



ORBIS ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Orbis designs and delivers exemplary learning for educators

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Welcome to Country

Mickey Kumatpi O'Brien



About Orbis

We help grow teaching practice to improve the learning of students. We continue to work with our people and bring the best education experts to our South Australian educators.



Co-design makes a difference to professional learning

In our first year, we've seen how co-design makes a difference to our participants' learning experience. Understanding the needs of educators and co-designing professional learning ensures the learning is anchored in the South Australian context and aligned with the curriculum, as well as being underpinned by the latest research.

Applied learning improves practice

We've seen the positive outcomes from our applied learning projects. The project gave our participants the opportunity to identify and research a personal challenge of practice, engage in reflective, critical discussion about their learning and document this process. Best practice adult learning principles underpin our approach at Orbis and we know that applying the learning is key to improving practice. Active and practical participation means that educators learn from each other through sharing their implementation and successes.

Ongoing learning has been key to our success

Ongoing development and collaboration are important to being a continuous learner. Our participants understand our professional learning programs are unique, and that coming to Orbis is a commitment to enhancing their professional practice. In 2019 our South Australian educators had the opportunity to share and reflect on their experience, knowledge and their learning was embedded over a period of months not just a few days.

Collaboration strengthens the learning back at school

In the last year we've seen how important it is for a school to bring a team of teachers and leaders to a program. It provides a collaborative approach to embed new learning within their school improvement practices. Our participants have taken what they've learned at Orbis, and with their colleagues, introduced the new learning to their team and continued the learning at their school. Orbis supports educators to build collective efficacy.



Building strong learning relationships

We've discovered in our first year that bringing teachers and leaders into a purpose built adult learning space has encouraged learning and strengthened networks of support. We've worked to foster strong learning relationships with our participants through the support of our facilitators, coaches and Orbis learning partners.

We've given our people the expert support they needed to successfully navigate their learning. We brought the best educational thinkers from around the world to Adelaide to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to quality professional learning, and to our shared goal of becoming a world-class education system in 10 years' time.

An exemplary experience is essential

The Orbis team is proud of the exemplary customer service we provide to our participants, stakeholders and learning providers. We believe in delivering on the promise of exemplary service. Part of our evaluation includes understanding what makes a difference for our leaders and teachers. Based on what we heard from our people we implemented the following:

- bespoke learning experiences
- personalised customer experiences
- cohort profile survey
- principal summaries
- principals hub
- enhanced learning management system (LMS)
user experience
- alumni engagement
- annual program content and delivery review
- annual customer experience review
- ongoing participant case studies
- built-in time for the applied learning project
during face-to-face days



Testimonials

“The Orbis intensives value added to my knowledge and provided time for me to reflect on my leadership direction and future work. I found the program CHALLENGING, INSPIRING and MOTIVATING.”

Fiona Perry, Port Pirie West Primary School



““The opportunity to slow down and work intensively on mathematical content and pedagogy has been invaluable to my team and I. Three words to describe our first 2 days at Orbis: FUN, REALISTIC, GROWTH.”

Emma Hayward, Victor Harbor R-7 School

“The discussion and permission around allowing yourself time for performance practice to strive to be better was a great start to my learning. The first intensive for me was THOUGHT PROVOKING, ENGAGING and FRESH.”

Tamra Waye, Colonel Light Gardens Primary School

Our commitment



The facts

The South Australian Department for Education is committed to being the best education system in Australia, ensuring that the educational outcomes for children and young people in our state are world-class.

To do this, we need to support our people to be their best, developing expert teachers and quality leaders with the capability to lead learning and achieve growth for every child.

The best systems in Australia and around the world have an institute or academy model to assure the quality of the professional learning and leadership development offerings. Orbis emerged from a process designed to discover how the delivery of exemplary professional learning can elevate our system's performance.

Let's reflect back on what we set out to achieve

- We want professional learning to be exemplary and a key driver towards achieving our ambition of a world-class education system in 10 years.
- We want to elevate our teachers' practice so they can make a positive change to their practices and student learning outcomes.
- We want a purpose built learning space designed for adult learning that fosters engagement and collaboration.
- We want to engage the best providers from around the world to deliver the very best professional learning for South Australian teachers and leaders.



Our work

On April 9, 2019 Orbis Exemplary Learning landed – we delivered a purpose built adult learning facility in Hindmarsh. We engaged The University of Melbourne and Harvard Graduate School of Education to design and deliver our programs in literacy, numeracy and instructional leadership.



Our model is different and that's what makes our professional learning exemplary. We co-design our programs with our people and with the experts. Our programs are based on contemporary research and best practice.

- Our professional learning is designed to be a team effort. We know that bringing a group of teachers together creates opportunity for real change in practice and student learning.
- We tailor the learning to suit each cohort and each individual teacher and leader.
- We deliver on our promises. We're world-class and guarantee our partners and providers are globally recognised.
- We deliver the best evidence based professional learning to South Australian educators.

10

Co-design meetings

03

Design summits

Our reach

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In our first year, 162 educators from across South Australia took part in our pilot programs: Literacy R-3, Literacy 7-9, Numeracy R-3, Instructional Leadership and the Harvard Leadership for School Excellence program in Sydney.

We have reached many South Australian schools in our inaugural year – from small schools like Tarlee and Koolunga to metro sites like Glenunga International, Mitcham Girls High, Adelaide High School and Linden Park Primary – and the list keeps growing.

50

Schools took part in Orbis programs 2019

34

Primary Schools

9

High Schools

7

Area Schools

Our achievements

We built an elite adult learning facility, engaged world-class providers and enabled teachers to improve their practice.

Our goal was clear – provide exemplary professional learning to South Australian educators. After 300 participant surveys we now know that we achieved this goal in 2019. Our greatest strength was listening to our people – being responsive and curating our learning to suit the needs of every educator in every Orbis program.

- We kept our promise of providing world-class professional learning with providers from The University of Melbourne and Harvard University.
- Our applied learning project made a difference in school classrooms and we saw a positive impact in student learning outcomes.
- The Orbis purpose built facility promoted collaboration and meaningful learning for South Australian educators.



99% of teachers graduated their Orbis program

82% of teachers will recommend Orbis programs to their colleagues

92% of teachers said that the Orbis program positively impacted student learning

90% of participants said their colleagues benefited from Orbis programs

Our future

Orbis has had huge success in 2019, with overwhelming interest in our program offerings. We've added more available places to meet the demand for our exemplary professional learning.

Orbis will continue to focus on fine-tuning our approach, and deliver world-class professional learning to South Australian educators. We're working on new and exciting projects to expand on our exemplary offerings, and in 2020 and 2021 we will:

- launch Literacy 3-6 and Preschool programs.
- take our programs on the road so remote schools in South Australia can benefit from the Orbis professional learning closer to home.
- build a second level to the Orbis learning space in Hindmarsh, so we can meet the demand for more exemplary professional learning for educators in South Australia.
- launch our much anticipate eLearning, designed to be an on-demand, online learning experience accessible to all South Australian educators.

480 New Orbis participants in 2020

13 New cohorts

73 New schools taking part in 2020

34 Primary Schools

25 High Schools

14 Area Schools

The learning never stops

We've discovered so much in our first year of providing exemplary professional learning to South Australian educators - the team at Orbis are much the same as our participants; we're ongoing learners and are continually working to elevate our service, content and delivery.

As we focus on providing meaningful learning, you can trust that we have done the research and be confident that we deliver professional learning that improves practice and supports growth for every child, in every classroom, in every school. We are exemplary learning.



Contact us



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