



## SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: NOVEMBER 2017

**School number:** 1009

**School name:** Oak Valley Anangu School

### School Profile:

Oak Valley Anangu School is located on Maralinga Tjarutja Lands approximately 500kms North West of Ceduna. It is in an extremely remote and isolated community on the fringe of the Great Victoria Desert. While this can be a challenge, it also adds to the unique character of the small community.

Oak Valley School is here to service the children and young people of the Anangu Community. Its overarching goal is to improve the learning outcomes of all students with recognition of the importance of culture and traditions on the Land we are located. Oak Valley School understands that Anangu want their children to be able to function successfully in Oak Valley Community and broader society; we aim at assisting students to gain the skills that will enable them to make successful choices in life.

The school plays an important role in the community by providing a safe and secure learning environment for its students and a welcoming hub for families. Oak Valley School values the input of Anangu as important contributors to our teaching and learning teams.

## 1. General information

<b>School Principal:</b>	Rox Boyce
<b>Postal Address:</b>	PMB 18 via Ceduna, SA, 5690
<b>Location Address:</b>	Oak Valley Anangu Community
<b>DECD Region:</b>	Anangu Lands
<b>Geographical location</b>	
ie road distance from GPO (km):	1350km
<b>Telephone number:</b>	08 8670 4205
<b>Fax Number:</b>	08 8670 4234
<b>School website address:</b>	<a href="http://www.oakvalleyab.sa.edu.au">www.oakvalleyab.sa.edu.au</a>
<b>School e-mail address:</b>	<a href="mailto:dl.1009.info@schools.sa.edu.au">dl.1009.info@schools.sa.edu.au</a>
<b>Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached:</b>	yes
<b>Year of opening:</b>	The current school building was opened in 2002. The school has previously operated at various sites within Oak Valley Community and its surrounds.

**Student enrolment trends:**

Enrolment numbers have been variable over the last 5 years due to family transience and finishing students. It is anticipated to pick up again as a large number of young students enrol in preschool in the coming years.

**Staffing numbers (as at February census):**

- 1 Principal
  - 2 Teachers (One is 0.5 funded for CPC, 0.5 School), Tier 2
  - 1 Teacher, Leader Band B: STEM and Data Management
  - 1 Statewide PRT shared between OVAS and Yalata
  - 1 Aboriginal Education Worker (AEW)
- Currently there is no on site administration support.

**Public transport access:** no

**Special site arrangements:**

Oak Valley School is within the Anangu Lands Partnership and aligned with Yalata School as a member of the Southern Hub. Due to its remote location, consultation with Maralinga Tjarutja (Community organisation) is essential and requires organisational processes surrounding visitor permits, assistance with transport/freight, Clinic etc.

**Class structures:**

The school caters for students Preschool-Year 12. Currently the classes are structured with

- Combined CPC/JP (CPC-Year 2)
- Middle Primary (years 3- 4-5)
- UP/Sec (Years 6-12)

Students (and their welfare)

**General characteristics**

All students at school are Indigenous with the exception of occasional children of Community employees. Students speak Pitjantjatjara as a home/first language and generally only speak English at school. All students have access to a School Card.

Students live in Community in large family groups. Health, wellbeing and behavioural issues are a significant barrier to accessing education. Families are very transient and consistent attendance is another issue. When in Oak Valley, students enjoy coming to school and school attendance is strong and supported by the wider community..

### **Student well-being programs**

The School offers a breakfast, recess and lunch program free of charge to students. Breakfast materials are supplied through Foodbank at the start of each term.

A shower program also runs 3x week where students have access to the School shower block. This is aimed at improving hygiene and reducing the affect of health issues on students accessing school.

The entry to school morning routine also includes nose blowing, brushing teeth and face washing. A nose blowing/ear cleaning program is run in each classroom to assist with ear health.

The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum is taught as part of weekly programming.

### **Student support offered**

Every attempt is made to attract and retain AEWs in each classroom to assist students with their schooling.

Support Services Team for the Anangu Lands Partnership was introduced in 2015. Students now have access to a full-time Special Educator in hearing and behaviour and a Speech Pathologist. A Pyschologist is yet to be appointed.

### **Student management**

Behaviour Management of students is a regular, explicit part of a school day, in part as a result of the transient nature of the students and their irregular attendance. The School has a set of rules and expectations across the board. In addition to this, each class works towards developing its own set of rules and consequences (positive and negative). A School Behaviour Management Plan is being redeveloped currently.

