

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: June 2014

**School number:** 1034

**School name:** Ernabella Anangu School

## School Profile:

Ernabella Anangu School is situated in Pukatja Community which is located in the Musgrave Ranges in the far NW of South Australia, on the Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands. Pukatja is 1500 kms from Adelaide and 5 ½ hours SW of Alice Springs. Our school values are the three Ls – Learning, Listening and Looking after each other. Our mission is for children and young people to be school ready, attending, engaged, learning and achieving. Students speak English as an additional language which adds another layer of complexity in terms of classroom teaching practice. Aboriginal Education Workers work alongside teachers to ensure strong learning happens.

## 1. General information

School name:	Ernabella Anangu School
School No.	1034
Principal	Ms Sue Record
Deputy Principal	Mr Peter Ruwoldt
Postal Address	PMB 63 Ernabella, Via Alice Springs NT 0872
Phone No	08 8956 2957
Fax no	08 8956 2930
School Website Address	<a href="http://www.ernabella.sa.edu.au/">www.ernabella.sa.edu.au/</a>
School Email	<a href="mailto:dl.1034.info@schools.sa.edu.au">dl.1034.info@schools.sa.edu.au</a>
Location Address	Ernabella Anangu Community
Partnership	Anangu Lands
Distance from GPO	1440 Kms
Preschool attached	Yes
Family Centre attached	Yes
Year of opening	Ernabella Anangu School was started in 1970 however a school was established in Pukatja in 1940 as part of the Ernabella Mission run by the Presbyterian Church.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>PRIMARY</b>					
Reception	20	12	10	9	14
Year 1	6	12	16	11	9
Year 2	17	10	13	18	12
Year 3	13	16	13	15	12
Year 4	10	9	16	12	16
Year 5	14	9	15	20	7
Year 6	14	14	16	23	18
Year 7	14	12	17	18	12
<b>SECONDARY</b>					
Year 8	7	13	13	15	5
Year 9	4	11	12	14	16
Year 10	7	8	9	13	7
Year 11	3	12	7	8	11
Year 12	13	15	12	9	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	142	153	173	185	147

### Staffing Numbers

16.6 FTE teachers comprised of:

- Principal
- Deputy Principal
- School Counsellor
- Literacy Coordinator
- 1 Anangu Teachers
- 12 non-Anangu Teachers (Piranpa)

Also on staff are:

- Anangu Coordinator
- 17 Anangu Education Workers (AEWs)
- 2 School Support Officers (SSOs)
- Groundsperson 20 hrs per week

### Enrolment Trends

Currently 147 students are enrolled with 100 primary students and 47 secondary students. The Preschool and Commonwealth Funded Child Care Centre supports approximately 60 children in the 0-5 age range with 32 Preschool students currently enrolled. Almost all enrolments are indigenous and school card holders. Students predominantly live in Ernabella. However some students live on nearby Homelands and the nearby administration centre of Umawa. Students are collected and returned by school bus which is driven by school staff.

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

### **General Characteristics**

The majority of students are Anangu and their first language is Pitjantjatjara. This is usually the language spoken at home. Students are only introduced to English when they start school.

Many of the students have hearing and general health issues and they tend to live in large family groups within Ernabella Anangu Community or on their Homelands.

### **Student Well-being Programs**

The school counsellor supports well-being and behaviour by working alongside class teachers and one on one with individual students. The Bucket Filling program has been implemented this year across every year level. Mind Matters and the Child Protection Curriculum are taught by AEWs and teachers on a weekly basis.

### **Support Offered**

A strong relationship between the students and their teachers is of great importance. Many of the students are very shy with new people. The Anangu Coordinator and the AEWs in the classrooms play a large role in student welfare and pastoral care.

### **Student Management**

The AEWs and the Anangu Coordinator are implicit in developing a consistent Behaviour Management strategy that is inclusive of culture, social and academic learning experiences and language. Students are expected to be learning responsibly in classes and all staff work together with consistent expectations to reach this goal. Students are explicitly taught the learning behaviours necessary for successful learning. If there are concerns regarding student behaviour, teachers work closely with AEWs and the Anangu Coordinator to gather information and insight. When necessary, family involvement will also be sought and teachers can call a class family meeting to discuss behaviour and or class events. Students earn the right to attend excursions, camps and other extra curricular activities. Teasing between students is an ongoing problem and is addressed in a consistent and fair manner. Families are encouraged to participate in resolution. The School has a Behaviour Code with appropriate support structures in place and logical consequences for infringements.

