



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 30/3/2018

**School number:** 0509

**School name:** Andamooka Primary School and Children's Centre

Andamooka Primary School and Children's Centre is a unique integrated facility catering for children from birth to Year 6 and running youth and adult education programs. Our ICSEA is 965.

The school has two classes:-

- Reception to Year 2 Class, and
- Year 3 to Year 6 Class.

We also have Kindy, Playgroup, 3-5 Early Learning, Occasional Care and a facilitated Creche' with Parent's Group.

Our community Demographic falls into three general groups.

The first is the children and grandchildren of long standing community members, most of who have an opal mining background and are on low incomes.

The second group is the children of families employed at the Olympic Dam Mine or supporting industries. They may choose to live in Andamooka because of the different lifestyle or lack of available housing in Roxby Downs.

The third group is the children of shorter term locals with low incomes, on social security or low paid or part time employment, who generally have ties in the area but cannot afford the higher rentals in Roxby Downs.

A small percentage of the population is transient and can be short term or seasonal, dependent upon employment opportunities and weather extremes.

**Our vision is to inspire our community to become powerful lifelong learners and positive global citizens.**

***We value a School which is respectful, empowering, participatory and inclusive of parents and children.***

## **Relationships**

We value strong and supportive partnerships with families. Through strong relationships with carers, we encourage children to become life long learners.

## **Voice**

We acknowledge the family's central role in their child's learning and development, and work to support families to fulfil this role with hope and enjoyment. Active engagement with families and children, involving them in decision making and ongoing reflection and review of programs is key to our vision.

## **Respect**

All of our interactions with families are based on respect and understanding of each family's individual context.

## **High Quality Learning and Care**

We aim to honour the needs of children and celebrate their diverse and unique lives.

Our learning programs are based on unearthing student's current knowledge and experience while maximising opportunities for their learning and development.

All our staff are supported to continue to develop their skills as reflective practitioners and relationship builders.

Andamooka is a complex and unique school in remote South Australia. It is approximately 30Kms from Roxby Downs and 40Kms from the Olympic Dam Airport and Mine.

## 1. General information

- School Principal name: Tricia Williams
- Year of opening: 1947
- Postal Address: PO Box 143 Andamooka 5722
- Location Address: Opal Lane Blvd
- DECS Region: Far North
- Geographical location – 600 kms road distance from Adelaide GPO
- Telephone number: 08 86727018
- Fax Number: 08 86727197
- School website address: [www.andamooka.sa.edu.au](http://www.andamooka.sa.edu.au)
- School e-mail address: [DL.0509.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:DL.0509.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Children's Centre: Yes
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: No
- February FTE student enrolment: 25

### ***School profile and class size***

Primary School	Reception to Year 6 – 25 students
Children's Centre and Kindy	0 to 5 yrs – 12 children

Students entering into Year 7 will transition to Roxby Downs Area School.

Aboriginal student enrolment as at February was 8%. School card holders are at 21%. Students from ESL or non English speaking background make up 0% of our student population.

### ***Enrolment trends***

In 2018 enrolments have remained stable. We hope as 2018 progresses that further families will take advantage of increasing employment opportunities at Olympic Dam and consider moving into Andamooka. We anticipate stable or slightly increasing student enrolments over the next couple of years.

## **Staffing**

Current leadership structure at Andamooka is as follows:

Ms Tricia Williams – Principal / Counsellor

Ms Anne Rathjen – Business Manager

Teaching Staff:

Kindy – 0.6 FTE Teacher

School R-2 – 1.0 FTE Teacher

School 3-6 – 1.0 FTE Teacher

Science/HASS/Literacy NIT – 1.0 FTE Teacher

SSO Staff:

SSO's – ~40 hours per week (divided between 3 part-time staff)

Community Library Assistant – 20 hours per week

Groundsman – 9 hours per week

## **Public transport access**

The community provides a bus for the school to use in supporting student excursions.

An aircraft service operated by Alliance Airlines has daily flights between Olympic Dam and Adelaide.

