SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 1009
School name: Oak Valley Anangu School

1. General information

Part A

School Name: Oak Valley Anangu School
School No.: 1009
Principal: Ms Vivien Deed
Postal Address: PMB 18, Via Ceduna 5690
Phone No.: 08 86704205
Fax No: 08 86704234
Location Address: Oak Valley 5690
Region: Far North and Aboriginal Lands
Distance from GPO: 1351km
CPC attached: Yes

February FTE 2006 2007 2008 2009

Primary
Reception 3 4 1 1
Year 1 4 1 1 2
Year 2 4 2 1 2
Year 3 6 4 2 2
Year 4 2 3 1 2
Year 5 2 1 6 3
Year 6 4 1 1 2
Year 7 3 4 2 2

Secondary
Year 8 3 3 2 2
Year 9 3 1 3 2
Year 10 1 3 5
Year 11 1
Year 12 1
Year 12 plus

TOTAL 33 34 24 27
Part B

Principal’s Name
Vivien Deed

School e-mail address
info@oakvalleyab.sa.gov.au

Staffing numbers
1 Principal
2 non-Anangu teachers
1 Aboriginal Education Worker (AEW)

Enrolment trends
Enrolments tend to vary throughout the year and are dependent on cultural activities. However, they are expected to remain relatively stable over the next few years.

Year of Opening
Oak Valley Anangu School was opened in 2002.

2. Students (and their welfare)

General characteristics
The majority of students at Oak Valley are Anangu and their first language is Pitjantjatjara or Yankunytjatjara as this is usually the language spoken at home. 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 tend to live in family groups within Oak Valley Anangu Community or on their Homelands.

(Pastoral) care programs
The Community receives Occasional Religious Education from a visiting Lutheran Church Pastor.

Support offered
Class numbers are small. Each room has sound field amplification systems to help with instruction due to hearing issues. As well as the class teacher there is also an AEW allocated to each class to assist both the teacher and student with understanding each other. A team approach is encouraged.

Oak Valley Anangu School receives support from Anangu Education Services. This support includes the Support Services Team, comprising
Guidance Officer, Hearing Impairment Coordinator and Speech Pathologist who visit regularly to assist the Students with their health and well-being; Disability and Wellbeing Manager; and Early Childhood Coordinator.

There is an Anangu Co-ordinator and a number of AEWs in the school that are available to share their knowledge with staff concerning the cultural background of student's and are willing to offer advice concerning student welfare from a cultural perspective.

**Student management**

The Student Behaviour Management Policy was developed jointly with Oak Valley Anangu Community and Oak Valley Anangu School Staff. We are continually improving and amending the Policy, inclusive of culture, social, academic learning experiences and language, through the development of stronger relationships between Anangu and Piranpa. The school is committed to working closely with the Community in an effort to better understand and respect both cultures.

**Student government**

No student government is in place at this stage.

**Special programmes**

Breakfast and shower programs are in place for students who require these and a ‘Healthy Lunch’ Program eg soup, prepared with student involvement is being developed.

### 3. Key School Policies

**Site Strategic Plan**

Oak Valley Anangu School seeks to provide students with the skills, knowledge and experiences that will enable them to be self-determining in both Anangu and non-Anangu cultural contexts.

2009 and beyond there will be a greater development in terms of school/community cultural activity. These events will enhance staff, student and community relationships.

Oak Valley Anangu School is promoting strong working relationships with Oak Valley Community, the Clinic, CDEP, Maralinga Tjarutja Inc., Oak Valley Store, Essential Services and Alinytjara Wiluara Resources Natural Management Board.

**Recent key outcomes**

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4. Curriculum

Subject offerings
Curriculum areas are coordinated between Anangu Schools and are based on SACSA Frameworks. Oak Valley Anangu School has a strong history of curriculum/policy development and documentation.

Oak Valley Anangu School delivers Accelerated Literacy as the mandated literacy framework. Numeracy incorporates a hands-on approach and Maths 300 and Mathletics are well resourced.

