



2018

Phoenix Rising

Alesco Senior College

About Us

Alesco Senior College is a registered and accredited non government school specifically designed to support the needs of students who would be unlikely to find success in the traditional schooling environment.

Under the auspice of WEA Hunter, an Adult and Community Education provider - the school has been operating in Newcastle since 2002.

Since its inception the school has gone on to support hundreds of students find success through an education model which balances the needs of the young people with a solid academic program.

It is a formal school education in a non institutional environment and for some young people this is the place they feel most comfortable in to complete school and find the confidence to move onto bigger and better things.

Alesco Senior College gratefully recognises the support of the NSW Department of Education and Communities, The Commonwealth Department of Education and the NSW Association of Independent Schools.

We also thank the WEA Hunter Foundation for its support in 2017 and countless other teachers, staff, friends and families, work placement hosts, politicians and community support workers.



Why are the stories important?

When we talk to people outside our teams about the program though, it is the students' personal stories that so clearly explain the impact the school can have. So we decided to tell them to you in their own words.

A Message from our Principal

As the Principal of Alesco Senior College, I am proud of the dynamic and vibrant schools that we have created and the opportunities that we offer to young people.

We are continually committed to providing an education for students in a supportive and safe environment where students can learn to adapt and adjust to the many changes they will face in their future.



“I didn't begin my schooling the way I am now, it was a long dwindling road that is finally Progressing.”

From Our Students

Everyone at this school are all friends, it's like a family. My anxiety isn't as bad as it was. I can now see a positive future for myself that I never thought was possible before.

Alesco Coast student

Alesco has benefited me so much. Before I started Alesco I had bad attendance and marks on my school work. Now being a student at Alesco that has all changed for me. I love coming to school. Everyone makes you feel comfortable here. I love Alesco.

Alesco Cessnock student

Alesco is important to me, I have attained a great support system ~~for~~ as well as friends. My social anxiety has gone down

Alesco Raymond Terrace student

Alesco is the best thing that ever happened to me.

I loved absolutely everything. I actually get treated like I am a human. I am proud that I have actually pulled my head in and came to every class, not leaving early actually doing my work.

Life! I have my life back. I would be lost without this school and wouldn't have cared about myself or my future. I can't thank the teachers enough!

Everything is so different compared to mainstream schools. Every teacher has given me the guidance and support that I needed. They sat and helped me get through each and every class.

Since the age of 5 I have been suspended from school consistently. I have always struggled with mainstream education due to the negative relationships with teachers. The Alesco teachers are like family to us.

Coming to Alesco was the best thing that I could've done. Before Alesco, I was struggling with school dealing with bullies that I had known most of my life. They were meant to be my friends. My family had just gone through a major separation which was not the best of times. With Mum and Dad's divorce through to school, it was really hard to deal with mentally. I went home to arguments then wake up to bullies. I needed a change. The moment I arrived at Alesco was amazing!

Once I enrolled into Alesco, I knew it was going to be a good year. We can wear our own clothes, colour our hair, have facial piercing's. Look the way we want to look. I feel safe here and I look forward to getting out of bed to come to school. The teachers do as much as they can for the students. They know every student individually and how to handle every student in their own way.



“ I am proud of myself for finishing school - I received 100% in Maths ! ”

I feel safe here and whenever I ask for help, my needs are always satisfied. The teachers do as much as they can for the students, and they aren't just teachers, they're like family. They know every student individually and how to handle every student in their own way.

I'm so happy that I found a school that I actually look forward to getting out of bed for.

Thankyou, Alesco.

I have enjoyed Alesco because I found it easier than my past schools mainly because the teachers explain what they are teaching us better. I come to school more and actually enjoy it. I am proud that I was able to pass every subject.

The things I enjoy about Alesco is that the teachers talk to you like you're an adult and they are always there to help you. You can tell them anything. My attendance has changed when I started coming to Alesco.

Alesco brought me closer to happiness and friends. Life was hard, it still is, but Alesco makes it easier. I love my teachers and I love my school. I am so close to completing my HSC.

Why come to this school? Well, I come here because they are my family and this is my home. No matter what life throws at me, I know I will be ok. Alesco has taught me to achieve 2 certificates - this place has given me so much. Thank you for my future!

The difference between Mainstream & Alesco...

I have moved schools multiple times, when I started at my old school I only knew about 2 or 3 people out of the 1000 kids that went there.

The teachers just treated the kids the same because there was so many. There would be a punch-up between 2 kids, and they'd be back at school 3 days later.

When I moved to alesco, I stuck to myself at first but everyone was so friendly. The staff and the kids always spoke to me and asked me to come and join them. I also already knew a few people that went there. We have a zero-tolerance rule. So even if someone says anything rude or threatening, they will more than likely be asked to leave.

