

Student Profiling Tool

Rationale

Boarding schools receive applications for enrolment from a broad range of different students, including some students who are not suitable for the school boarding environment. This may be because they have conditions or behaviours that are outside the skill set of the boarding staff to manage, for example, students with serious anti-social or violent behaviour. Boarding staff may not have the specialised training to effectively care for these students. (They are not qualified psychologists or counsellors.)

When boarding schools accept students they cannot effectively care for, they may put that student at risk and also other students and staff at risk also. It can be difficult to provide the level of duty of care required for these students and this can lead to situations where it is difficult to control inappropriate or harmful behaviour.

It is essential that boarding residences have a profiling process so that they can identify:

- students for whom they can provide effective care, and
- students who have conditions or behaviours that are outside the skill set and training of the boarding staff and environment to manage.

This process does not necessarily exclude these at-risk students from all boarding, but ensures that they seek a boarding residence that is suited to their needs. This process is more about ensuring that the school or residence has processes and staff skill sets required to meet the unique needs of particular students. The process will also therefore signal to governments and boarding providers if there is a demand for

more tailored boarding situations for this cohort of students, whose extreme conditions or behaviours cannot be catered for by conventional boarding providers.

Process

The process depends on adequate parental permission for obtaining information, being provided in the student application process. The parental permission should cover obtaining information from previous schools attended by the student, and from the juvenile justice system where relevant. The boarding residence can ensure that their permission process is adequate for the purpose by contacting the relevant education authority in their state or territory.

Most student applications will be very straightforward and this will be evident as soon as the student's information from the previous school is recorded onto the profiling tool. These students move straight to the enrolment process rather than continuing with any profiling. The profiling tool is designed to fast track students who don't require the full profiling process.

If a student falls below zero on the combined scale, the parent and a community leader or referee is interviewed with a set of pre-determined questions. A panel then views all the student information, which includes;

- Application form
- Profiling tool result
- Parent interview
- Community leader or referee interview
- Possible past school reports.

The panel will then make a decision on whether the student should go onto the residence waiting list, should be enrolled, or be enrolled with some conditions imposed.

Adjustment

The profiling tool can easily be adjusted for each residence's individual requirements. Some boarding providers will require that academic standard is included while others will be more focussed on attendance, behaviour and attitude.

It may be useful to put in a range of hypothetical students with different ratings for each of the five areas, to trial the tool. Boarding providers can then monitor the use of the profiling tool initially and make adjustments to levels so that it works effectively for their particular context.

Steve & Jenny Florisson

Boarding Training Australia

www.boardingtrainingaustralia.com.au

08 90715337

Student Application

Includes Parent permissions

Contact previous school

Attendance Behaviour
Attitude to school
Parent support

Score -10 - 0

Score 0 - 10

Question on Application form
1. Solvent / drug use
2. Criminal record

Question on Application form
1. Solvent / drug use
2. Criminal record

Yes

Information from Juvenile Justice

No

Parent Interview

Community Leader interview

Panel view of application

No

Yes

On waiting list

Accepted & enrolled as boarder

Student Profiling Tool

Student Name _____ Date _____

Previous School _____

Attendance

< 60%	70%	80%	90%	95%+
-2	-1	0	1	2

Behaviour

Suspension > 1	Principal's office >2	Principal's office 1	Minor behaviour	Positive behaviour
-2	-1	0	1	2

Attitude

Very poor	Often poor	Varies	Mostly positive	Positive attitude
-2	-1	0	1	2

Parent Support

Very negative	Mostly negative	Varies	Mostly supportive	Very supportive
-2	-1	0	1	2

Academic Standard

> 3 years below	2 years below%	1 year below	At year level	Above year level
-2	-1	0	1	2

Comments

Score

Process

Signed
Date