**What is the IRP?**

The **Independent Research Project** is a requirement of the study of Community and Family Studies. It is undertaken in Year 12 and its purpose is for students to demonstrate their research skills within the context of a research topic of their choice.

The IRP is not an externally marked Major Project. The IRP forms part of the internal HSC assessment program.

The focus of the Independent Research Project should be related to the course content of one or more of the following areas:

• individuals

• groups

• families

• communities

• resource management.

The Independent Research Project consists of three parts

• the project plan

• the project diary

• the product.

The project plan

• provides an initial summary and outline of the complete research process.

The diary

• is a record of an ongoing process

• records values, attitudes and feelings

• reflects honestly on problems encountered and their solutions

• records conversations, contacts, readings and sources of secondary data

• reflects the proposed timeline.

The product

• is independent: that is, it is the student’s own work, based on an area of interest related to the course content

• is research based: meaning that the students should ‘find something out’ or add to their existing knowledge

• should reflect the time and commitment allocated to it in the overall context of the course.