

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: July 2015

**School number:** 1001

**School name:** AMATA ANANGU SCHOOL

## 1. General information

### Part A

School name : Amata Anangu School  
School No. : 1001 Courier : Alice Springs  
Principal : Mr Greg Wirth  
Postal Address : PMB 113, Amata, via Alice Springs NT 0872  
Location Address : Amata 5750  
District : Aboriginal Lands  
Distance from GPO : 1680 kms Phone No : 08 8956 2922  
CPC attached : yes Fax No : 08 8956 7554

February FTE Enrolment	2012	2013	2014	2015
Primary				
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded				
Reception	8	7	5	7
Year 1	19	14	16	6
Year 2	5	19	8	13
Year 3	12	6	17	11
Year 4	8	15	9	20
Year 5	15	7	11	1
Year 6	5	9	12	10
Year 7	2	12	5	10
Secondary				
Special, N.A.P. Ungraded				
Year 8	5	6	8	3
Year 9	9	6	4	9
Year 10	11	16	6	4
Year 11	9	13	13	6
Year 12	13	9	9	10
Year 12 plus		1		1
TOTAL	118	140	123	111
July Total FTE Enrolment				
Male FTE				
Female FTE				
School Card Approvals (Persons)	105	135	119	108
NESB Total (Persons)			120	108
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	117	138	120	108
Disability	0	3	10	10

## Part B

- Deputy Principal's name, :Rox Boyce
- School e-mail address: info@amata.sa.edu.au
- Staffing numbers

Coordinator B1- Literacy and Learning

Coordinator B1 – Early Years

Teaching

12

SSO's

SSO 3

37.5hrs

1

SSO 1

37.5 hrs

1

Anangu Education Workers

AEW 3

2

AEW1

8

Pool Manager GSE 7

1

- Enrolment trends

Enrolments tend to vary throughout the school year, but the trend has been for an increase in student numbers, this appears to have stabilised over the past year. Enrolments should remain stable over the next few years. Senior secondary enrolments fluctuate to a high degree.

- Special arrangements

This school is a member of The Anangu Lands Partnership and supported by the Anangu Education Service. The cluster of schools includes: Mimili, Fregon, Ernabella, Kenmore Park, Indulkana, Pipalyatjara, Watarru (Currently closed), Murputja, the Wiltja Program (based at Woodville High School), Oak Valley and Yalata.

- Year of opening

Amata Anangu School was first opened in 1968. In 2007 the redeveloped school was officially opened.

- Public transport access

There are five travel options to Amata. Public transport access is by air to Alice Springs then bush bus on a Monday, air to Yulara and private vehicle to Amata or Greyhound bus to Marla daily and private vehicle to Amata. The mail plane also accepts passengers to fly to Amata and leaves from Alice Springs every Tuesday and Friday, but booking is essential.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

Most students at Amata are Anangu and speak either Pitjantjatjara or Yankunytjatjara as their first language. A few students are from other

Aboriginal language groups and speak Aboriginal English. Standard Australian English is limited and for many students is only spoken in the school setting. A small number of non-Aboriginal students are also enrolled

- (Pastoral) care programs

Each classroom teacher is responsible for the delivery of the pastoral care program. Amata Anangu School currently provides a breakfast program which is available before school, a lunch program where each student is provided with a sandwich or a hot lunch (for a small contribution). Fruit is provided by the school at morning recess (kapati).

- Support offered

A primary school counsellor has been appointed to the school. Within this role there is a focus on student well being, attendance and behaviour management. The counsellor liaisons with families and other school agencies such as Hearing Impairment, Nganampa Health, The Support Services Team for the Aboriginal Lands District and CAMHS. Two CAMHS workers are based in Amata and Ernabella and will work and support student wellbeing in across the northern lands communities. Other CAMHS workers support the communities on a fly in fly out basis. An FSA worker is based in Amata.

The Anangu Coordinator and Anangu Education Workers in the school provide detailed knowledge concerning students' cultural backgrounds and advice concerning student welfare.

- Student management

Amata Anangu School is implementing Positive Behaviour for Learning and bases behaviour for all members of the community on for values; I am a Learner, I am Respectful, I am Safe, I am Responsible. These values/behaviours apply to all members of the community. Student behaviour is explicitly taught and students learn there are consequences for positive and negative behaviours. As well as this, staff have a high level of communication with families and many apply restorative justice principles within the school.

