

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated 21.08.2015

School Name: PIPALYATJARA ANANGU SCHOOL

School Number: 1526

School Values: RESPECT LEARNING COURAGE CARE

1. General Information

Part A

Schoolname : PIPALYATJARA ANANGU SCHOOL
School No. : 1526 Courier: R45/8
Principal : Ngaire Benfell
Postal Address : PMB 75, via Alice Springs NT 0872
Location Address : Pipalyatjara 5750
District : Aboriginal Lands
Distance from GPO : 1700kms Phone No: 08 8956 7560
CPC attached : YES Fax No: 08 8956 7504

	2012	2013	2014	2015
February FTE Enrolment				
Primary				
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
Reception	7.0	9.0	2.0	5.0
Year 1	2.0	4.0	9.0	7.0
Year 2	5.0	6.0	6.0	7.0
Year 3	2.0	2.0	6.0	4.0
Year 4	4.0	7.0	2.0	2.0
Year 5	7.0	5.0	5.0	7.0
Year 6	6.0	4.0	3.0	3.0
Year 7	5.0	7.0	3.0	2.0
Secondary				
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
Year 8	2.0	5.0	8.0	3.0
Year 9	5.0	5.0	1.0	8.0
Year 10	5.0	3.0	8.0	1.0
Year 11	0.0	1.0	3.0	5.0
Year 12	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0
Year 12 plus	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
TOTAL	45	60	58	56
School Card Approvals (Persons)	45	60	58	56
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	43	58	55	54

Part B

- **Principal**

Mrs Ngaire Benfell

- **School E-mail Address**

dl.1526_info@schools.sa.edu.au

- **Staffing numbers 2015**

The school is currently staffed with 8 teaching staff incl. Principal and two Leader Band B-1 positions. Anangu employment is a focus in ancillary staffing and the school employs an Anangu Coordinator, 10 Anangu Education Workers (AEWs) (30hrs week), 1 SSO3, 1 Pool Manager.

- **Enrolment trends 2015**

There is a stable enrolment of around 55 students at Pipalyatjara with the biggest numbers in the Junior and Middle primary. There has been a steady increase in enrolments from 2012.

The Site Priorities for 2015 are:

1. Higher standards of learner achievement
2. Engaging children, families and community and
3. Early years.

- **Year of opening**

The school was opened in 1976 as a one teacher school.

- **Public transport access**

Mail Plane - Chart Air to and from Alice Springs on Fridays. A Chart Air service also operates in and out of Wingellina (30 kms across the WA border). The Centre Bush Bus runs twice a week from Alice Springs on Wednesday and Saturday with returns on Thursday and Sunday.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**

The majority of students at Pipalyatjara are Anangu and their first language is Pitjantjatjara. The students are only introduced to English when they start school.

A significant factor for Anangu Communities and Schools is the transient nature of the population. The school can have students who attend for periods of days or weeks and then return to their home communities.

The Anangu people live in family groups within Pipalyatjara Anangu Community or Kalka Community.

- **(Pastoral) Care programs**

Relationships between the students and their teachers are very important as are the relationships teachers make with families. The Anangu Coordinator and the AEWs in the classrooms play a key role in student welfare and pastoral care within the school. The school has close relationships with both Kalka and Pipalyatjara communities and service providers within those entities. A School Based Families SA worker has an office on site at the school and works closely with the school and community. In 2015, the school has made a commitment to student well-being through the development of a Leader Band B-1 position with responsibility for the support of whole school well-being.

- **Support offered**

Class numbers are small. Each room has sound field amplification systems to help with instruction due to hearing issues. An IWB in each classroom, a bank of 10 laptops and 16 student ipads facilitate incorporation of ICT to support learning and teaching. In addition to the class teacher, 2 AEWs are allocated to each class. A team teaching approach, embedding Anangu perspectives and two-way teaching is advocated at Pipalyatjara Anangu School and the AEW is a keen member of the teaching and learning process. Time is allocated for teachers and AEWs to plan lessons together.

Pipalyatjara Anangu School receives support from Anangu Education Services. This support includes the Support Services Team, comprising; Disability, Attendance and Behaviour Support Manager, Hearing Impairment and Speech Pathologist who visit regularly to assist the students with their health and well-being.

The Anangu Coordinator and AEWs share their knowledge with staff concerning the cultural background of students and are willing to offer advice concerning student welfare from a cultural perspective. An AEW2 holds a higher duties role of coordinating Anangu Domain programs and community engagement with the school.

- **Student management**

AEWs, Anangu Coordinator and families play an important part in student behaviour management. The Student Behaviour Management policy provides a guide to supporting staff and students in this area. The community and school work side by side and take a team approach with the development and implementation of appropriate codes of behaviour.