### **Student Government**

Student Voice has been implemented in 2014. Classes have fortnightly class meetings to discuss issues relevant to the students. A student Voice Executive is made up of a representative from each class. This group meets twice a term with the school counsellor and the principal to discuss issues raised at class meetings and to make recommendations for actioning.

## **Special Programmes**

The School's focus outside of our core business includes:

Choir: The Ernabella Choir has a world wide reputation and has been in operation since the establishment of the Mission in 1940. The Ernabella School Choir has been given many opportunities to travel and perform, including at Yulara Resort (Uluru) with the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda, at the Anangu Education Conference in Alice Springs and as guest artists at the 2007 Festival of Music in Adelaide. In 2010 the students won the Central Australian Eisteddford competition. In 2011 the choir performed at Carols by Candlelight in Adelaide. The choir performs at the Tjilpi Pampa Festival in Umuwa once a year. There is a strong percussion element to our choir and children sing in both Pitjantjatjara and English. Learning from members of the original Ernabella Choir maintains the link to our past and provides a strong path to our future.

NIT subjects: Ceramics and music are offered as NIT subjects to all classes from reception to year 12.

## **3. Key School Policies**

### **Site Strategic Plan**

Our aim is to provide Anangu with the necessary skills and abilities to be self-determining. This means we must strive to benefit all Anangu who attend and work at our school.

Current priorities are:

- Literacy
- Attendance

### **Recent Key Outcomes**

The School offers SACE to an increasing number of students that previously would have had to go to Adelaide to finish their education at Wiltja. There have been a small number of students who have completed their SACE and we currently have 8 students in Year 12.

A computing centre with full internet access is available for all classes.

## **4. Curriculum**

### **Subject Offerings**

Curriculum areas are coordinated between Anangu Schools and are based on SACS frameworks and the Australian Curriculum. Ernabella Anangu School has a strong history of curriculum/policy development and documentation, aided by a coordinator in Literacy.

Literacy and Mathematics are key focus subjects and are taught rigorously each day. Accelerated Literacy and Maths 300 are the main teaching pedagogies used and are both well supported with resources and staff expertise.

A Pitjantjatjara language and culture program is taught by trained Anangu staff.

### **Special Needs**

Assessments and referrals are available through the Support Services Team. There is an ongoing commitment to Negotiated Education Plan / Individual Learning Plans for our students.

Soundfield systems are installed in all classrooms and teachers use amplifiers to ameliorate the effects of significant and/or fluctuating hearing loss of many students.

### **Special Curriculum Features**

Teachers and AEWs work as a team. Children predominately speak English as a Second Language (English is sometimes referred to as a foreign language). For this reason teaching methodology must be explicit with a strong ESL focus. Literacy and Numeracy are a continuing priority for our school. Teaching focuses on ESL methodologies and Accelerated Literacy pedagogy. Language and Literacy Levels are used as a writing assessment tool. There is a whole school literacy focus based on strong teaching, appropriate assessment and data collection and policies and processes that ensure strong support and knowledge for teachers. Teachers are working with Flinders University on a project investigating mathematics and executive function.

### **Teaching Methodology**

Explicit teaching and scaffolding, followed by many and varied opportunities for practice form the core teaching methodology. "I do, We do, You do" methodology is also evident in all classes. Jolly Phonics, Reading Eggs and Scaffolding Literacy pedagogy are used to enhance students' literacy development.

### **Assessment Procedures and Reporting**

Currently: NAPLAN Test; Language and Literacy Levels; Written Reports; Running Records; Oral Reading Records; SACSA and Australian Curriculum are used. Our reporting processes to parents are inclusive of language barriers with both verbal and written reports occurring twice a year. Each class also has an informal open day in their classroom once a year.

### **Joint Programmes**

Annual school visit by Emmaus Christian College.  
Our school choir often sings for community projects and celebrations.

## **5. Sporting Activities**

Our Students develop a strong sense of self and pride in their sporting prowess. All students actively participate in all the sporting activities at the School. Once a year the students participate in an across-Land Sports Day and Dance competition. Daily fitness is encouraged with all classes. Our students are keen and skilled participants in SAPSASA softball and football and we hold Community basketball at the school on Wednesday nights in Terms 1 and 4.

