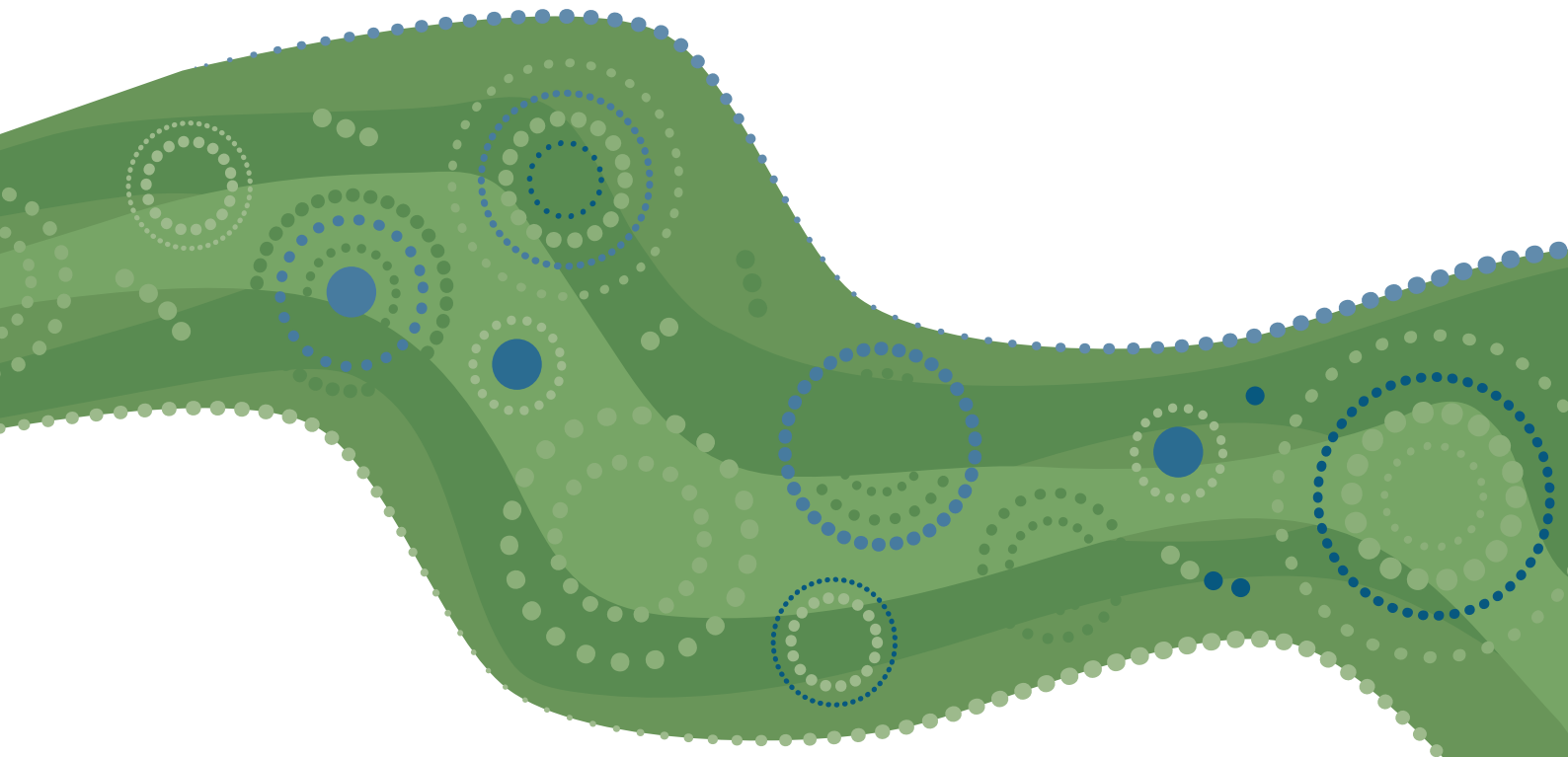




Melbourne
Montessori
College

Annual Report

2025



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About Melbourne Montessori College

Our Philosophy

An authentic Montessori approach to learning provides the framework for our educational program and underpins our teaching methods and materials. The words, wisdom and practical advice of Maria Montessori and her associates are the lens through which we select, design and evaluate our program and curriculum.