All staff work within Mark Davidson's 10 Essential Classroom Management Skills and the Coordinator in the Well-Being Leadership role is trained as a classroom profiler.

- **Student government**

The intention in 2015 is to develop student voice through a Student Representative Council. The SRC will report to the Governing Council and Principal. The Anangu Lands Partnership is developing common procedures and protocols for all schools to develop their student voice and leadership.

- **Special programs**

A Breakfast Program, supported financially by Red Cross and co-managed by AEWs, provides cereal for breakfast. This program has proven to be an essential part of monitoring student health and welfare, and improving student attendance and participation.

We are currently providing lunch at an "on cost" basis.

Literacy and Numeracy are the major foci in improving learner achievement across the school.

Pipalyatjara Anangu School has developed a whole school approach to literacy based on The Big 6. Since 2014, a Leader Band B-1 position leading Australian Curriculum with a focus on Literacy has supported our significant improvement in whole school

literacy levels, particularly reading. We participate in the Accelerated Literacy Program which was introduced to all the schools within the Aboriginal Lands Region. We have also made a commitment to the on-going Wave 3 program that targets the lower literate students for intensive support in small group withdrawal. We collect and utilise a variety of data to improve learning outcomes (including Running Records, Oxford Sight Word Lists, Concepts of Print, EALD Language and Literacy Levels and SENA) and to monitor growth towards our targets. We will begin using PAT-R this year. The First Language Maintenance and Development Program includes every class receiving Pitjantjatjara Language lessons. Our senior class has engaged in SACE Stage 1 Australian Languages for the first time this year.

Numeracy has been a Site Improvement focus for the school since 2014. We have collected base-line data using SENA 1 and 2. We will begin using the PAT-M testing this year. We are working with Ann Baker and the Natural Maths Strategies. In addition, we are engaged in a pilot project in Quick Smart Maths to create automaticity in number for our Middle Years students and facilitate growth towards our numeracy targets.

Pipalyatjara School is a SAPSASA member and participates as part of the Aboriginal Lands district in softball and football competitions. The Pipalyatjara swimming pool is open in Terms 1 and 4 and we host combined local schools Splash Day. In the past, Pipalyatjara Swim Squad has participated in a swimming carnival in Amata.

3. Key School Policies

- **Contextual Influences**

Pipalyatjara is an Anangu community on the Pitjantjatjara Lands. The Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands are held on freehold title under the terms of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act. People not covered under the terms of this act require permits to enter and work on the APY Lands. Issue of these permits to DECS employees is negotiated between Anangu Education Service and APY Lands.

Pipalyatjara School is situated in a broad valley in the Tomkinson Ranges, in the North West corner of South Australia, about 20km from the WA border and 20km from the NT border. It is approximately 1700kms from Adelaide. Entry via road from Adelaide is usually made near Indulkana, which is approx. 1200kms from Adelaide. Pipalyatjara is a further 480kms west. Entry from Alice Springs is via Lassiter Highway, turn off at Mt Connor and then past Amata and Murputja. Yulara is 4 hours away by a back track. All roads on the APY Lands are unsealed and vary in their condition.

Kinship ties cover three main groups within Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia. These are the Pitjantjatjara, Ngaatjatjarra, and Yankunytjatjara peoples.

Many people have ownership status to specific areas of land in the region around Pipalyatjara and Kalka.

Programs across the school utilize EALD methodologies and seek to provide students with Skills for Self Determination across all learning areas. The main medium of instruction is English with Pitjantjatjara language being taught by a language teacher with support from AEWs. Some students at secondary level are selected to attend Wiltja, a secondary program for Anangu students attached to Woodville High School in Adelaide; others go to Yirarra in Alice Springs. The Senior Secondary Curriculum has a work education focus and certificate courses are offered through the Trade Training Centre and TAFE. SACE units, including the PLP are offered.

Our school is part of the Aboriginal lands District and works under joint management of DECD and the Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee (PYEC). PYEC was granted policy control of schools in 1987 followed by operational control in 1990. Strategic priorities are developed between PYEC and Principals. Schools determine their local priorities from within these frameworks. The Director of PYEC works in close cooperation with the Education Director.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings**

We deliver all Areas of Study using the Australian Curriculum with the major foci on Literacy, Numeracy and Anangu domain.

- **Special curriculum features**

AEWs have responsibility for Anangu Domain areas of curriculum: Pitjantjatjara language, Anangu Culture, and the Keeping Safe curriculum. They are supported by the teaching staff. The Australian Curriculum/Literacy Coordinator supports classroom teachers for students identified with low literacy skills. Music, Art and Dance are supported by visiting programs. Swimming is the main PE focus for summer and our sports program is also supported by visiting programs through SANFL.