All classes have the opportunity to travel to the Mimili or Amata Swimming Pool to participate in a structured swimming program during Term 1 and Term 4. Students also enjoy swimming in local rock holes after big rains.

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

### **General**

The School offers camping trips and excursions. Bush trips are important to support transmission of Anangu Cultural knowledge.

Choir and Ceramics as previously mentioned.

### **Special**

Bi-Annual Anangu Education Services Conference in Alice Springs. This is a three day conference for all staff employed in Anangu Partnership schools. A full program of Training and Development is offered for Leaders, Teachers, AEWs and SSOs.

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

### **Staff Profile**

Currently staff comprises of both contract and permanent teachers. A supporting and development Performance Management Strategy exists, including a strong induction program for all new staff members. A collaborative relationship exists between all schools within the Partnership including the Wiltja Residential Program and Wiltja Secondary Program. We have 3 trained Anangu teachers on our staff and several of our AEWs are currently doing their teacher training at ANTEP – an annex of Uni SA.

### **Leadership Structure**

The leadership structure consists of a Principal, Deputy Principal, School Counsellor and Literacy Coordinator. Shared leadership is valued and there are many opportunities for staff to implement and practice their leadership skills as part of the site's various teams ie Site Improvement Team, Behaviour Learning Team, STAR Force Team etc

### **Staff Support Systems**

In order to maximise communication, staff are all involved in regular staff meetings as well as meetings pertaining to their particular area of

expertise and year levels. These meetings may also involve other schools within the Partnership.

### **Performance Management**

All members of staff meet individually with Leadership Team Members to discuss student progress, strengths, needs and challenges. There are ongoing formal and informal meeting times. Leadership are available and committed to supporting staff at all levels of performance management and support.

### **Access to Special Staff**

Regular visits by Support Services Team members assist staff with any issues that are raised with students. Australian Hearing also makes regular visits to the school, ensuring the continued improvement in students hearing.

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

### **Locality Allowances/Country Incentive**

Locality Allowances are available for all teachers who teach more than 0.4 time, with additional amounts for spouse and children.

A Locality Allowance of \$7727 pa (as at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013) 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 have been awarded industrially two travel days at the beginning and end of each school term.

### **Housing Assistance**

Housing is comfortable, air-conditioned and fully furnished. DECD pays all rent, gas, electricity and water. DECD pays for storage costs incurred. Housing is at a premier which means staff may be required to share housing with another staff member and all staff are required to host visitors.

### **Cooling for School Buildings**

All classrooms and offices in the school are airconditioned.

### **Designated Schools Benefits**

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

### **Medical Expenses**

Hepatitis B immunisations are available upon request and free of charge.

Medical and Dental treatment – emergency treatment is supplied by the Ernabella Clinic (a doctor frequently visits Ernabella). All other treatment can be accessed through the Non-Metropolitan Award.

### **Relocation Assistance**

DECD pays for removals to and from the appointment.

### **Principal's Telephone Costs**

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

## **9. School Facilities**

### **Buildings and Grounds**

Air-conditioned classrooms, ceramics shed, library, canteen, skills shed, hall, basketball court; preschool, Family Centre and staff areas are the main facilities. The school is well equipped with administrative and teaching resources. Each class has an interactive whiteboard and soundfield system installed.

### **Cooling / Heating**

All classrooms have split air-conditioner units.

### **Specialist Facilities**

Our library has computers as part of that work area. There is also a trolley of 20 working laptops for classroom use.

Kain hall is a very large multi purpose area used for choir, circus, drama and indoor games.

The Ceramics Workshop is utilised by all students.

Inma (Anangu meeting/ teaching/ storytelling/ dance) area has been developed in 2010 and is used as an outdoor teaching area for Anangu Domain and Inma. A water supply was installed to the area in 2012.

### **Student Facilities**

The outdoor basketball court is a full sized synthetic turfed basketball court which is used by the school and also for community basketball competitions during the summer months.

There is also a large undercover playground area as well as an oval.

### **Staff Facilities**

Administration building which includes staffroom, teacher preparation area and offices.

Internet access is available in the teacher preparation room.



### **Access for Students and Staff with Disabilities**

There is ramp access at the front of the school and to the reception to year 3 classrooms.