Generally, the school tries to focus on positive school behaviours, including attendance, and rewards students with out of hours activities such as movie nights or camps/excursions.

### **Special programmes**

Oak Valley Anangu School accesses Aquatics twice a year through qualified instructors based at Penong. Due to the distance travelled to undertake this activity, it generally is part of a week long camp.

Each class also has the ability to plan their own camps too and every second year a whole school camp is envisaged based upon attendance and behaviour.

## **3. Key School Policies**

### **Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:**

Oak Valley Anangu School's overarching goal is to improve learning outcomes for all Anangu children and young people.

Our Priority Areas are:

1. Quality Teaching and Learning
2. Whole School Approaches
3. Effective Intervention and Support
4. Family Engagement

The School also develops a Modified Quality Improvement Plan for the Preschool.

A core aspect of Oak Valley School Improvement is aligning our data collection processes with the Anangu Lands Partnership Data collection calendar. This includes an assessment and data collection being recorded via Scorelink and teachers using the collected data to improve student learning outcomes.

## 4. Curriculum

### **Subject offerings:**

All curriculum areas are offered and are based on the Australian Curriculum. Literacy and Numeracy are a priority and take up a significant teaching load. High School Students are encouraged to attend Wiltja Residential College in Adelaide where a broader range of subjects and SACE is available to senior students.

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

Access is available. Currently no students enrolled.

### **Special needs:**

Assessments and Referrals are completed by the Support Services team with scheduled visits each term. Hearing continues to be a significant issue in all students at any given time.

EALD pedagogies underpin teacher programming. Individual Learning Plans and Negotiated Education Plans are completed and reviewed frequently for all students.

### **Special curriculum features:**

As part of the Anangu Lands Partnership agreement Oak Valley Teachers are committed to using strategies as outlined in implementing the English and Mathematics Blocks. Our Literacy approach encompasses the 'Big 6' of reading while we have introduced Ann Bakers 'Natural Maths' approach in Numeracy. Oral Language Agreements are also a school wide and Partnership priority. In 2016-17, Australian Curriculum units of work have been developed for use within the Anangu Lands Partnership schools. These units of work are Inquiry based, with the focus back on to Anangu family, culture and history. A Partnership moderation process will take place on the expected outcomes of the unit.

### **Teaching methodology:**

EALD methodologies underpin a significant part of teacher practice. This includes explicit teaching models for all curriculum areas. Growth Mindsets are also encouraged in all our students.

### **Student assessment procedures and reporting:**

The Anangu Lands Partnership has developed a consistent reporting format for use in all Anangu Lands Schools. Formal reporting to parents occurs in Terms 2 & 4. Learning conversations and informal reporting occurs several times a term. Oak Valley recognises that it is important for families to be involved in their Childs learning and endeavours to foster this relationship.

### **Joint programmes:**

On occasions, Oak Valley may connect with Yalata School in joint excursions or activities. Joint Professional Development also occurs several times a year within the Hub.

## 5. Sporting Activities

Oak Valley Anangu School has daily fitness each morning after whole school reading time and before formal classroom instruction begins. Each class may also operate its own HPE program.

Aquatics at Point Sinclair are undertaken in Terms 1 & 4 with qualified instructors. The Adelaide Crows visit Oak Valley each term to develop strong pathways for Wiltja in the student's secondary years and have established strong links with the school and community.

Spinifex Sports is undertaken each year between Oak Valley, Yalata and Tjuntjuntjara Schools. The host is rotated between each community who runs 3 days of sporting activities and events. This is a highlight of the year, and was hosted by Tjuntjuntjara in 2016 and was held in Oak Valley in 2017.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

'Bush Days' are a highlight of each term where families are involved in activities such as digging for Maku, cooking kangaroo tails and making damper.

St Marys School from Adelaide visits each year in Term 3. Generally 6 Year 11 girls are accompanied by 2 teachers and visit Oak Valley for a week. Activities include assisting in the classroom, interacting/reading with students, involvement in school activities and running a science class. This is a strong relationship which not only benefits the visiting students, but is also enjoyed by Oak Valley.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

### Staff profile

Oak Valley Anangu School has a mix of contract and permanent employees consisting of: 1 Principal, 3 teachers, 1 Permanent Relief Teacher (accessible if required) and currently nil SSO. AEWs are employed on a sporadic nature but are highly valued and welcomed in to the team.

### Leadership structure

The school has a designated Leadership pathway for aspiring leaders and in 2018 we have a Leader Band B Coordinator: Stem & Data Management to support curriculum pedagogies.