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to provide an outstanding learning experience grounded in Montessori principles, while embracing subject and teaching excellence and a total commitment to the wellbeing of our students and wider community.

Our Values

We believe that self-esteem, human dignity, emotional wellbeing and the ability to communicate and cooperate effectively with others – adult to adult, adult to child or child to child – must be valued as highly as academic and material success.

We affirm that we will support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including the commitment to elected government, the rule of law, equal rights for all before the law, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and association and the values of openness and tolerance.

We affirm that we will support the ideal that all beings are interdependent and that every form of life has value, regardless of its worth to human beings. We will support and promote the belief that we need to protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, especially biological diversity and natural processes that sustain life, and manage the use of renewable resources such as water, soil, forest products and marine life so as not to exceed rates of regeneration and protect the health of ecosystems.

We affirm that education begins at birth and continues throughout life and all our values apply equally to adults, parents, teachers, guardians and all children in the school. We believe that intelligence is not rare among human beings.

We nurture intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual and physical growth for the development of a whole and healthful being.

Chair's Report



It is my privilege to present this report on behalf of Melbourne Montessori College Board and to reflect on a year of renewal, meaningful progress and continued community strength.

2025 was an interesting year for the College. The latter half of the year brought changes in leadership that led to a successful transition to a new Principal and Business Manager. The way in which our community navigated this period – with professionalism and a shared commitment to our students – was genuinely impressive. I extend my sincere thanks to all those who supported the transition process, and I am tremendously optimistic about the direction in which our new leadership team is taking the College.

A key milestone of the year was the Board's endorsement of the College's new Master Plan, and the successful awarding of federal government Block Grant Authority funding towards the redevelopment of the Brighton Campus. The Buildings & Grounds Committee are overseeing the first stage of this, which includes demolition of the house at 737 Hawthorn Road and a new building and car parking. Building works commence in 2026.

I am also pleased to report that the College continues to operate from a sound and stable financial base. This is a credit to the diligence and tireless efforts of our finance team, whose work behind the scenes is fundamental to our ongoing sustainability and success.

Finally, I would like to warmly acknowledge and thank my fellow Board members who served during 2025: Neil Cook, Court Haas, Emily Dacal, Alice Champion, Tribly Dsouza, Lukas Konieczny, Clare Kermond, Nicole Kirkwood, Vanessa Janover and Sascha McGregor. Each has contributed generously and meaningfully to the work of the Board, and while some have stepped away from their roles during the year, I thank everyone sincerely for their service.

As ever, the strength of our school community has been at the heart of everything we have achieved. The care, dedication and partnership shown by teaching staff, parents and our broader supporters continue to underpin the quality of education we offer.

With new leadership in place and the enduring strength of our community behind us, Melbourne Montessori College is exceptionally well placed for the future.

With sincere thanks,

Julian Isaacs
Board Chair





Principal's Report



As I reflect on my first five months as Principal of the College, I do so with a strong sense of optimism and gratitude for the opportunity to lead this community into its next chapter. Although I was not present in 2025, I have come to understand the significance of the journey the College has undertaken over recent years. The departure of key executive leadership team members and a decline in enrolments created a period of uncertainty and change for students, families, and staff alike. Yet, even in the face of these difficulties, the College community demonstrated remarkable resilience and commitment to its core values.

Since joining the College, I have been deeply impressed by the dedication of our staff and the warmth of our community. One of the clearest indicators of renewed stability has been the retention of all teaching and general staff throughout 2025. In a time when schools across the country continue to experience staffing shortages and high turnover, this achievement is significant. It reflects a culture in which people feel connected, valued, and inspired by the work they do each day.

