

The Mission of the Barker Institute

Aligned with the 'Inspiring Global Hope' strategic plan (2015-2020)

The Barker Institute has the mission of:

- Facilitating a community of learners creating opportunity for each of their futures
- Implementing a globally focused 21st century model of learning that promotes an outstanding educational experience for all K-12 students
- Nurturing a culture of collaboration in our community where innovation, expertise and resources are shared
- Fostering a community that innovates through the use of emerging research and educational practice, consciously striving to be educational leaders, transforming students and staff to be visionaries of global hope
- Forming meaningful relationships with local, national and global communities

The Barker Institute:

- Provides a centre for research, reflective practice, professional learning and innovation in education
- Is a resource hub that facilitates the ongoing development of learning for teachers, allowing them to stay abreast of emerging practice, constantly striving to refine the quality of teaching and learning
- Looks to develop collaborative ventures with other institutions and providers, initiating research and innovation combined with the implementation of new projects and programs for the benefit of students, staff and the broader community
- Shares current research and issues with parents, professional bodies and educators around the globe through ongoing symposia, forums, lectures and conferences

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Creation of the Barker Institute

The Head of Barker College, Mr Phillip Heath, established the Barker Institute at the end of 2014, combining the existing teaching, learning and research initiatives of the School with emerging trends in education. The Barker Institute was developed to facilitate and support the strategic plan of the School, aligning with key aspects of the vision for the future. It draws on much of the work done previously in the Research@Barker domain as well as the substantial body of work developed by Dr Greg Cunningham in relation to the Teaching for Understanding framework at Barker. The Barker Institute is directed by Dr Brad Merrick.

The Purpose of the Barker Institute

The Institute has three key areas that form the foundation of the work that it provides. These are: Research, Innovation and Professional Learning.

The Barker Institute aims to contribute to education at the local, national and global level through:



Professional Learning

Professional learning that is focused on TfU, inquiry, critical thinking and quality student – teacher interactions, fostering a growth mindset for all participants.



Research

Inspired learning that is facilitated through purposeful and collaborative engagement in the latest educational thinking and research.



Innovation

Innovation that is developed through creative approaches to pedagogy, curriculum development, assessment and purposeful integration of emerging technologies.