- Special programmes

The school jointly manages the Amata swimming pool through a Swimming Pool Management Committee

### **3. Key School Policies**

- Context

Amata is an Anangu community on the Pitjantjatjara Lands in the north west of South Australia. The Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara Lands are held on freehold title under the terms of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara Land Rights legislation. People not covered under the terms of this legislation require permits to enter and work on the Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara Lands. Issue of these permits to DECS employees is initially negotiated between Anangu Education Services and APY Services at Umuwa.

Kinship ties cover three groups within Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia. These are the Pitjantjatjara, Ngaanyatjarra, and Yankunytjatjara peoples. Many people have ownership status to specific areas of land in the region around Amata.

- Partnership Plan

At the time of writing the Anangu Lands Partnership Strategic Plan was still being developed. This will support the DECD Vision Statement; “A high performing system that improves the educational attainment and wellbeing of South Australia’s children and young people”.

Groups of site leaders are developing the plan in the four broad areas of;

- 1) Quality Workforce
- 2) Quality Leadership
- 3) Quality Systems
- 4) Community partnerships

Amata Anangu School is developing its Site Improvement Plan under these four headings with the priorities of;

- a) Student Learning – particularly literacy and numeracy
- b) Student wellbeing – particularly behaviour and Positive Behaviour for Learning
- c) School Organisation and Systems
- d) Community Relationships.

## **4. Curriculum**

- Subject offerings

School subject offerings are across all curriculum areas of the Australian Curriculum.

Pitjantjatjara is the LOTE taught in the school

Senior secondary curriculum is structured to meet the needs of the students attending with a focus on SACE completion.

Curriculum initiatives have included training and development in and implementation of the Australian Curriculum framework and the EALD Scales, EALD methodology, Assessment, Recording and Reporting, and Skills for Self Determination.

- Special needs

The majority of students are Amata school EALD learners. EALD methodologies underpin all curriculum areas

A significant number of students suffer from long term conductive hearing loss and all classes are fitted with sound field amplification systems.

- Special curriculum features
  - Pitjantjatjara Literacy is offered across the school
  - Anangu domain is undertaken by all classes
- Teaching methodology
  - All classroom practices are underpinned by EALD methodology and the TfEL framework.
  - Each teacher works in a team with an Aboriginal Education Worker. Because of the Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara language group association, this person is known locally as an Anangu Education Worker (AEW).
- Assessment procedures and reporting
  - The school reports against the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards and against SACE. The Anangu Lands Partnership is in the process of refining our common partnership assessment and reporting policies and procedures.
- Joint programmes
  - The school works with TAFE and the National Indigenous Training Academy to provide increased work related learning opportunities for senior students and recent graduates.
  - The Wiltja program offers metropolitan high school opportunities for Anangu students.

## 5. Sporting Activities

Amata Anangu School is involved in South Australian Primary School Athletic Sporting Association (SAPSASA) in the areas of softball and football. Year 6/7 students are able to try out and, if successful, will represent Amata in the APY Team. The selected students will compete against many other schools and districts in Adelaide or Port Augusta.

Every year in Term 3 a Sports Carnival is held in a community two hours from Amata. Students from all communities across The Lands compete in numerous sporting games and athletic activities over two days. As well as this, there is a Dance competition held at this Sports Carnival and is a major focus for The Arts learning area over the entire term.

Within each community across The Lands there are football and softball games played throughout the year. Communities will compete against each other and these games will be held in each community throughout the season.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General

Amata has a “No School No Pool” policy during terms 1 and 4. Swimming programmes are rung during this time and students can access the pool after school as well.

- Special

Each year Amata students are involved in a Goolwa Exchange program. This allows students from Amata to visit Goolwa and participate in the mainstream schooling system for a few days as well as experiencing life by the beach. In return, Goolwa students visit Amata for three days in Term 3 and experience life in the desert and Anangu culture.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

Staff turnover is relatively high, with an average stay of between 2-3 years. Staff tend to be new graduates, but currently there is a balance in terms of age across the school.

- Leadership structure

Principal, Anangu Coordinator, Coordinator Literacy and Learning form the Leadership Team

A decision making policy is documented and all staff are actively encouraged to undertake leadership roles.

- Staff support systems

A comprehensive induction program is provided through Anangu Education.

Staff have access to outside counselling services through the DECD Employee Assistance Program.

Leadership team operates an open door policy

- Performance Development

Performance development is on-going. All staff have access to professional learning based on the needs of the school and regular meetings with their line managers. Performance conversations are based on AITSL standards.

