



## SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: April 2020

**School number:** 1009

**School name:** Oak Valley Anangu School

### School Profile:

Oak Valley Anangu School is located on the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands approximately 500kms north west of Ceduna. Oak Valley is a remote and isolated community on the fringe of the Great Victoria Desert.

Oak Valley Anangu 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 Anangu School works in partnership with families and community to empower our students to walk strong in both Anangu and Pirunpa worlds.

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.

Anangu have a saying “nintiringkunyjtaku” which means “I’m going to learn”. We value life long learning and appreciate that our context allows for learning in both directions. Working in Oak Valley is a unique

**Our Oak Valley Anangu School Vision is:**

**Great start, strong futures, empowered communities.**

## 1. General information

<b>School Principal:</b>	Kev Kelly
<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>	dl.1009.info@schools.sa.edu.au
<b>Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached:</b>	yes

**Year of opening:**

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 vary due to the transient nature of Anangu. The school normally has around ten students from playgroup through to senior secondary.

**Staffing numbers May 2020**

1 Principal  
1 Anangu Coordinator  
3 Teachers  
1 Statewide PRT  
3  
1 SSO

**Public transport access:** no

**Special site arrangements:**

Oak Valley Anangu 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

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

**General characteristics**

All students are Anangu with the occasional exception of 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 transient with consistent

attendance an ongoing problem. 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 breakfast, recess and lunch programs free of charge to students. Breakfast materials are supplied through Foodbank at the start of each term.

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**

Anangu Educators (AEs) are a key component to the success of any Anangu school. This includes an Anangu Coordinator to work alongside the principal. We endeavour to provide as many employment opportunities for local Anangu as possible.

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 Psychologist is yet to be appointed.

### **Student management**

Oak Valley Anangu School promotes strong student behaviour through the provision of a highly structured and predictable environment. We have an established set of school rules that are frequently referred to. All classes use Class Dojo as a behaviour management tool. The site Behaviour Management Policy is currently under review.

### **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 is generally part of a week long camp.

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

## **2. Key School Documents**

Our Site Improvement Plan (SIP) and External School Review (ESR) are the key documents that guide our school's foci. Both documents are available on the school's website.

### **Site Improvement Plan (SIP) 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 of Literacy and Numeracy

2. Whole School Approaches

3. Family Engagement

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

A core aspect of our improvement plan is the alignment of our data collection processes with the Anangu Lands Partnership Data collection calendar and the synchronisation of our practices within our hub. This includes assessment and data collection being collated using Seesaw and recorded via Scorelink with teachers using the collected data to improve student learning outcomes.

### **External School Review (ESR)**

Oak Valley Anangu School underwent an External School Review in 2019. From this, four directions were provided for our attention.

1. Raise expectations of student learning and increase standards of achievement through data-informed site improvement planning.
2. Work in partnership with the Oak Valley Community and PYEC Education to ensure students are able to access literacy and numeracy learning through the first pathway of Pitjantjara language.
3. Make more regular and systematic use of diagnostic and formative assessment in short cycles of targeted teaching.
4. Work collaboratively with Yalata Anangu School to develop and maintain consistent teaching and assessment practices for the explicit development of student literacy and numeracy.

### **3. Curriculum**

#### **Subject offerings:**

All curriculum areas 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:**

Currently access is not available.

#### **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. One Plans are completed and reviewed frequently for all students.

#### **Special curriculum features:**

We are focused on our primary goals to improve student ability in Literacy and Numeracy. Oak Valley Anangu School ensures that there is minimal interruption to the first two learning sessions. Each day commences with a Literacy session and includes a dedicated Numeracy session after recess. We are committed to using the Learning Through Doing pedagogy for Numeracy.

#### **Teaching methodology:**

Teachers at Oak Valley Anangu School, plan using short cycles of targeted teaching, usually over a period of two weeks. This focuses our teaching on the individual needs of our students.

