

Robotics social club: Participants

Schools

Two co-educational Brisbane Catholic Education high schools participated in the study. Contextual information about the size and composition of each school was collected and is described below.

Students

As an inclusive program, the robotics social club was attended by Year 7 and Year 8 students on the autism spectrum and not on the spectrum.

The study was conducted in the first year that Year 7 moved from primary schools to secondary schools in Queensland.

Students were welcome to attend the club without participating in the research, and this was made clear to students and families.

In addition to the students who attended the club, there were students on the spectrum and students not on the spectrum who took part in the study but didn't attend the club ('non-club' students). This group of non-club students allowed the researchers to compare the motivation and engagement of students who attended the club with students who didn't attend the club.

School A

- provides predominantly **VET** pathways
- **302** total enrolments
- **33%** of students verified with a disability

2 teachers

Club facilitator: Science teacher

Support facilitator: English teacher

17 club members

including 7 students on the spectrum

24 non-club students

took part in the study but didn't attend the club

School B

- provides **OP** and **VET** pathways
- **250** total enrolments
- **10%** of students verified with a disability

2 teachers

Club facilitator: Design, technology, maths, graphics teacher

Support facilitator: Inclusive education support teacher

17 club members

including 9 students on the spectrum

24 non-club students

took part in the study but didn't attend the club