A key reason for this stability lies in the strength of the Montessori philosophy that underpins the College. Montessori education offers a purposeful and deeply human approach to learning that resonates strongly with students and educators. It encourages independence, curiosity, collaboration and respect, while recognising the individuality and potential of every learner.

Just as importantly, it empowers teachers to engage in meaningful, relationship-based education where professional autonomy and creativity are valued. It is clear to me that this shared commitment to Montessori principles is central to why staff choose to remain at the College and invest in its future.

While the year has understandably focused on rebuilding confidence and stability, it has also delivered important achievements that place the College in a strong position for the years ahead. Most notably, the College secured the grant funding necessary to progress a significant stage of the Masterplan development. This funding will support the construction of a new Food Technology Centre, alongside purpose-built Montessori adolescent learning environments.

These developments represent an exciting and important investment in the future of our students. The new adolescent classrooms will provide thoughtfully-designed spaces that support collaboration, independence, practical learning, and community engagement — all essential elements of Montessori education for adolescents.

The Food Technology Centre will further enrich the curriculum by providing opportunities for students to develop practical life skills, creativity and enterprise through authentic, hands-on experiences.

Although I am new to the College, I have already seen tremendous potential within this community. There is a strong sense of pride in the College's identity and a shared determination to move forward positively. Rebuilding enrolments and strengthening community confidence will take time, but the foundations for sustainable growth are clearly being established.

I would like to acknowledge the staff, students, families and Board members who have remained committed to the College throughout this period of transition. Your resilience and belief in the value of Montessori education have created the platform from which we can now look ahead with confidence and hope. I am excited to be part of this journey and look forward to working together as we continue to build a thriving future for the College.

Janis Coffey
Principal

Foundation's Report



The 2025 school year ended on a strong and future-focused note, with the Foundation and College awarded a \$2 million Capital Grant from the Australian Government. This will support the completion of Stage 1 of the Brighton Master Plan, with the remaining costs of the project financed by MMC.

This significant investment will see the construction of a two-story building to include food technology facilities, two Cycle 4 classrooms, a kitchenette, workshop area, amenities and basement car park. The end result will be an impressive, purpose-built learning environment for students, staff and the broader community.

This is the Foundation's largest grant and it would not have been possible without the valuable work of the Foundation, Board, Executive Team and Kneeler Design Architects.

In 2025, we also completed the final stage of our Cycle 1/Early Learning classrooms' refurbishment, following the \$750,000 grant received in 2024 from the Victorian School Building Authority. This brought upgrades to the learning environments for Cycle 1 and Early Learning classrooms, a refreshed entry for Cycle 1 classrooms, an extension for two classrooms and landscaping and completed Stage 1 of the Caulfield Campus Master Plan.

The MMC Foundation has continued to focus its fundraising efforts on growing the Legacy Fund, which sees current MMC families and alumni supporting the College's ongoing development and ensuring current and future generations benefit from a Montessori education.



The MMC Legacy Fund is our highest philanthropic priority and in 2025, over \$27,000 was donated by families. As a result, we are proud to report that five scholarships, totalling \$49,500, were awarded for the 2026 school year.

Thank you to all those who supported the Legacy Fund and the Foundation in 2025.

The Foundation's strength also relies on the dedication of our Board of current and alumni parents and we thank Directors Hali Halphen, Sascha McGregor, Sonja Felderhof, Julian Isaacs and our newest member, Clare Luong, for their valuable contributions.

Supporting the Foundation is an investment in the future and every donation, regardless of size, creates a ripple effect of generosity that extends far beyond the initial gift.

Thank you to the Melbourne Montessori College community for its unwavering support and commitment.