## **Special site arrangements**

A number of benefits are available to staff working in remote locations, including Andamooka, such as complexity points, locality allowance, country incentives, tax rebate, 1 week early finish at the end of the year, housing rental subsidy and generous relocation/removals assistance when moving to Andamooka from further afield.

# **2. Students (and their welfare)**

## **Student Well-Being Programs**

Student Support

A Pastoral Care worker operates at the school for 2 days per week.

Student Management

The school has a student behaviour code which was developed by staff, students and parents. The school behaviour code is based on our values and follows the DECD discipline policy. Student Voice helps support our student management process. All classes display expectations of students and staff to ensure expectations are clear. Teachers are expected to follow the DECD Code of Ethics. School leadership supports staff across the Children's Centre to Year 6 with student matters.

## School Governance

Our school governing council meets twice per term.

Feeding into this group is our:

Friday Parents Group, which meets weekly.

Student Voice, who meet twice per term.

Primary Staff meetings, weekly.

Children's Centre meetings, fortnightly.

## 3. Key School Policies

Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

The School's Site Improvement Plan and Annual Reports are available on the School's website. For 2018 the School's priorities are:-

Literacy:

- Ensure that every student at Andamooka demonstrates improvement in Literacy as measured by SEA and at an increasing rate of growth.
- To develop a whole school approach to improvement in reading and NFT writing
- All staff gain an explicit understanding of the reading process in leading to improvements in oral & reading comprehension for all students.
- All students gain a thorough understanding of non-fiction text writing, in particular, persuasive texts.

Numeracy:

- Ensure that every student at Andamooka demonstrates improvement in Mathematical concepts and understanding as measured by SEA and at an increasing rate of growth.
- The school will focus on student improvement in using Number and Computational work, through a whole school approach to Numeracy.

Student Well Being:

- The school will build stronger connections through the Growth Mindset philosophy with families and community in developing common understandings of expectations in relation to attendance, resilience and making education a priority for all students.

## **4. Curriculum**

Major planning and curriculum direction is undertaken on whole site planning days. Here, we review philosophies, policies and site priorities.

Primary staff meet to discuss and write our scope and standards for the year and to develop individual education plans for each student. Term meetings examine these and look at priorities. At the beginning of 1st and 3rd term we meet with families to review these plans and evaluate progress.

Parents feed into this through the monthly Governing Council meetings and through the weekly Parents Group where discussions on curriculum issues and training are provided.

Subject offerings:

The core curriculum subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, The Arts, Health and Physical Education, History, HASS and Spanish are offered as face to face teaching subjects.

Special needs:

It is the responsibility of classroom teachers to plan and program for all students under their care. Students with special needs are identified and assessed to find out their needs. An Negotiated Education Plan (known as the One Student Plan) is written and reviewed regularly to meet those needs.

Student assessment procedures and reporting:

Three-Way Conversations (Parent/student/teacher interviews) in term 1 and 3. Written / reports in Terms 2 and 4. Diaries are in operation.

The school taps into PAT-R and PAT-M testing regimes for Years 2 to 6.

## **5. Sporting Activities**

Sporting School grants and associated activities are brought into the school environment. Daily fitness and regular PE are covered as part of the curriculum. A full range of sporting activities using oval, gym, weight training room and pool can be accessed at Roxby Downs.

## **6. Other Co-Curricular Activities**

The school is working with the Australian Maths and Science Institute (AMSI) in the Choose Maths program for Mathematics, a joint initiative with BHP, focussing on girls in maths and science.

School concerts, Arts, STEM activities and involvement with the Arid Recovery Initiative are encouraged and regularly pursued. A Stephnie Alexander program is integrated with the Andamooka Yacht Club Community Garden.

## **7. Staff (and their welfare)**

### **Staff profile**

Andamooka has a blend of graduate and experienced staff who are an enthusiastic, dedicated and co-operative team.

- **Staff support systems**  
Professional Planning – all staff have 2 formal PD meetings per year with a leadership member, however, regular opportunities for collaboration and consultation also exist in our small school environment.
- **Staff utilisation policies**  
A dedicated NIT teacher is employed, specialising in Science and HASS subjects, and literacy improvement. Other NIT sessions are shared for PE, Arts, and Design and Tech.
- **Access to special staff**  
Regular visits by District SBM, Hearing Impaired, Speech Pathology, Guidance, Aboriginal Education and Special Education support staff plus other advisers occur.