A Pitjantjatjara language program is taught by trained Anangu staff. The Anangu Coordinator also works with AEWs and the students on the Keeping Safe Program (Child Protection Curriculum).

Special needs
The majority of our students are ESL Learners. ESL Methodologies underpin all curriculum areas.

Significant numbers of students suffer intermittent hearing loss (Otitis Media). All classes from CPC to Upper Primary are fitted with sound field amplification systems.

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.

Special curriculum features
Teachers and AEW’s 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, Accelerated Literacy and ESL Scope and Scales is used as a writing assessment tool.

Assessment Procedures and Reporting
Oak Valley Anangu School assesses and reports according to our current Assessment and Reporting Policy. Teachers and AEWs report in written and verbal form at least twice a year, at the end of terms 2 and 4.

Joint Programmes
Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Ceduna team, in conjunction with the school, is developing a Land Management program to involve students in the re-vegetation of parts of the community.

The Wiltja Secondary Program (based at Woodville High School) offers metropolitan High School opportunities for Anangu Students.
5. **Sporting Activities**

All students take part in Aquatic activities once a year at Penong, 73 km from Ceduna. Water safety education, surfing, windsurfing and kayaking are some elements of the program.

Once a year Tjuntjuntjara, Coonana, Yalata and Oak Valley take turns to host *Spinifex Sports*. Sporting activities include athletics, football, basketball and other games.

Other sport and activity workshops are organised in partnership with the Indigenous Sports Development Officer and are often aimed at developing relationships between students from Yalata, Penong, Oak Valley, Koonibba and Ceduna Indigenous students.

6. **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

The School supports bush trips and excursions in conjunction with Anangu elders to pass on knowledge to students and to share Anangu culture with non-Anangu staff.

A variety of camps is needed for students to participate in activities outside of the community due to the geographical isolation of Oak Valley.

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

**Staff Profile**

Currently staff comprises both contract and permanent teachers with a balance in terms of age and experience. A supporting and development Performance Management Strategy exists, including a strong induction program for all new staff members. A strong collaborative relationship exists between all schools within the District and also Wiltja Residential Program and Wiltja Secondary Program.

**Leadership Structure**

Principal, Anangu Coordinator and Coordinators provide leadership. All staff participate in decision making at all levels.

**Staff Support Systems**

New staff are required to attend an Induction Program at District level guiding them through a variety of topics from and Introduction to Anangu Cultural to 4WD training over an 8 day period.

In order to maximise communication, staff are all involved in regular staff meetings as well as meetings pertaining to their particular area of expertise. These meetings may also involve other schools within the District.

Training and Development opportunities are continuously being offered.
Personnel Counselling is available from a Counsellor who visits the schools on a regular basis. The Counsellor is also available in emergency situations.

**Performance Management**

Performance Management Plans are developed and implemented throughout the year according to DECS Performance Management Guidelines.

The Performance Management process is aimed at meeting individual staff needs and is negotiated directly with the Principal. The process is regular and varies according to individual needs.

**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 schools ensuring the continued improvement in students hearing. Families SA and CAHMS are available to case manage individual students.

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

**Locality Allowances/Country Incentive**

Locality Allowances are paid to all teachers, as per the Commissioners Standards Guidelines 3.2, who teach more than 0.4 time. 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 allowed two travel days at the beginning and end of each school term.

**Housing Assistance**

Housing is comfortable, air-conditioned and fully furnished. DECS subsidises rent, gas, electricity and water. DECS also subsidises storage costs incurred whilst employed at Oak Valley Anangu School.

**Cooling for School Buildings**

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

**Designated Schools Benefits**

With the approval of the District 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 is based in Ernabella). All other treatment can be accessed through the Non-Metropolitan Award.

Relocation Assistance

DECS pays for removals to and from the appointment.

Principal’s Telephone Costs

DECS pays for line rental on 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.