- **Teaching methodology**

Almost all students speak English as an additional language. Therefore, EALD methodology is practiced in all curriculum areas. Teachers work in teaching teams with AEWs. All classrooms have a Promethean Interactive white board using ACTIVinspire and at least 5 computers, with 10 laptops and 10 ipads available to support learning programs. ICT methodology is used when it facilitates teaching and learning.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting**

Data is collected to inform parents, staff and DECD requirements. This includes the EALD scales, attendance, student work samples and baseline data in literacy and numeracy.

Formal reporting to parents is twice a year with parents invited into the school to view students' work and to discuss progress data with teachers and AEWs. Student Portfolios are kept to promote student pride in their work and to give a focus for discussion with family.

- **Joint programs**

Pipalyatjara contributes funds centrally to AESEO at Ernabella which coordinates whole of Lands initiatives, including the Trade Training Centre at Umuwa.

Land Management involve Secondary students in bush trips and excursions to monitor wildlife and keep cultural connections strong. Our secondary students travel to Yulara Resort at Ayers Rock for a work experience program. A local work experience program was developed in 2014.

- **Sporting Activities**

Basketball, football and softball are the most widely played sports. The school liaises with cross state schools regarding specific sports activities and a Lands Schools Sports day and cultural night is held at Ernabella once a year.

Pipalyatjara Swimming Pool is open from September to April and students swim daily during the season. The pool supports attendance improvement through a "Yes school, yes pool" policy.

- **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

We have regular bush trips and camps where students are taught about local bush foods, crafts and land management by community members and AEW staff. This is part of a school wide focus on Anangu Domain and Land Management. Classes engage in cooking sessions in our canteen to promote healthy lifestyles and skills in the preparation of healthy meals.

5. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

Teaching staff are often new graduates employed either on contract or by accepting an offer of permanency. In 2015 the majority of staff members are experienced teachers with only three early career teachers. The average tenure for non-Anangu staff is 2-3 years.

- **Leadership structure**

In 2013: Principal and Anangu Coordinator, curriculum leadership roles are shared among all staff.

In 2014: A coordinator position (Australian Curriculum/Literacy) was advertised to create opportunities for leadership and develop shared leadership of the school. A second coordinator position focusing on well-being and AEW support was advertised internally in semester 2.

In 2015: The Two Leader Band B-1 positions as describe in 2014 were filled. These have been advertised with 3 year tenures (2016 – 2019) for the future.

- **Staff support systems**

Curriculum / induction support is provided both on site and through the Anangu Lands Partnership “Teaching on the Lands” course.

Staff T&D is provided through the school, Western Hub staff and by visiting specialists.

A 2 day conference at the end of term 1 or 2 biannually provides off site T&D for all staff.

Personnel counselling is available from the EAP.

- **Performance Management**

The Principal provides oral and written feedback to all staff on a regular basis. Teachers develop their own personal development plans in line with school strategic directions.

- **Staff utilization policies**

Determined through staff consultation and PAC

SSO support depends on need and availability.

6. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

Locality allowances/Country Incentive

Locality Allowances are paid to all teachers who teach more than 0.4, as per the Commissioners Standards Guidelines 3.2. Additional amounts are available for spouse and children.

A Zone 5 Country Incentive is paid to staff.

There is also a Special Zone Tax B Rebate available.

Shorter terms

Due to the distance of the School from Adelaide the staff are currently allowed two travel days at the beginning and end of each school term.

Housing assistance

Housing is comfortable, air-conditioned and fully furnished. DECD subsidizes rent, gas, electricity and water. DECD also subsidizes storage costs incurred whilst employed at Pipalyatjara Anangu School.

Cooling for school buildings

All classrooms and offices in the school are air-conditioned.

Designated Schools Benefits

With the approval of the Education Director, teachers may receive a term’s paid study leave, after a minimum of two years service, with one year being a permanent placement.

Medical Expenses

Medical and Dental treatment – emergency treatment only, is supplied by Nganampa Health clinics which service Anangu Health. All other treatment can be accessed through the Non-Metropolitan Award.

Relocation Assistance

DECD pays for removals to and from a long term appointment.

Principal's Telephone Costs

DECD pays for line rental on principal's home telephones. The call costs are charged back to the School and any personal calls are to be then reimbursed by the Principal to the School.

7. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The school was rebuilt in 2008 and finishing and furnishing of the buildings is complete. Most buildings are arranged around a central courtyard with trees which provide some shade. In 2015, this central area will be further landscaped, including the Preschool yard.

The buildings include a Resource Centre which is a solid stone structure, a main classroom block with three classrooms, an administration block, student and staff toilet blocks, double classroom, canteen which is used for Home Economics, Music centre and a Preschool building with laundry, preschool student toilets, disabled bathroom and kitchen.

There is a covered paved basketball court, covered playground and the community oval a short distance away is available for other activities. In 2015 a shed will be renovated to an Art/Tech Studies centre. This should facilitate a direct connection between use of the Trade Training Centre and developing trade skills for employment pathways.

