

## **Educational Services: A Key Element in the Creation of Successful Communities**

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As a creator of urban communities, Delfin Lend Lease recognises the importance of education services to the development of new and sustainable communities. The early provision of a comprehensive range of education programs and services catering for people of all ages supports both community integration and local identity formation.

As a fundamental starting point, Delfin Lend Lease is committed to the delivery of innovative education services in all of its projects across Australia. This paper will trace Delfin's changing approaches to education service delivery in South Australia – from traditional educational models employed in its first project at West Lakes during the 1970s and 80s, to landmark shared service models at the Golden Grove development in the 1980s and 90s, to the recent integrated service approaches adopted at the innovative 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mawson Lakes economic development project. The principles underpinning these educational evolutions will be addressed and their relationship to the changing nature and accessibility of education explored.

The paper will conclude by proposing a new education services model that not only meets the diverse and changing characteristics of every person, organisation and enterprise in the community, but also contributes to the sustainable economic development and social connectedness of the local community. To enable the successful implementation of this model in both new and existing communities will require a new form of governance that enables the community to shape the education service that fits its need and resource arrangements that ensure efficient, high-quality provision.