Working relationships exist with Families SA, Primary Health, Education Forum, Mining Minds, Crime Prevention Officer, CWA, APOMA and OCA.

## **8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff**

- **Shorter terms**  
Term 4 is shortened by 1 week. (Country incentive conditions.):
- **Travelling time**  
To allow for staff to attend conferences in Adelaide or other country areas and in line with OHS driving conditions, staff are encouraged to try and align their T&D with weekends and will be provided with driving time to allow them to get to their destination safely.
- **Teacher Housing assistance**  
Subsidised by the Department. Additional increment allowance. Newly appointed staff are entitled to country incentive payments.
- **Teacher medical and dental treatment expenses**  
Non metro award – reimbursement of travel and accommodation for specialist treatment away from Andamooka.
- **Locality allowances**  
Paid according to number of dependants - approximately \$9,000 for a single teacher and approximately \$2 per hour for an SSO. These are applied for each year through the school.
- **Teacher Relocation assistance**  
Paid into and out of Andamooka for permanent and contract employees.

## 9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The school has an excellent School Community Library, moved and refurbished in 2017 and coupled with a new school computer suite.

In 2016 the school decommissioned its pool due to complexity in managing ongoing costs and extra capital expenditure that would have been required to bring the pool and its' enclosure up to safety code requirements. Discussions with the community on a viable sharing arrangement were not successful.

There is an excellent Children's Centre space and Early Year's play area which is well designed to support children at play.

The Junior Primary class is in a large, light and bright classroom in the admin building and the Yr 3 to 6 class is housed in a stand-alone professional space.

The school has a number of play areas that are shaded and extensive paved areas for student play. There are no grassed play areas of any significance, but grant assistance is being sought to develop a large turfed area in 2018. The school houses a full sized basketball/tennis court.

- Reverse Cycle airconditioning is located through all buildings.
- Staff facilities include administration access, excellent dedicated teacher preparation space, various IT resources and staff room
- Wheelchair access for students and staff with disabilities is available to all buildings. There is a toileting area for children who need support. There is also a toilet for people with needs.
- Access to bus transport is not available to Primary children. Roxby Downs secondary students have access to a bus service to Roxby.
- Other health care workers are utilised by the Parent Group to support the needs of families.

## 10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

Open, participatory decision making at staff meetings.

- Regular publications

Newsletters published in Weeks 3, 6 and 9 each term. Other communication: Weekly School bulletin.

- School financial position

The school is in a sound financial position.

## 11. Local Community

Andamooka is a remote opal mining town with what has become a fairly stable population of around 200 people. A few years ago there were many more people due to housing demand for workers on the Olympic Dam expansion. Since the formal shelving of the expansion project, Andamooka's population declined sharply. Further Andamooka decline is linked with the reduced income from opal mining and the significant cost increases in the mining for it.

Andamooka offers The Tuckerbox (hotel and restaurant), bottle shop, Bottlehouse Motel, Caravan Park (has toilets and showers), Post Office, IGA, Thrifty Hardware and several tourist venues. Sporting options are available in Roxby Downs. Lake Torrens is a short drive from Andamooka and many wonderful 4WDing experiences are available.

The Andamooka Medical Clinic is serviced by Remote Area Nurses who are employed by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Other medical and some specialist services are available through the Roxby Downs Hospital.

The pseudo Local Government body is the Andamooka Town Management Committee who sit under the Outback Communities Authority.

APOMA (Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association) is a long standing body who promote and support development of community driven initiatives within the township.

Power is supplied by Andamooka Power House diesel and gas. Andamooka is off the grid and has its own stand-alone power supply generator.

Water quality is excellent in Andamooka, it is piped to the Andamooka Township Tanks from the Roxby/Olympic Dam Desalination Plant. From the Andamooka Tanks, water is trucked to private business and household water supplies.

Daily flights are available from Olympic Dam airport, to and from Adelaide, through Alliance Airlines. Costs for return trips can be quite expensive or sold out if not purchased well in advance.