### Staff support systems

Weekly Staff Meetings are held every Tuesday with an increasing focus on Professional Development in areas such as Curriculum or Behaviour Management. An Orientation program at both a Partnership and Site level is conducted prior to staff beginning their roles and also so a site based Induction Program.

Professional Development of Staff is highly valued and every effort is made to make these opportunities available to staff in a coordinated approach.

## **Performance Management**

Performance Management conversations have been structured around both Teacher and School needs. Our new data driven processes see Performance Management conversations surrounding student data and how this can be used for programming and student growth. All staff are active participants in this process.

## **Staff utilisation policies**

Currently no staffs have a particular specialisation. After conducting Professional Development, Staff are encouraged to share and if applicable take on an implementation role within the school. NIT is provided across the school to all staff by sharing classes in the afternoon sessions and creatively releasing our new graduate daily to ensure her entitlement.

## **Access to special staff**

The Support Services team visits each term to assist Staff and Students. The Community also has access to visiting specialists through the Clinic.

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

- Complexity placement points  
No longer relevant, not used in recruitment/selection process
- Isolation placement points  
No longer relevant, not used in recruitment/selection process
- Shorter terms  
Anangu Lands Schools Staff are allocated two travel days at the beginning and end of term.
- Travelling time  
Oak Valley is approximately a 6 hour drive from Ceduna varying according to road conditions. Anangu Lands Schools Staff are allocated two travel days at the beginning and end of term in recognition of distance from Adelaide.
- Housing assistance  
Furnished teacher houses are provided at no cost. Two bedroom duplex' and three bedroom houses are available. All accommodation has air conditioning and heating. Water and Electricity are paid for by DECD. Internet and home phone can be arranged at tenant cost.
- Additional increment allowance  
Not relevant
- Designated schools benefits  
One terms Study leave is available to teachers who engage in 2 full years of employment on the Anangu Lands. Leaders in Anangu Lands schools are also able to access Study Leave within DECD.

- Medical and dental treatment expenses  
Employees will be reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses subject to certain criteria.
- Locality allowances  
Oak Valley receives the highest rate of Locality Allowance. This is subject to change on a yearly basis. From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014, the rate for a Staff member without a spouse was \$8813. Additional to this, claims for spouse and dependents can be submitted. Other allowances are also payable.
- Relocation assistance  
Relocation assistance is available for staff at beginning and end of their contract/tenure through DECD. This includes transport and removal costs and depreciation of furniture.
- Principal's telephone costs  
Work related calls paid for by DECD. Personal calls to be re-imbursed.

## 9. School Facilities

### Buildings and grounds

The New School was built in 2003 and still in relatively good condition. The School features 4 classrooms, a Preschool, Art Room, Front Office including Library and Computer Room, Staff, Resource and Board Rooms, Preschool Yard including Shower Block, Front play area including artificial lawn, seating spaces and a playground and a small orchard in the Rainwater tank compound. Toilet Facilities are well maintained 'Drop' toilets due to water issues within Community.

### Heating and cooling

All rooms have a split-system heating/cooling system.

### Specialist facilities and equipment

The School accesses the Community Rage Cage and Oval for Sporting Activities. Each classroom features an Interactive Whiteboard and Soundfield System. The School is relatively well resourced.

The Library has 10 Curriculum Computers for Student use. Students also have access to School laptops and Ipads for specialist activities. The kitchen within the CPC is used for specialist cooking activities.

Bikes, swags and bush day instruments are available for use in school programs. The school has several different trailers to carry food and camping gear on School activities.

### Student facilities

Students enjoy playing on the newly landscaped front play area with playground and artificial lawn. The School recently invested in a roof over the rage cage which allows for students to play in all weather conditions.

### Staff facilities

All Staff are provided with a work Laptop and iPad for work use.



The Administration building includes a Staff room with small kitchen, Board Room for larger meetings including a Polycom system for Videoconferencing, and a teacher resource room with preparatory facilities and curriculum resources.

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

: Yes

#### **Access to bus transport**

There is no bus transport available. The nearest bus/air service is to Ceduna.

## **10. School Operations**

#### **Decision making structures**

Due to a small school, all Staff are invited to be involved in decision making processes. These may be discussed at Weekly Staff Meetings. The School does not currently have a functioning Governing Council; however this is a goal for the future, however regular community meetings with caregivers and parents are attended well when needed..

#### **Regular publications**

There is a daily communications day book located in the Front Office. Information includes staff absences/visitors, events and messages.

