



Woomera Area School 2017 Context Statement

Updated: 9/06/2017

General Information

School number: 0746
School name: Woomera Area School

Principal: Mr Tony Holden
Postal Address: PO Box 193, Woomera 5720
Location Address: Dewrang Avenue, Woomera 5720
District: Far North and Aboriginal Lands
Distance from GPO: 496kms
Phone no: 08 86737287
Fax no: 08 8673005

February Enrolment

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Primary					
Reception	3	0	0	0	1
Year 1	0	0	2	0	1
Year 2	0	0	3	0	0
Year 3	1	1	2	0	1
Year 4	0	0	4	0	1
Year 5	4	0	1	0	0
Year 6	3	2	2	1	0
Year 7	3	0	1	1	0
Secondary					
Year 8	1	3	0	3	1
Year 9	1	2	3	0	
Year 10	2	1	3	5	1
Year 11	1	1	0	0	5
Year 12	1	1	1	1	0
Total	20	11	22	11	11

Woomera Area School aims to provide teaching and learning in a supportive environment to enable students to reach their full potential.

- The school achieves its mission by being committed to enhancing school community partnerships. Supporting successful outcomes for all students through our teaching and learning programs. Our programs and practices cater for the diverse range of students learning styles and their individual needs, in a safe, supportive and caring learning environment.

Our values:

- Trust
- Respect
- Honesty

Our Principles focus on:

- Quality teaching and learning, improvement and performance
- Building quality relationships between staff, students, parents and the community
- Inclusive practises, responsive to student needs and community issues
- A recognition and celebration of student success culture
- A full CPC – 12 education that meets the academic, enterprise and vocational needs of our students for lifelong learning
- Global awareness, thinking and the full use of information and communication technology
- Partnerships with industry, business and the community to provide relevant learning programs
- Effective use of physical and financial resources to maximise student learning and achievement

1. General information

- School Principal : Mr Tony Holden
- Year of opening: Woomera became an Area School in 1982 as a result of the amalgamation of Woomera High School and Woomera Primary School
- Postal Address: PO Box 193, Woomera 5720
- Location Address: Dewrang Avenue, Woomera 5720
- DECD Region: Far North
- Geographical location – 496 kms north of Adelaide
- Telephone number: 08 86737287
- Fax Number: 08 86737005
- School website address: <http://www..sa.edu.au>
- School e-mail address: dl.0746.admin@schools.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre
- February FTE student enrolment: 10
- Student enrolment trends: There has been a steady decline in enrollments over the last 4 years and are continuing to fall.
- Staffing numbers (as at February census):
 - 2 teaching staff
 - Principal
 - 2 full time school Service Officers,
- Public transport access: not available
- Special site arrangements:

The CPC is located on the School site. Woomera Community Library and is also housed within the school site.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**
 - The school population continues to be transient. The school operate as three inter-related sections comprising of:
 - Child Parent Centre: Birth – Age 4
 - Junior Primary & Primary Rec – Year 7
 - Secondary Year 8 - 12
- **Student well-being programs**
 - Pastoral Care programs are an integral part of the school and time is allowed each week to focus on various aspects of personal, class and whole school developments.
- **Student support offered**
 - Students have access to general counselling through staff and the Principal with course/career counselling being managed by the Principal and secondary staff.
- **Student management**
 - A code of Cooperation was developed during 2012. This provides the school community with a common understanding of behaviour expectations. The development of classroom values, procedures for dealing with inappropriate behaviours, teacher support mechanisms and grievance procedures are key elements of the code.
- **Special programmes**
 - Cross age tutoring and interaction between different year level classes, individual and small group tuition, and an Early Literacy and Numeracy intervention Program are some of the ways in which students are supported in the school.

3. Key School Policies

- Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

The school's Site Improvement Plan is being reviewed in line with the regional Strategic Directions and is available via the school website. The school operates as a Dept of Education and Child Development site, but is located on Commonwealth land, thus giving the school a unique context. Our review will reflect the needs and culture of the school population and wider community.