Melissa Schraner
Foundation Chair

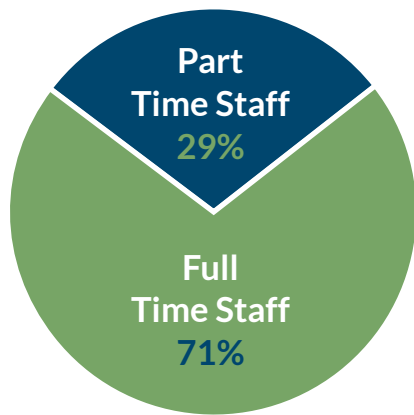


Staff

The staff at Melbourne Montessori College are vital to its growth, professionalism and success. Each member of the MMC team is committed to supporting every child as they develop, learn and explore.

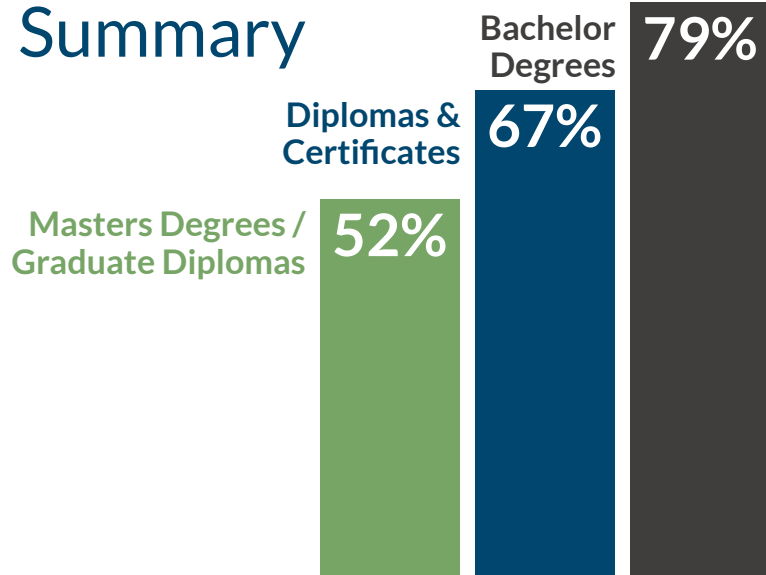
At the end of December 2025, our school had 63 staff: 50 female and 13 male members. 45 of those members were full-time and 18 were part-time.

2025 Staff Members



Full Time vs. Part Time

Qualifications Summary



Professional Development and Compliance Training

Melbourne Montessori College actively encourages all staff to engage in ongoing learning as part of a learning community. Illustrating this, professional and personal learning opportunities are provided through school-based, online and external programs.

Compliance training is essential for risk management and to meet the responsibilities of the school to our staff in providing the skills and knowledge necessary for duty of care and OH&S.

Throughout 2025, MMC staff participated in a broad range of professional learning opportunities designed to strengthen teaching practice, student wellbeing, compliance, leadership capability and program excellence across all areas of the College.

Health, First Aid and Emergency Response

- CPR certification and updates
- Anaphylaxis training
- Emergency response procedures

IB Professional Learning and Leadership

- IB subject workshops
- IB conferences and leadership courses
- IB curriculum and assessment
- Theory of Knowledge courses

Inclusive Education and Diverse Learning Needs

- Individual learning plans
- Neurodiversity
- Student funding support

Montessori Professional Learning

- Montessori conferences and workshops
- Montessori orientation

Student Wellbeing and Student Support

- Inclusion and belonging
- Student anxiety
- Student connection
- Counselling and therapeutic practice

Teaching Practice, Curriculum and Assessment

- Languages
- Library and information services
- Mathematics
- Literacy and writing
- Aboriginal perspectives



Students

Throughout the year we closely monitored our students and their attendance, NAPLAN results, the outcomes of our graduates, and the pathways they took after leaving MMC.

Here is a snapshot of what our students achieved.

