

Overview of the Geelong English Language Centre (GELC) - 2007

The Geelong English Language Centre (GELC) has 2 briefs:

- 1 To provide ESL tuition to New Arrival students in primary and secondary government schools in the City of Greater Geelong.
- 2 To provide programs to meet the needs of ESL students in their first 5 years of residency in Australia enrolled in primary and secondary government schools in the City of Greater Geelong which do not receive ESL Indexed Funding because of not reaching the funding threshold.

The New Arrivals brief has been GELC's traditional area of delivery and the "ESL Indexed" brief is a new area of delivery, commencing in 2007.

GELC operates on a visiting teacher model involving travel by staff between mainstream schools during the working day.

GELC is administratively based at Bell Park North Primary School.

In 2007 GELC has 6.0 EFT teachers and 1.0 EFT Multicultural Education Aides (MEA).

The most typical mode of teaching in the New Arrivals area is in small groups at students' base schools. GELC is, however, currently investigating ways in which New Arrival students from nearby schools can either be clustered or brought into a dedicated centre. Classes in these settings would have a maximum size of 13 students.

In the "ESL Indexed" area, combinations of withdrawal, support and team teaching will operate along with a role providing curriculum, teacher and resource development for mainstream schools and teachers.

At the start of 2007 GELC liaised with 45 schools and worked on a weekly basis in 21 of these schools.

The *ESL Companion to the VELs* is used to inform curriculum design and to assess student progress.

Students in GELC programs come from a wide range of language and cultural backgrounds. Since 2005 the largest group of New Arrival students has been African –from Sudan and Liberia. Many of these students have had significantly interrupted schooling and have limited if any literacy in any language.