



# Canine Comprehension – Program Information

Canine Comprehension delivers animal-assisted education programs designed to improve students' learning readiness and connection at school. Our sessions support emotional regulation, mental health, engagement, social and communication skills, resilience, and academic foundations. Programs are evidence-based, aligned to clear goals, and designed to create real, lasting change.

## What happens in sessions

Sessions are facilitated by a qualified Canine Comprehension mentor and supported by a specially trained therapy dog. The dog helps students feel calm, safe, and open to learning; the mentor uses this connection to support students with targeted emotional and educational goals.

Programs may include activities such as:

- Mindfulness and calming strategies (e.g., supported grooming or quiet time with the therapy dog)
- Communication and problem-solving activities
- Games and tasks that build teamwork, motivation, and confidence
- Learning about dog body language and self-regulation

## Program structure (typical)

- Small group sessions (numbers and timetable set by the school)
- Delivered weekly across the term or year (depending on the school's booking)
- A supervising school staff member must be present for the entire session (child safety and duty of care)

## Safety, training, and ethical practice

Our dogs are carefully selected for their calm, friendly nature and suitability for busy school environments. Dogs and handlers complete rigorous training and ongoing assessment, and we follow high standards for animal welfare and safe practice.

- One dog attends each session; dogs may be rotated across sessions
- Interactions are positive, structured, and guided by the mentor
- We follow strict hygiene and safety protocols

## Allergies, fears, and individual needs

We aim to be inclusive and respectful of every student's needs. If your child has a dog allergy, fear of dogs, or other relevant needs, please let the school know as early as possible so adjustments can be planned. Participation is always supported in a way that prioritises safety and wellbeing.

## Evidence and outcomes

Canine Comprehension uses an evidence-based approach and collects feedback and evaluation data to support continuous improvement. Schools may receive progress notes and impact reporting (as applicable to the program).

## Photos and videos

If the school's consent form includes permission for photography/video, please note this may include images taken during Canine Comprehension sessions. Schools may also wish to document visits for newsletters or social media. Please ensure permissions are in place before sharing any student images.

If you have questions about the program, please reach out through our website

Sarah Macdonald

– CEO, Canine Comprehension





[www.caninecomprehension.com.au](http://www.caninecomprehension.com.au)