9. School Facilities

Buildings and Grounds

Oak Valley has a modern, architecturally designed school building built in 2002. Comprising of:
- Child Parent Centre
- Junior Primary room
- Primary room
- Senior room
- Art room
- Music/assembly room,
- Library/office/ computer room

Cooling

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

Specialist facilities

Radio studio, used by students to broadcast music and interviews to community.

A canteen that is capable of producing large quantities of food for visiting schools and community.

Student Facilities

The school is well equipped with technology; each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and a Soundfield System. Students have access to computers and the internet.

The rage cage is used for school sports and is available for students out of school hours with lighting in the evening.
Staff Facilities
Staff room and Teacher Resource room.

Access for students and staff with disabilities
Yes

Access to bus transport
Due to the remoteness of the Oak Valley Community, there is no Public Transport available.

Other
Oak Valley Anangu School has purchased swags and other camping equipment for school camps and excursions.

10. 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. Oak Valley meets regularly with the Aboriginal Lands District Director, Coordinating Principal and APY Lands Principals to make determinations related to policy and curriculum matters associated with education at Oak Valley Anangu School.

Oak Valley Anangu School is 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, OHS&W, and Personal Advisory Committee. Community Council and Community Members are encouraged to participate as appropriate

Regular publications
Oak Valley School Newsletter is printed monthly

Other Communication
The school has regular meetings with Oak Valley Clinic and Oak Valley Office staffs, CDEP Manager and Community Services.

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

Special Funding
The school has applied for two major projects under the 2009 BER funding.
11. Local Community

General characteristics

Oak Valley is an Anangu community on Maralinga Lands, situated on the fringe of The Great Victoria Desert. Geographically isolated, Oak Valley is 516kms northwest of Ceduna and 1288kms from Adelaide. The population of Oak Valley fluctuates according to seasons, traditions, cultural and family obligation. The average population is between 80 – 150 people. Oak Valley was established in 1985 for the Anangu people who had been displaced from the Maralinga Lands during the British atomic testing in the 1950’s. The land is considered to be exceptionally sacred to Anangu people from three states, Western Australia, Northern Territory and South Australia. Visitors require a permit to access the community.

Parent and Community Involvement

The school encourages parent and community involvement, consults with a Governing Council made up from the above and often hosts interaction events such as community barbeques to foster relationships and maintain communication with parents. The AEW plays an important role in the link between the school, parents and community.

Feeder Schools

Tjuntjuntjara and Yalata

Other Local Care and Educational Facilities

The Flying Doctor visits the Community Clinic one day per month. There are also visits proposed by a dentist, an ophthalmologist and an optometrist. In order for students to access Hearing Services, the school is sometimes required to transport students to Yalata.

Commercial/Industrial and Shopping Facilities

The Community Store is well stocked with most items; fresh produce and mail is delivered once a week. Diesel fuel is purchased through the store.

Other Local Facilities

Health Clinic, Garage, Community Office, Essential Services, CDEP and Aged Care facility.

Availability of staff housing

An adequate amount of staff housing is available.

Accessibility

Visitors require an access permit to travel on Maralinga Lands.
12. Further Comments

Life in Oak Valley Community offers rare privileges that would not be available to teachers with a metropolitan appointment.

The Anangu people have a saying “nintiringkunytjaku” which means “I’m going to learn”. The learning goes both ways for teachers living and working in an Australian Indigenous community. Teachers are able to gain an insight into life within this unique desert country. Wildlife, nature and stargazing are elements that become significant when you travel to the heart of Australia.

Oak Valley Anangu School provides opportunity for teachers to develop and refine skills in ESL methodology, Accelerated Literacy, Behaviour Management and positive relationship building. Although teaching can often be challenging, it is always stimulating and rewarding in Oak Valley. It may be peaceful, but it is certainly never boring.

The APY 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 APY Lands.

Over the years there has been a steadily developing trend for Anangu to seek greater involvement in school issues and policy/curriculum directions.

Individual communities and their Governing Councils have a strong roll to play in decisions associated with the education of their children. It is part of the responsibility of individual school principals 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.

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