### **Access to School Vehicles**

One school bus is at the disposal of the school and staff for collecting students, bush trips, excursions, camps and interschool activities. There are also 2 troop carriers for school purposes.

### **Other**

A new Preschool and Family Centre have been built on the main school site during 2009. In 2011 and 2012 the Family Centre was extended.

## **10. School Operations**

### **Decision Making Structures**

All Lands schools are locally managed. The principal is responsible for the staffing, daily operation and administration of the school, Ernabella Child Parent Centre and Family Centre. Governing Council, Personnel Advisory Committee, Site Improvement Team, Work Health and Safety Committee, Finance Committee and Leadership meet regularly. Staff meetings are held weekly on a Tuesday after school.

The school Governing Council meets twice per term and is integral in the decision making of the school.

Anangu staff meetings occur each week to address community and school initiatives.

### **Regular Publications**

A Weekly Bulletin of what's happening in the school is available to all staff at the beginning of each week.

A newsletter, published three times per term, keeps families informed of school events and activities. A different class is highlighted each newsletter showcasing students' achievements and learning.

Our Facebook page is also used to keep community informed about what is happening at school.

### **Other Communication**

Student work, attendance graphs, parent meetings, website information and Anangu domain is displayed in the local Store. We have an end of term assembly at the Meeting Place in town to give out term awards for strong attendance, behaviour and learning.

### **School Financial Position**

The school is well-resourced and is in a sound financial position.

## **Special Funding**

Ernabella Anangu School frequently applies for grants from Government and Non-Government Organisations to support various school initiatives.

# **11. Local Community**

## **General Characteristics**

Ernabella is an Anangu Community on the APY Lands in the north west of South Australia. Ernabella is set in a valley in the Musgrave Ranges. Kinship ties cover three groups within Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia. These are the Pitjantjatjara, Ngaantatjarra and Yankunytjatjara peoples. Homelands, consisting of two or three families are serviced from Ernabella.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Ernabella has a store; garage; art centre; recreation centre and community offices. The community store sells a variety of basic grocery items, clothing and hot food. The store provides eftpos facilities and will cash cheques.

## **Parent and Community Involvement**

The school relies heavily on the strong partnerships between home and school. Families are invited in regularly to discuss student behaviour and progress.

## **Local Care and Educational Facilities**

A medical health clinic is available.

The Royal Flying Doctor is used for serious health issues.

The District Aboriginal Education Office is located in Ernabella.

A school based social worker (Lands Based Social Worker) operates out of the school supporting families with issues in regard to student welfare and well-being.

## **Other Local Facilities**

An Aged Care Facility can be found within the Community.

There is a police station and police housing with both permanently appointed staff and relieving staff.

## **Availability of Staff Housing**

Current Government housing stock of three bedroom houses and two bedroom duplex houses in Ernabella Community do not meet the existing needs. Teachers may be required to share housing.

## **Accessibility**

Distance from Adelaide: Entry to Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands when travelling from Adelaide is usually made near Indulkana, which is approximately 1440kms north of Adelaide on the main road to Alice Springs. All roads on the APY Lands are unsealed. Ernabella is a further 240kms by via Indulkana, Mimili and Fregon.

Distance from Alice Springs: From Alice Springs 45km south to Kulgera. Leave the Stuart Highway 18kms south of Kulgera and travel west for 100kms before turning south to cross into South Australia. Ernabella is a further 35kms from the border and 140 kms from the Stuart Highway. A limited number of seats are available on the weekly mail plane from Alice Springs to Ernabella.

## **Local Government Body**

The community has its own Pukatja Council but the overarching governing body is the APY Council with offices in Alice Springs and Umuwa.

## **12. Further Comments**

Brief history:

In the 1930's two Presbyterian Christian missions were established – one at Warburton (WA) and the other at Ernabella (SA). The population at Ernabella has remained static since the mid-forties to the present time. The Church passed over control of education to the Government in the early 1970s.

Over the years there has been a steadily developing trend for Anangu to seek greater involvement in school issues and policy/curriculum directions. At the request of Anangu this movement was formalised in an agreement with the Minister of Education, Anangu Education Services and Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee (PYEC).

Each community has representatives who serve on the PYEC. This body meets regularly to make determinations related to policy and curriculum matters associated with education across the Anangu Lands.

The Anangu Education Services office located in Adelaide and Ernabella, led by the Education Director, provides administrative, financial and curriculum support and training and development facilities.