)

Co-located with Careways at Koonawarra Community Centre

Nowra Outreach Campus (Stage 5 Only)

Co-located with Nowra PCYC

Staffing

Full-time Lead Teacher, Rhonda Thearle
Additional teachers to meet curriculum needs
Youth Support Worker and Teachers' Aides to meet student welfare needs
Principal, David Fuller
Business Manager, Louisa Raft

We also have 'sister' schools in the Hunter region, Albury Wodonga, Bathurst, Broken Hill, Dubbo, Fairfield, Port Macquarie and Tuggerah Lakes but we do not operate these campuses.



Success relies on an individual's desire to make it happen

HOW TO APPLY

All enrolments are taken via an *Application for Enrolment* form and an interview process. Contact Alesco Illawarra if you would like an Application for Enrolment Form to be sent to you or visit www.alescoillawarra.nsw.edu.au .

After we receive your application form, you will join the list of students waiting for intake. All applicants are offered an opportunity to attend an interview. Approximate schedule for intake each year is:

End of October	Applications open for enrolment in Year 9, 10 or 11 program in the following year
Early December	First round interviews for all applicants
Late January	Second round interviews for applicants (if needed)
Last 4 weeks of Term 2	Applications and interviews for Year 9 and Year 10 program if places have become available

Students will not be enrolled at Alesco Illawarra without attending an interview. You are welcome to bring a parent/carer or other support person with you to the interview, however it is you we are most interested in talking with. We will ask questions about your previous schooling and why you want to attend Alesco Illawarra. We will ask about any relevant medical history and behavioural and learning challenges. We may also ask about your support networks or peer networks. You will have the best chance of gaining a position in the school if you participate in the interview with:

- an openness and willingness to embrace change
- some ideas about your goals and plans for the future.

Please be aware that an interview is not a guarantee of enrolment.

Priority is given to applicants who can demonstrate they are able to take responsibility for themselves and their learning. As we are a Special Assistance School, we will also assess a student's needs in the following areas and give priority to those students for whom we believe we can adequately meet those needs through our program:

- Literacy, numeracy, language and communication skills
- Mental health diagnosis
- Learning or behavioural difficulties
- Intellectual or physical disability
- Aboriginality, cultural and linguistic background
- Financial or social disadvantage or isolation

Please note, it is essential for you to submit evidence of your age, previous studies at school, plus any documents you have which tell us more about any of the needs you have in the areas mentioned above.

If you do not submit this information, we may not be able to assess your suitability for enrolment at Alesco Illawarra.

**It's not about your history ...
it's about how much you want a future!**