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

The Anangu Lands Partnership has developed a consistent reporting format for use in all Anangu 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 child's learning and endeavours to foster this relationship. Seesaw is a key component of our assessment practices. Families are encouraged to engage with their child's learning through Seesaw.

#### **Joint programmes:**

Oak Valley has a close relationship with Yalata with children frequently moving between communities. We ensure a close working relationship within the Southern Hub to maintain consistent approaches to teaching and assessment. Professional learning opportunities are often sort out within the hub.

## **4. Sporting Activities**

Aquatics is undertaken at Blue Lake in Terms 1 & 4 with qualified instructors.

Oak Valley Anangu School is committed to providing opportunities for SAPSASA competition with the APY team where students would like.

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.

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

As a member of the APY Partnership, Oak Valley is committed to attending Ernabella Dance and Sports competitions. Community members and families are encouraged to participate in the lead up to these events and attend where possible.

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

St Mary's School from Adelaide visits each year in Term 3. Generally, six 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.

## **6. 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 1 SSO.

### **Staff support systems**

Weekly Staff Meetings are held every Tuesday and often include professional development in areas such as curriculum, pedagogy or classroom management. An orientation program at both Partnership and site levels is conducted prior to the commencement of employment.

The professional development of staff is highly valued and every effort is made to make these opportunities available to staff in a coordinated approach. At Oak Valley Anangu School we believe that coaching and collaboration delivers the strongest improvement in teaching ability. Staff engage in frequent coaching conversations and participate in a variety of Professional Learning Communities.

### **Performance Management**

Staff performance is managed using Departmental policies and procedures.

## 7. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Travelling time  
Oak Valley is approximately a 6-hour drive from Ceduna varying according to road conditions. Anangu Lands Partnership 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 the DfE. Internet and home phone can be arranged at tenant cost.
- Designated school benefits  
One term of study leave is available to teachers who engage in two full years of employment on the Anangu Lands. Leaders in Anangu Lands schools are also able to access Study Leave within the DfE. Certain transfer privileges can be used after two, four and eight years of service.
- 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.

## 9. School Facilities

### Buildings and grounds

The New School was built in 2003 and still in good condition. The school features four classrooms, art room, front office including library and IT room, staff, resource and a board room used for meetings and which displays all our Anangu resources. The preschool and playgroup area includes a shower block, front play area including artificial lawn, seating spaces and a playground. Toilet facilities are well maintained 'drop' toilets so we can conserve water.

### 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.

Students across the school have access to up-to-date IT resources including laptops and tablets.

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 and a teacher resource room with preparatory facilities and curriculum resources.

### **Special needs**

All classrooms and learning spaces have soundfield systems installed to support students in hearing. Students are tested regularly for hearing loss, trauchoma and other health issues. Each student has a One Plan to support individual needs

## **10. School Operations**

### **Decision making structures**

Oak Valley Anangu School values the input of all staff. The site uses PAC and other Departmental processes in our decision making. The site also consults with our Governing Council each term.

### **Regular publications**

There is a daily communication 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 and includes appropriate use of social media. Students work is regularly uploaded to Seesaw. 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 and endorsed by our Governing Council.

### **Special funding**

The School receives additional funding related to Indigenous or learning priorities.

## **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.

Oak Valley was established in 1985 for Anangu 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.

Although there are limited work opportunities within the community, locals engage in activities around the community such as tidying up, bin collection, conservation etc. Oak Valley is a dry community and is generally a safe and happy community.

### **Parent and community involvement**

Oak Valley Anangu School encourages parent involvement at every opportunity. There is strong support for the school at all school events and families visit the school frequently 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 Avenues College in Adelaide to undertake the secondary education.

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

There are no other educational facilities within Oak Valley. On the Right Track visits to provide a driver education program.

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 week. 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 and Clinic. Other facilities include a Womens and Art Centre, garage and Youth Shed. 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 community's population with many families absent for extended periods.

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, the whole 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.