Bowral Public School
Parent sentiment survey – 2014

1. Overview:
At Bowral Public School we pride ourselves on constantly working to improve all aspects of school life. As part of this, we conducted a detailed parent sentiment survey in 2014 in order to better understand what parents are happy with, what they would like to see improved, and to understand what aspects of the school are most important to our school community.

The results of the 2014 survey were overwhelmingly positive, and reinforce the great work of the school staff, teachers, P&C and parent community.

There was also a range of constructive feedback on specific issues such as school grounds, parent communication, and suggestions for additional areas of focus such as music and the arts. The BPS executive has reviewed all of this feedback in detail and has taken inspiration from it in order to improve the school program and offerings and also to develop new communication channels.

2. Methodology:
An electronic survey was distributed to all of our parents, and we had a high response rate of 122 responses in total, providing a good representative sample of the parent community.

The survey combined a mix of quantitative and qualitative questions, giving us the opportunity to identify key statistical trends, whilst also gaining insight into more specific issues or suggestions.
3. Results analysis
Following is an analysis of the key trends which emerged from the 2014 survey.

3.1 Choice of school:
As a public school, it is unsurprising that 75% of parents chose to send their children to BPS because it is their local school. Parents were given the opportunity to provide more than one answer to this question, and it is wonderful to see that almost 50% of parents also chose BPS because of the school reputation. Given that BPS lies in an area with numerous other private schools on offer, this is a very positive result.
3.2 The best things about BPS:

When we asked parents what they liked most about BPS, the two elements that ranked most highly were school community (71%), and quality of teachers (70%), followed by academic approach (36%), physical environment (22%) and teacher/student ratios (21%).
3.3 Parent concerns:

When asked what they disliked about BPS, the response was overwhelming with 61% of parents stating there was nothing they disliked, which is a strikingly positive response.

The main area of concern raised by parents was the physical environment of the school (18%), which on the whole related to the presence of demountable classrooms.

Fortunately, since conducting the survey, BPS has been given funding for significant building works which will go a long way to addressing these issues.

Other criticisms tended to be of a very specific nature, and the executive and academic staff of BPS have reviewed and addressed these issues in detail on an individual basis.
### 3.4 School ranking:

When asked how parents would rank BPS in relation to other local primary schools (both public and private), the response was highly positive with 71% of parents ranking BPS as better than other schools. As a public school, this is an excellent result.

![Bar chart showing parent ranking of BPS compared to other local primary schools.]

In relation to other local primary schools, how would you rank BPS?

Answered: 108  Skipped: 15

- Better: 71%
- The same: 22%
- Not as good: 7%

### Parent sentiment and attitudes

The attitudes and sentiment of parents was highly positive and engaged. Following is a representative sample of the types of sentiment expressed by parents in the survey:

- "It is a great school, the teachers are great and there are many extra things that are offered to the kids. For Primary I would not consider sending my children anywhere else."


- "I have been very impressed with the attitude toward bullying, the quality of the teachers, the class of the school (the school uniform is mostly adhered to) as well as the volunteer work and opportunities."

- "Great school community. Enthusiasm of teachers and parent engagement. Quality of leadership and well structured. Excellent range of activities & resources for learning. Good engagement in sports, music, art, culture and community activities."

- "I cannot fault BPS in the help they gave my child with her reading difficulties, having spoken to many parents from other schools I think that she was given more help than she may have received at other schools."

- "I think it provides amazing opportunities for a public school."

- "I haven't made any comparisons since our children started at BPS but when we were first looking at schools in our area, BPS shone out as the best of all the primary schools on grounds of teacher quality, the children's attitudes and manners, and because it attracts travelling theatre/science, etc passing through the region and hosts the academically gifted classes."

### 3.5 How can we improve?

When asked what improvements could be made to BPS, the two key areas were better classrooms/buildings (65%) and improvements to school grounds (43%). As outlined previously, one of the fortunate aspects of this is the recent funding for new buildings at the school which will go a long way to addressing these issues.

The other issues of better music program, sporting activities and technology have been reviewed by the staff at BPS and new programs are being developed.
4. Conclusion

The results of the 2014 parent sentiment survey were overwhelmingly positive and provide great feedback and affirmation to the hardworking staff and parent community at BPS.

We are highly fortunate that the main areas of concern related to the physical buildings at the school which will now be addressed through our building program.

We are grateful to our parent community for their honest and insightful feedback, and the BPS executive and staff have reviewed all issues raised in detail and will continue to strive to improve the programs and offerings at BPS.