



Macarthur Girls High School

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MACARTHUR GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

announced as the first **CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE** in NSW

For the attention of students, parents and staff

On Friday 31 July, an announcement from the Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, and the NSW Minister for Education and Training, The Hon Verity Firth MP, confirmed that NSW would be creating 50 new school Centres for Excellence.

Macarthur Girls HS was the first (and only) NSW school to be announced, proudly acknowledging the excellent standard of teaching and learning at our school.

These Centres are being created as part of the Rudd Government's *National Partnerships* program which will be worth \$720 million over 5 years in NSW. (Refer to *National Partnerships* at <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/>). As part of the National Partnership on improving Teacher Quality, the main goal will be to further raise the quality of teaching in our schools, thus further improving student learning outcomes.

What might this mean for our school?

- Firstly, the nomination of our school confirms the exceptional standard of teaching that has led to student learning outcomes that are amongst the highest in the state – particularly in terms of “value added”. Whether students arrive as highly talented, mid-range or lower ability, they will depart Macarthur Girls having made enormous improvement, well above average progress levels seen around NSW.
- Our school will become a Centre or “hub” for demonstrating, developing and sharing high quality teaching practices with other teachers within a cluster of schools and with student teachers currently training at university.
- We will form a partnership with a local university to promote professional development for teachers – creating a model that best suits local needs. Our teachers will benefit through new interactions with university academics.
- Connected Classroom technology (video conferencing and interactive whiteboards) will be used to also allow remote contact between our school and other participating schools and university sites.
- Our school will receive additional funding to establish and support this program.
- A new teaching position (additional to current staffing) will be provided to our school known as a Highly Accomplished Teacher. This position will be between Head Teacher and Deputy Principal and will be filled via open merit selection.

As soon as more detail is released regarding this new program, we will advise teachers, students and their families. **Congratulations Macarthur Girls!**

K. Gill
Principal
3 August 2009