Attendance

Student attendance is recorded online twice daily through the school's database. Teachers and administration staff monitor student absences and parents are informed of absences when appropriate.

2025 87%

2024 88%

Overall, in 2025, average attendance was 87%, compared to 88% in 2024.

2025 NAPLAN Results

In 2025, all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 completed the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy.

Our 2025 student results were:

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Year 3	464	440	439	469	454
Year 5	550	554	534	569	522
Year 7	531	525	478	511	529
Year 9	572	603	552	539	522

Source: MySchool Website

2025 Graduate Outcomes

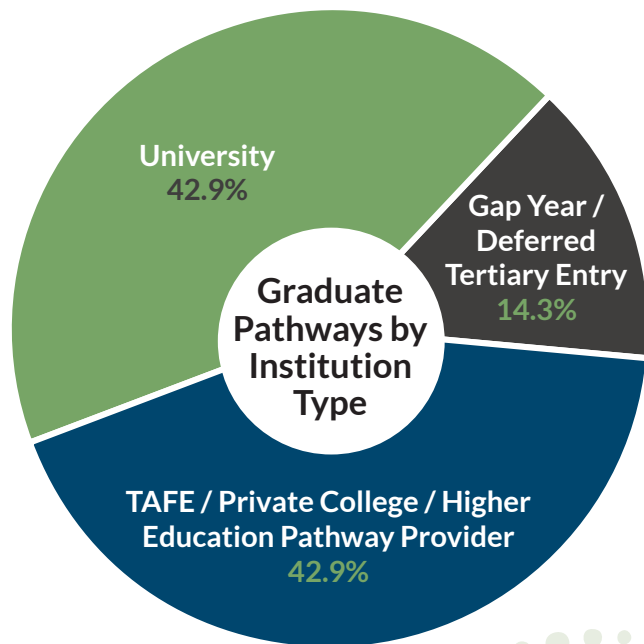
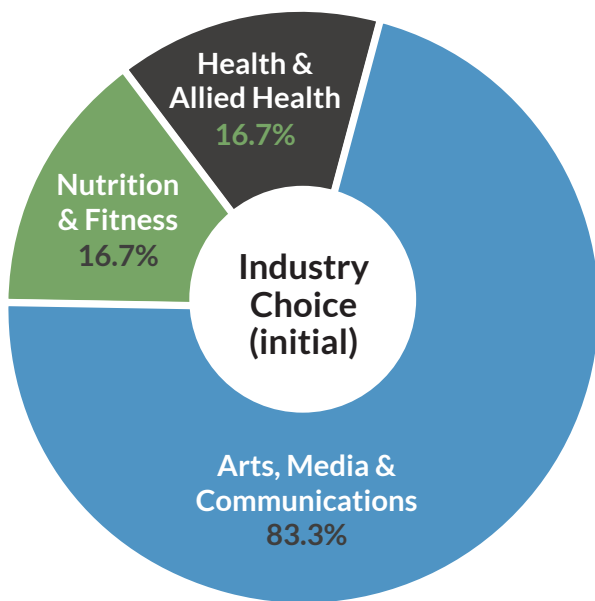
In 2025, Year 12 students studied either the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) or the VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM).

Students completing the IB Diploma achieved an average score above the global mean and achieved results broadly equivalent to an ATAR of 80 and above. This provided opportunities to follow a wide range of tertiary pathways.

Our VCE Vocational Major students also achieved strong outcomes and progressed into further study, training and employment.

Graduates have moved into tertiary study, vocational education, employment and gap-year experiences. They are pursuing their future in the arts, health, nutrition and fitness, and creative industries and are living, studying and working locally, interstate and overseas.