#### **Other communication**

Communication regarding student learning and achievement is conducted with families as required or after special events. A Yearbook is sent home at the end of each year featuring highlights and achievements.

#### **School financial position**

The School is well resourced and in a sound financial position. Oak Valley Anangu School has a positive SASIF balance and the budget is shared and developed with Staff and community input.

#### **Special funding**

The School receives additional funding related to Indigenous or learning priorities. This funding changes readily and is used appropriate to student needs.

## **11. Local Community**

#### **General characteristics**

Oak Valley is located 1350 kms from Adelaide on the fringe of the Great Victoria Desert. It is the most isolated community in South Australia. The population of Oak Valley fluctuates heavily with an average population of 70-100 people. It is a tight-knit community of family groups. In 2017 numbers fluctuated with high degrees of transiencey across the community at large

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.

There are limited work opportunities within the Community with locals conducting activities around the community such as tidying up, bin collection, conservation etc. Oak Valley is a dry community, and while issues may arise on occasions, generally a safe and happy community.

### **Parent and community involvement**

Oak Valley School encourages parent involvement at every opportunity. There is strong support for the school at all school events and families frequent the school to see what their children are learning.

### **Feeder or destination schools**

Families in Oak Valley have close ties with Yalata, Tjuntjuntjara and other APY Lands Schools.

Students have the opportunity to attend Wiltja Residential College and School in Adelaide to undertake High School Studies. They are welcomed back to school in Oak Valley if they feel this is not the right choice for them.

### **Other local care and educational facilities**

There are no other educational facilities within Oak Valley. TAFE visits once/month and can work with Senior Students if appropriate.

The Clinic offers medical care through nurses. Doctors and other Specialists visit regularly.

### **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

Oak Valley Anangu Community has a small store operated by Outback Stores. The store offers basic groceries and fresh produce. Goods are brought in by a truck each fortnight with a top-up from troopy in alternate weeks. This service also delivers the mail once/week. The store also manages the Fuel system.

### **Other local facilities**

Oak Valley has an operating Community Office, Aged Care Centre, Essential Services and Clinic. Other facilities include a Training Centre, Womens/Art Centre, Garage and Youth Shed which are open sporadically. There is an airstrip 18kms out of community that can accomodate small aircraft. SAPOL visit from Yalata, Penong or Ceduna. A Lutheran Church service visits on occasions from Ceduna.

### **Availability of staff housing**

Government housing is available to School Staff. There is adequate housing for current staff numbers.

### **Accessibility**

Access to Oak Valley is via Ceduna which is serviced with bus/air transport. School Troop Carriers are available to Staff to travel from this location. Access is approximately 500 kms from Ceduna with about 250kms of unsealed roads. While these surfaces are generally pretty good, road conditions can change often and care should always be taken.

All Visitors require a permit through Maralinga Tjarutja Inc. These can be organised through the school.

### **Local Government bodies**

Oak Valley Council and Maralinga Tjarutja Inc.

## **12. Further Comments**

Oak Valley is a remote Indigenous community on the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands, managed and operated by Maralinga Tjarutja Inc. It is located approximately 1350kms from Adelaide and 520 kms NW of Ceduna. Oak Valley is nestled between Yalata Community (350km south) and Tjuntjuntjara Community (370km west) in Western Australia. Oak Valley has significant family and cultural links with the neighbouring communities, with regular family movements also to Ceduna and other locations on the APY Lands.

The community, with an average population of 70-100, was established in the 1980's to allow Anangu back to the Lands after the displacement of people as a result of the Maralinga nuclear testing. The community's current location was established in 1993 in the surrounds of Oak Valley with a more permanent settlement in more recent times. The population fluctuates considerably according to seasons, tradition, cultural and family obligations. Funerals continue to have a major impact on School and indeed the Communities population with many families absent for an extended period.

The present well appointed and resourced school building has been open since 2003. Before this time the school operated as two separate sections, the CPC and Senior Class in the "Town" and the JP and MP classes down in the Caravans past the Oval. Then more recently

in temporary buildings altogether on the “Town” site. Now all the School is accommodated in the one modern facility.

Life in Oak Valley Community offers rare privileges that would not be available to teachers with a metropolitan appointment. While living and working a Remote Indigenous Community can be a challenge, it can also be a unique and highly positive experience.

The Anangu people have a saying “nintiringkunyjtaku” 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. Culture, wildlife, nature and stargazing are elements that become significant when you travel to the heart of Australia.