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*The Teachers
are like
family to us*



Since first beginning 16 years ago over 1500 students have completed their education at Alesco Senior College.

What commenced in 2002 as a small learning program for 12 students has now developed into a five campus school system with over 250 students.

Expanding Our Campuses

Raymond Terrace

In 2015 Alesco Senior College Raymond Terrace campus opened with 20 students enrolled in Year 9 and 10. In those two years the school provided an opportunity for over 70 young people to complete their education. In 2018 the school will move into larger premises with an expected enrolment of 50 students. The HSC Program will also commence.

Cessnock & Tuncurry

2016 saw the opening of two new campuses. The high demand for places at the schools required the schools to commence their HSC program in 2017. This year over 20 students will graduate with HSC subjects.

The Bay

In 2017 Alesco Senior College was invited by the community of Port Stephens to extend its campuses and open its doors at Nelson Bay. The Year 9/10 campus has been a huge success with number predicted to grow in 2018.

In the past 15 years Alesco Senior College has become an amazing educational community, where students are given an opportunity to experience an education that supports them in their journey of life as well as developing friendships that will last a lifetime. During that time the school has seen much change and has had many talented students walk through its doors.

In 2006 students of Alesco Senior College celebrated their first five HSC graduates and in 2017 we have over 40 students enrolled in the HSC. In the past fifteen years Alesco Senior College has developed into a school of choice in the community and this culture will continue to take us into the future.

Alesco Senior College acknowledges the staff that have contributed to the college in the past 15 years. Their dedication and hard work to the school enhanced and contributed to building the school culture and its development as a well-respected independent school.

Reading the students' stories and contributions every year reminds us of how important it is to grow and continue on our amazing journey. I believe that we can successfully continue expanding our influence and impact on students and the education community.

As we reflect on the fifteen year history of our school, we appreciate the diversity of our students, the vision of our founders Rowan Cox and Wendy Ratcliffe, and our incredible potential for the future. And as we recognise this exciting milestone the students of 2017 are preparing to celebrate graduation and make their own mark in the schools historical timeline.

“

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop

”

16th
Year

“*A sense of achievement, growth in confidence, a belief that a real future is possible: things that are beyond English, Maths and Science.*”



“*Alesco helps the whole person, not just their academic scores.*”

Before I commenced at Alesco, I had worked as both a teacher and a youth worker. I always wished that there was a job that was a combination of these two things. This is exactly what makes Alesco schools work for our students; the welfare of the students is seen as just as important as their education. I feel extremely fortunate to teach here at Alesco Senior College. We are given the opportunity every day to connect with our students on a personal and an educational level. We are encouraged to acknowledge and respect the experiences of our students which can help to ensure that their experience at Alesco is valuable and positive.

2017 Alesco Teacher

As a teacher, my time here at Alesco has been the most rewarding experience by far. The relationships that you develop with the students through encouraging and supporting them in achieving their schooling goals is enormously gratifying. Hearing feedback from students about their change in attitude towards school, life and their will to be the best version of themselves is what motivates me to be the best teacher that I can possibly be. We really are one big family and I couldn't imagine working anywhere else.

2017 Alesco Teacher

2017 has been my first year working at Alesco Senior College. Before this I had only worked in mainstream schools and had heard about the amazing opportunities that Alesco Senior College provides for young people.

This year has been a real eye opener to the amount of young people who struggle with mainstream education and the large amount of young people who are disengaged with the education system all together.

I love that I am a part of a school community who support young people in breaking down the barriers to education and provide them with a second chance to complete their education. We provide a supportive place for young people to feel safe, valued and cared for while getting an education at the same time.

It is great to see students who were completely disengaged with their education who are now attending school every day and making some positive changes in their lives.

I am excited to see Alesco Senior College grow in the years to come and I look forward to continuing to work with our amazing staff and young people for many years to come.

2017 Alesco Teacher

Teachers Stories

 **ALESCO**
Senior College

*"Alesco is the Apple and
you are the Steve Jobs!"*

Alesco Cooks Hill student



Our
Teachers





Our Staff





Our Students





Our
Students





Alesco Senior College - Cessnock
9a Hall St
CESSNOCK NSW 2320

Alesco Senior College - Newcastle
100 Laman St
COOKS HILL NSW 2300

Alesco Senior College - Raymond Terrace
72 Port Stephens St
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324

Alesco Senior College - Coast
Cnr Manning & Lake St
TUNCURRY NSW 2450

Alesco Senior College - The Bay
7 Austral St
NELSON BAY NSW 2315

www.asc.nsw.edu.au
02 4925 4200