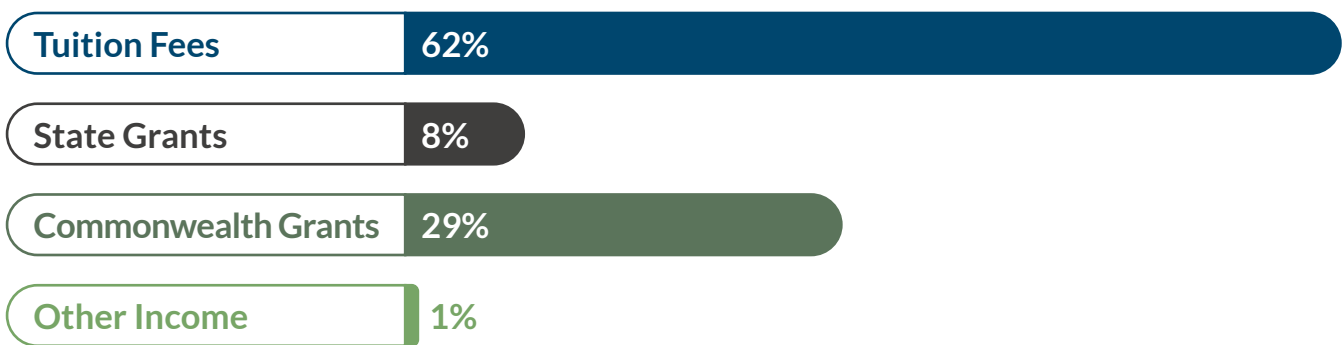
We congratulate our graduates on their achievements and thank staff and families for their continued support.



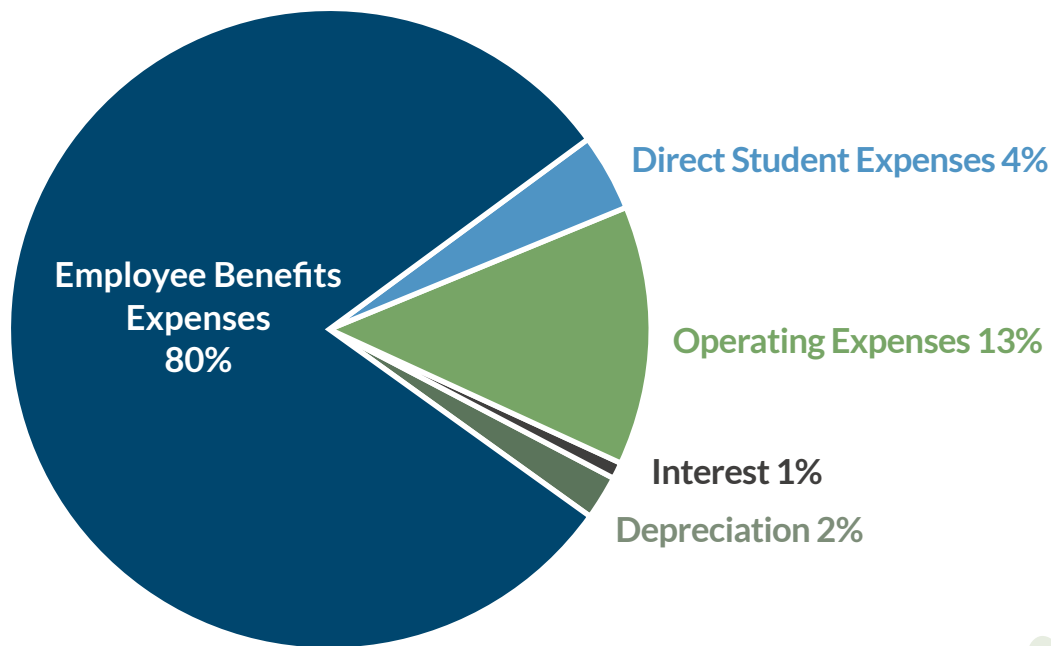
Finance Report

These charts are a summary of Melbourne Montessori College's income and expenses for 2025.

MMC Income



MMC Expenses





Melbourne
Montessori
College

Creating a better world
with our *own* two hands

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