



ALESCO
Learning Centre Illawarra

INFORMATION BOOKLET



Alesco: from the Latin, to grow or mature

For young people, aged 15-18 years, who are ready to take responsibility for themselves, their learning and their future, in a safe and supportive environment for change

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Alesco Learning Centre Illawarra operates
under the auspices of WEA Illawarra
ABN 14 062 944 950
NSW Board of Studies School Number 78007
DEEWR School Number 29085



The Circle of Respect

Acceptance

Learning

Empathy

Safety

Commitment

Opportunity

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SCHOOL INFORMATION

Alesco Learning Centre 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 aged 15-18 years, 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 Learning Centre Illawarra offers you exactly the same curriculum for year 9 and 10 mandatory subjects as you would study in a mainstream school. The difference, however, is in how we deliver education.

**The significant key is
EMPOWERMENT**

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 also have strong relationships with many 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 Learning Centre 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 course.
- There are no school uniforms, school bells or school assemblies.
- It is not a year 9 or 10 equivalent, or a time out program. You will study the same year 9 and 10 subjects as you would in a mainstream school. If you decide not to continue your secondary school education after you have completed year 10, you will be able to receive the Board of Studies exit credential.



COURSES ON OFFER

Year 10

Our year 10 program is a full year program with one intake at the beginning of each school year. Like students in other schools, you will participate in learning activities and assessment tasks which help you to achieve the NSW Board of Studies outcomes for each of the mandatory year 10 key learning areas. In order to enrol in the year 10 program, you must be able to demonstrate that you have completed all previous years of high school, including a minimum of six months of Year 9.

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 at the end of Year 10 with a clear plan for your next steps, depending on your stated goals.

Year 9

Alesco Learning Centre Illawarra offers a limited number of places in the Year 9 bridging course in the second semester of each year (terms 3 and 4). This course is to prepare students to undertake the year 10 program in the following year.

HOURS OF OPERATION

School hours are generally 9.30am to 2.30pm **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. This Resource Fee is \$25 per student per term (a total of \$100 per year for year 10 students and \$50 per year for year 9 students).

CURRICULUM

At Alesco Learning Centre 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.

The subjects we offer are:

Year 10 (12 months)	Year 9 (6 months from Term 3 only)
English	English
Maths	Maths
Science	Science
Geography	Geography
History	History
PDHPE	PDHPE
Elective (to be determined)	Elective (to be determined)

TERM DATES

Alesco Learning Centre 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 Learning Centre Illawarra always provides written information when the regular school hours are disrupted.



CAMPUS INFORMATION

Wollongong Campus

Shared space with WEA Illawarra Adult and Community Education

50-56 Auburn Street
Wollongong NSW 2500

Ph: 02 4226 1622

Fax: 02 4226 1156

E-mail: alesco@weaillawarra.com.au

Maximum school enrolments: 30

Students per class: 15

Staffing:

1 full-time Lead Teacher, Rhonda Thearle

2 part-time Teachers, Martin Levy and Joh Van Sant

Principal, Gareth McKeen

Manager, Louisa Raft

Administration Officer, Mirjana Sirijovska

We also have 'sister' schools in Newcastle, Albury Wodonga, Parramatta, Fairfield, Tuggerah Lakes and Lismore 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 Learning Centre Illawarra if you would like an Application for Enrolment Form to be sent to you.

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 10 program in the following year
Early December	First round interviews for year 10 applicants
Late January	Second round interviews for year 10 applicants (if needed)
Last 4 weeks of Term 2	Applications and interviews for Year 9 bridging course

Students will not be enrolled at Alesco Learning Centre 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 Learning Centre 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 whether we believe we can adequately meet those needs at the Learning Centre:

- 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 be unable to assess your suitability for enrolment at Alesco Learning Centre Illawarra.

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