Pipalyatjara Anangu School has access to a 25m Community Swimming Pool facility pool. The Community has access to the swimming pool after school hours and on weekends. The pool, with its green grass and crystal clear water is a great asset.

- **Cooling**

All school buildings and classrooms either have reverse cycle air conditioning or evaporative cooling.

- **Specialist facilities**

Soundfield systems are fitted in all classrooms.

- **Staff facilities**

Staff room with kitchen and another small area with computer access and printer. Teachers have a laptop and ipad to use with their IWBs, class camera and flip video

camera.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

Ramps are in place in most buildings, disabled toilets and shower are available.

- **Access to bus transport**

A School Bus service is provided for Kalka students. The school has two troop carriers for alternative transport and bush trips. In 2015, Minister Nigel Scullion allocated funding for a 4WD bus to counter the very poor condition of the road between Kalka and Pipalyatjara which is the main bus route.

8. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

Over a number of years, there has been a steadily developing trend for Anangu to seek greater control over decisions on school issues and policy/curriculum directions. In line with requests from Anangu and with the DECD policy on community involvement in schools, this movement was formalised in an agreement between Anangu Education Services (AES), the Minister for Education, The Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee (PYEC) and the communities that PYEC represents. Each Anangu school community has representatives who serve on the PYEC. It meets regularly with the Aboriginal Lands Education Director to make determinations related to policy and curriculum matters associated with education across the APY Lands.

All Schools on the APY Lands are locally managed. School staff and Governing Council participation is strongly encouraged, within a democratic environment, as the major decision making bodies. Other school based committees involving staff and community members include Finance, WHS, and Personal Advisory Committee. Community Council and Community Members are encouraged to participate as appropriate.

School/Community meetings are held to resolve major issues and /or gain community input/support.

- **Regular publications**

Regular use of posters throughout the communities to inform community members of school functions.

Open school days to engage families in class activities.

An Annual Report is used to inform the community and DECD of work in the school.

An Annual Yearbook is distributed to specific locations in the community.

- **Other communication**

A school assembly is held in the music room every Friday. A class or AEWs take the role of MC and another class makes a presentation of their choosing. The Anangu Coordinator and Principal provide information about current and future activities and concerns. Awards are presented for a variety of reasons, particularly focused on the

school values.

- **School financial position**

The school depends entirely on funding sources from government.

The day to day finances are managed by the SSO3 and Principal.

School accounting uses EDSAS. Budget line managers are responsible for their budgets with support from the SSO and Principal.

9. Local Community

- **Parent and community involvement**

Parents and community are encouraged to participate in many facets of the children's education and management of the school. Support from families and community on bush trips and excursions is invaluable. All families are represented by a delegate on the Governing Council.

- **Feeder schools**

None, although students move in and out of other schools in SA, NT and WA.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

TAFE works in Kalka and Pipalyatjara to provide post compulsory further education in Drivers licenses, Community Literacy and Numeracy, Business Studies and Interpreter Training. A playgroup is run every day within the preschool for one and a half hours, for 0 – 3 year olds and their parents. Pipalyatjara does not have a Family Centre.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

A local store provides for Pipalyatjara community. The store is supplied with fresh produce by road train once a week.

There are limited mechanical services available. Only diesel and opal fuel is available. Persons with petrol driven vehicles are advised to check with their mechanic regarding the use of opal fuel in their vehicle.

- **Other local facilities**

A Clinic is based in Pipalyatjara and staffed by three nurses and a number of health Workers. The clinic has phone and internet access to a Doctor.

Mail deliveries and passenger flights are once a week by ChartAir from Alice Springs. For further information and bookings ring ChartAir on 8952 6666. Bookings are essential. The airstrip is about 4km out of the community.

General freight is delivered by road train once a week to Pipalyatjara from Adelaide via Toll.

Road access is from the Stuart highway near Indulkana over approx. 600kms of dirt road to Pipalyatjara or alternatively from Alice Springs along the Lasseter Highway via the Mulga Park road and Amata. A 4WD vehicle is preferable and, when very wet, essential.

Yulara is about 4 hours drive through stunning country and is an option for a weekend away.

- **Local Government body**

Each community has its own community council while the Lands as a whole is serviced by the Anangu Pitjantjatjara/Yankuntjatjara Council (APY) based at Umuwa.

10. Further Comments

Teachers who have worked in Anangu schools usually claim it has been “the experience of a life-time.”

They say it has:

- offered a fantastic opportunity to live with, and learn about an Aboriginal culture;
- stimulated strong personal and professional development;
- encouraged the formation of close relationships and friendships with both community members and colleagues.

I certify that this true and accurate statement:

Endorsed

Ngaire Benfell

Ngaire Benfell, Principal

August 21, 2015.