- Access to special staff

Curriculum Officers are based at the Flinders Park Office and in Teaching and Learning Services and provide support to the school on a regular basis  
Special Services Team visits the Lands regularly and is available for support.

CAMHS visits communities 2-3 times per year and use the school as a base.

Australian Hearing visit 3 times per year and are based at Amata School for 2 days.

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

- Complexity placement points  
As per DECS placement policy
- Isolation placement points  
As per DECS placement policy
- Travelling time  
Two travel days are provided at the beginning and end of each school term
- Housing assistance  
Government housing is available for all teaching staff  
Housing is rent-free and all power and water costs are covered.  
All houses have air conditioners
- Cooling for school buildings  
All buildings have ducted reverse cycle air-conditioning
- Designated schools benefits  
Amata Anangu school staffs accrue all country incentives relevant to the location
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools  
Staff are eligible for one term's study leave after 2 years permanent placement.  
Staff are eligible to apply for open school positions after 2 years permanent service.
- Medical and dental treatment expenses  
As per Non Metro Award
- Locality allowances  
DECS Locality allowances for remote schools
- Relocation assistance  
DECS Location Allowance for remote schools
- Principal's telephone costs  
DECS conditions

## **9. School Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds  
The school has an administration building, gymnasium, 2 major teaching blocks – primary block houses 4 classrooms and the Pitjantjatjara teaching

room, the junior secondary block has 3 classrooms and a computer suite. There is a separate CPC with a play area. The school also has a purpose built canteen. The senior secondary Wati class can be accessed separately to encourage the attendance of older students and adults.

There are 2 separate play areas with an oval and a basketball court outside the perimeter of the fence.

All classrooms have interactive whiteboards.

- Cooling

All buildings have refrigerated ducted air conditioning

- Staff facilities

Staff room – with computer access.

Staff are issued with a lap top that has wireless facility and can access the network within the school.

Library and teacher resources are well developed

- Access for students and staff with disabilities

All buildings are accessible for people with disabilities

- Access to bus transport

The school has 2 buses that are used for attendance at meetings and for school excursions.

## 10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

The school has documented decision making structures. Democratic decision making is an important feature

At Amata Anangu School we believe:

All individuals and groups have a right to be involved in making decisions.

The level of involvement varies according to the issue.

Effective decision making requires open communication, accurate information, time for discussion and use of all resources.

All individuals should be committed to and accountable for the implementation of decisions.

A positive team culture is developed when effective decision making is undertaken.

That communication is the responsibility of all staff.

That all decisions taken by Amata School will comply with the Education Act and Regulations, State and Commonwealth laws, PYEC and AES policies

- Regular publications

A school year book is produced once a year



- School financial position

School reserves have been depleted with the completion of the new landscaping. Ongoing funding is strong.

## 11. Local Community

- General characteristics

Amata is set in a broad valley in the Musgrave Ranges in the far north west of South Australia. It is a well laid out community with tree lined streets. Within Amata Community there is a school, general store, Clinic, TAFE facilities, community swimming pool, Art Centre, recreational hall, government houses to accommodate the DECS employees and government workers and numerous houses for Anangu.

- Parent and community involvement

Parent and community involvement in Amata School is strong.

Each community on the APY Lands also has representatives who serve on the Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee (PYEC). This body is a sub-committee of Anangu Pitjantjatjara and gives direction to Anangu Education. PYEC meets regularly to make determinations related to policy and operational matters associated with education across the Lands.

Amata Anangu School Governing Councils has a strong role to play in decisions associated with the education of their children. It is part of the responsibility of school principals and all staff to ensure that this link between school and community is maintained and developed so that genuine empowerment of the community in matters relating to education and school occurs

- Other local care and educational facilities

Amata TAFE

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

: Local store and fuel outlet

- Other local facilities

Nganampa Health clinic

- Availability of staff housing

Accommodation for teaching staff is high quality, fully furnished, air conditioned and the rent, electricity and gas is paid by the department. Accommodation ranges from one bedroom transportable through to two bedroom duplexes and three bedroom houses.

- Accessibility

Entry to the Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara Lands, when travelling from Adelaide, is usually made near Indulkana, which is approximately 1,200 kms

north of Adelaide on the Stuart Highway to Alice Springs. All roads between communities on the Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara Lands are unsealed. Amata is a further 300 kms into the Lands by road via Indulkana, Mimili, and Fregon.

- Local Government body

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatja Services  
Amata Community Council

## **12. 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 in, mix 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.