4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings:**

Woomera Area School offers a balanced curriculum based on the National Curriculum (ACARA) in conjunction with the TfEL documents.

- **Open Access/Distance Education provision:**

Courses delivered by the Open Access College are mainly accessed by students in year 10, Stage 1 and 2 of SACE. Distance Education online gives a much wider subject selection.

- **Special needs:**

The excellent resources in the school allow for all areas of the curriculum to be adequately covered. An Early Intervention program addresses the learning needs of young students. A learning support program uses SSO resources to support the learning needs of students with learning disabilities or difficulties.

- **Teaching methodology:**

Vocational learning K – 12 is a focus. Information and Learning Technology skills for both staff and students are being developed in line with the DECD Strategic Plan and the Site Improvement Plan. All students have access to computers in the classroom.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**

A school statement based on the DECD Assessment & Reporting Policy describes procedures for assessment and reporting. The reporting formats include: Parent-Teacher Interviews in Terms 1 and 3, written reports for Terms 2 and 4.

- **Joint programmes:**

Woomera Area School is part of a far north cluster that includes Roxby Downs Area School and Andamooka Primary School. The staff of all three schools combines several times a year to access Professional Development sessions.

5. Sporting Activities

A Health and Physical Education program operates at junior levels. The excellent gym and other facilities and equipment ensure easy access to activities, using the community pool, close to the school. Senior students compete at Roxby Downs Area School sports days, so they can compete with children of their own age.

‘Out of School’ sports are provided through travel to Roxby Downs on a Saturday. Travel is required to participate in competitive team sports due to Woomera’s location and current population.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

Many of the older students are members of the CFS cadets. The school becomes involved in a number of local community activities such as the Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **Staff profile**

There is a mix of staff in their early years of teaching/service through to those with twenty or more years of experience.

- **Leadership structure**

School leadership is provided by the Principal. Staff are encouraged to develop leadership skills and expected to be involved in planning and setting future directions for the school, particularly those relating to the Site Improvement Plan.

- **Staff support systems**

Woomera Area School has a small and cohesive staff, who are able to work together to meet the needs of all students. An induction program is in place for new staff. A staff handbook has been compiled and provides a comprehensive overview of the operations of the school.

- **Performance Management**

Performance management processes are in place to support the individual outcomes related to the school's strategic directions, through performance management plans, regular meetings and a range of other strategies. Development of best practices is reviewed on a regular basis.

- **Staff utilisation policies**

Teaching staff tend to work predominantly in either the CPC-7 or 8-12 section of the school. The excellent student/staff ratio enables the needs, talents and diversity of the students and their backgrounds to be recognised and addressed by staff. The required allocation of non-instruction time is provided for all staff and SSO time is also made available for classroom curriculum support.

- **Access to special staff**

The school is well supported by regular visits from support services of the Northern Country District Office for disabilities, hearing impaired, speech/language and emotional, social guidance and behaviour management.

- **Other**

The school also has access to VET Coordinators, Vocational Skills Coordinators, School Based Apprenticeship Officers, SACE mediators and various Arts performances.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points

:

- Isolation placement points

yes

- Shorter terms
:n/a
- Travelling time
:2 hours (approx) from Pt Augusta
- Housing assistance
:houses allocated by Dept of Defence
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
:n/a
- Additional increment allowance
:n/a
- Designated schools benefits
:n/a
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
:n/a
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
:n/a
- Locality allowances
:yes
- Relocation assistance
:yes
- Principal's telephone costs
:n/a

9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The school buildings, spread over a large area are owned by the Commonwealth Government and are maintained and developed by Defence Support Centre Woomera. Over the last few years there have been refurbishments to classroom, admin area and Home Economics, as well as a complete internet and computer replacement.

- **Heating and cooling**

All buildings are fully Air-conditioned.

