



## **THE ICDL DELIVERS ICT SKILLS TO STUDENTS AT ST PETERS LUTHERAN COLLEGE**

Located in Brisbane, St Peter's Lutheran College (SPLC) introduced the ICDL in 2002, to formalise their existing Computer Studies Course for Years 8-10. SPLC was also keen to offer students the opportunity to gain an ICT certification standard recognised both nationally and internationally.

The course was initially offered using instructor led training and manual testing. Shortly after, the decision was made to move to a computer-based solution to eliminate paper-based storage issues and manual processes including the marking of tests.

Following a comprehensive evaluation process, SPLC implemented the Electric Paper solution comprised of interactive, simulated courseware including in-built exercises, a learning management system (LMS) and automated testing.

With 750 students and 25 staff enrolled in the program, ICDL is gaining momentum around the school. Over 100 staff have expressed interest in gaining their ICDL certification in the near future.

According to Paul Herring, Head of the IT Department, "the benefits of using this e-learning solution are the consistency of approach, opportunity for complete coverage of the syllabus, ease of testing and the significant saving of time in marking. We have found the solution very good and superior in functionality.

**Skilling Up Students:** Both parents and teachers have been very supportive of the ICDL program.

It been made a compulsory part of the curriculum for Years 8 and 9, and students are generally happy and willing to undertake the training and testing.

Results have been very good overall, with 80-90% of students passing the tests on their first attempt and a high proportion of Year 10<sup>1</sup>s completing the ICDL certification.

SPLC has found that students need a balanced and varied approach to the ICDL program for it to remain fresh, interesting and effective. This approach involves the use of other support materials and teacher directed input, combined with the e-learning program.

Due to some significant curriculum changes including the unitisation of the Year 8-10 curriculum in 2005, the school will be offering a semester unit in Year 10 which involves gaining ICDL certification.

#### **QUOTE**

I feel that passing the ICDL was a fair assessment of my basic computing skills.

I found the training convenient and easy to follow and feel that one could pass most of the modules by completing the on-line training only.

Ongoing reinforcement, by using the relevant software, is then needed to further develop the skills.

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