- **Specialist facilities and equipment**

The school has outstanding facilities and equipment including : a full equipped and air-conditioned gymnasium for school and community use; a fully equipped Science laboratory; Computers; specialist areas for Art, Home Economics; a floodlit oval which is shared with the community; ample classroom space; and a well established resource centre/community library. The community swimming pool is across the road.

- **Student facilities**

Students have access to the gym, or activities room during designated break times, and during inclement weather.

- **Staff facilities**

Staff facilities include staff room and work areas with computer work stations for access to administrative (EDSAS) facilities.

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

Buildings are all single story and all cater for people with disabilities.

- **Access to bus transport**

There is no public transport within Woomera. The school owns a bus (22 seats) as well as a 5 seater Landcruise for excursions, enabling whole school or whole staff (for Professional development) excursions.

- **Other**

The school is centrally located in the township of Woomera and has easy access to other facilities such as the swimming pool, town theatre and hospital.

10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**

The Governing Council, Staff Meeting, PAC and Committees; are the formal decision making and advisory groups in the school. Thus, there are a range of groups responsible for ensuring that procedures, priorities and plans are developed, actioned and reviewed.

- **Regular publications**

A parent handbook is given to families on enrolment and gives an overview of school operations and expectations. The Staff Handbook along with policy statements and guidelines provide staff with relevant information. A newsletter

is produced twice a term and school news is included in the weekly local paper – the Gibber Gabber.

- **Other communication**

There is a staffroom day book and this is used to convey information to staff.

- **School financial position**

The school is in a healthy financial position with budget lines established to support student learning.

- **Special funding**

The Defence Centre – Woomera provides maintenance of the school property.

11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**

- The Woomera village community is made up of five main sectors:
- The Commonwealth Department of Defence including Broadspectrum who are civilian personnel who work to support the Village and Woomera Test Facility all located at the Defence Centre Woomera (DCW)
- Contractors employed to provide support services (e.g. computing maintenance, catering cleaning).
- Government Service – Clinic staff, Teachers, SES, Police, Telstra, Australian Customs, Bureau of Meteorology and Transport SA.
- Small business – shops, post office, tourism, Caravan Park and hotel/motel.

- **Parent and community involvement**

There is opportunity for involvement by local people in school and community activities. Woomera as a community acknowledges or celebrates various Australian holidays and special events – Australia Day, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**
The Woomera Clinic has visiting Doctor 2 days a week and a female .
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
Woomera has a limited range of shopping facilities: a Supermarket, Hotel, Bottle Shop, Coffee Lounge and Post Office. There are several licensed sporting and social clubs, Restaurants, Movie Theatre, Fitness Centre and Bowling Alley.
- **Other local facilities**
Woomera has a Community Library (now located on school grounds), Emergency Services, 18 Hole Golf Course, Pistol and Rifle Club, Cricket Club, and darts Competitions.
- **Availability of staff housing**
Staff housing is provided through Accommodation Services. Three bedroom houses and two bedroom units are available and allocations are made through the Northern Housing Office, Pt Augusta (86426144).
- **Accessibility**
The road to Adelaide is excellent. A public bus service operates between Pimba (6 kms from Woomera) and Adelaide on a regular basis. Airline travel is available from Olympic Dam to Adelaide, daily. Olympic Dam is 90kms by road to the North East of Woomera.
- **Local Government body**
Woomera Township is owned by the Commonwealth Government and managed by the Manager Base Services. There is a Woomera Board that townspeople are elected to, similar to other local councils. Further information about the Woomera Township and its facilities are available from the Woomera Board phone: 86743226 or on the web.

12. Further Comments

Woomera Area School was built in the early 1950's to accommodate children of personnel involved in various rocketry projects. The school gradually expanded as Woomera grew. By the late 1960's the school was effectively three schools. – a Junior Primary, Primary and High School – with a total enrolment of over 1200. The current school has most of the buildings occupied, albeit for different purposes. The history of the Woomera Township is very interesting and the township boasts two museums and a rocket park.