

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

updated August 2017

School number: 1399

School name: Port Augusta Special School

1. General information

Part A

School name : Port Augusta Special School

School No. : 1399 Courier: Port Augusta

Principal : Ms Sarah French

Postal Address : PO Box 392, Pt Augusta SA 5700

Location Address : McSporran Crescent, Pt Augusta SA 5700

District : Port Augusta/Quorn

Distance from Adelaide GPO : 300kms

Phone No : 08 8641 0882

Fax No. 08 8642 5209

CPC attached NO

Enrolment:

	2015	2016	2017
Reception - Year 7	30	38	36
Year 8 – Year 12	12	16.4	18
TOTAL	42	54.4	54

Part B

- Deputy Principal's name
Cam Larson (.5 FTE)
- School e-mail address
dl.1399.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Staffing numbers
Principal 1.0 FTE
Deputy .5 FTE
7.4 FTE teaching positions (comprising of 6 classroom teachers,
1.5 FTE NIT teacher,.4 FTE teacher)
SSO (level 1) in each classroom plus additional SSO's for special
programmes – 2 SSO's have dual roles as Health Support Officers (HSO)
1.0 FTE SSO2 Administration plus additional SSO1 time for administration
ICT technical support x 10.5 hours per week
GSE1 Groundsperson X 5 hours per week
- OSHC
N/A
- Enrolment trends
Expect enrolment to remain steady
Transition planning to special school, at times, sees students transfer from
mainstream classes and special classes to the special school.
Enrolment also occur directly from early childhood settings
Students transfer to and come from other special schools
- Special arrangements
The school links with other rural special schools for some student activities
Transport to and from school for students is provided by DECD via the
local taxi company.
- Year of opening
An Annexe of the Whyalla Special School commenced operating in Port
Augusta in 1982. The facility became autonomous in January 1989 and
was known as the Port Augusta Special Learning Centre. The Minister of
Education granted school status in April 1990 and the first School Support
Grant was received. A Principal was appointed in 1991. The school moved
to its current site in November 2015.
- Public transport access
Local public transport has a stop 25 metres from school administration
building

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
All students enrolled at the school have an intellectual disability and meet
the DECD Students with Disabilities policy.

In addition, some students have physical and sensory impairments. The school offers Reception to Year 12 curriculum. The school is fully fenced to provide a safe and secure environment. The Governing Council owns two buses (Toyota 22 seaters) which are available to provide access to community based curriculum activities.

- (Pastoral) care programs
N/A
- Support offered
Agencies (Novita, AutismSA and local allied health services) provide a consultative service to staff and families.
DECD services (Kilparrin, SERU and services through the Regional Office – speech pathology, disability coordinator, hearing impairment services, behaviour management) are also utilised.
- Student management
All students have a Negotiated Education Plan (NEP) which is reviewed in Term 1 of each year or as required. Student issues and concerns are managed through this review process in consultation with parents & carers.
The school strives to provide a safe and secure environment for students and staff.
Behaviour management guidelines have been reviewed to support this objective.
- Student government
Through class based meetings, students are encouraged to discuss, participate in and contribute to decision making for the benefit of all.
Each year students elect 2 members from each class as members on the Student Representative Council (SRC). The SRC meets each week and works on a variety of student directed projects.
- Special programmes
 - All students are able to participate in an extended swimming programme. In Terms 1 & 4 students swim at the Pt Augusta swim centre, in Terms 2 & 3 students travel to Whyalla Leisure Centre for swim lessons in the heated pool.
 - Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is used across the school to enhance communication for non verbal students and to provide a common platform for visual schedules for all students.
 - An active learning room has been established to support students with high sensory needs
 - A music teacher (from DECD Instrumental Music Service) provides 3 music lessons each week for primary and secondary students.
 - A sport programme, accessed by all students is delivered once a week by an SSO. Senior students have the opportunity to access sport activities in community settings, such as table tennis. Each year the Senior students participate in an interschool basketball carnival.

3 Key School Policies

- School Improvement Plan (2017-2018)

Priority Areas from School Improvement Plan are

1. Student Well Being & Attendance

2. Literacy
3. Numeracy
4. SACE (Modified)

- Facilities

The new site for the Pt Augusta Special School was opened in 2015. The state of the art facility was purpose built for students and their specific requirements. High quality assistive technology is a feature in the learning areas.

- Recent key outcomes
 1. Music -The school has access to a music teacher for 2 lessons per week
 - Classroom staff support the music teacher to deliver the programme
 - Provide a range of resources to support programme
 - Offer the opportunity for public performance at school assemblies and an annual combined schools concert
 2. Health & Physical Activity - To promote increased physical activity all students are encouraged to participate in the Premiers BE ACTIVE Challenge
 - each student keeps an activity log for 1 month
 - each student is presented with a medal (for completing the challenge) at the end of year school assembly
 3. Ongoing review of school policies: Sun Smart policy, Grievance Procedure for Staff and Grievance Procedure for Parents, student supervision, Behaviour Management and Bullying & Harassment have been reviewed

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings

Australian Curriculum with a focus Capabilities is the focus to describe R-10 curriculum.

South Australian Certificate of Education (Modified) is offered for the post compulsory students

All AC subjects are delivered with modifications and adaptations as reflected in individual student NEP's
- Open Access

N/A
- Special needs

All students are identified as having special needs
- Special curriculum features

School focus is on functional literacy and numeracy, communication, social skills and work skills that link to independence for life beyond school

- Teaching methodology
 - Is adjusted to meet the learning needs of individual students
 - A strong emphasis on visual strategies and charts
 - Learning is contextualised, relevant and meaningful
- Assessment procedures and reporting
 - Student learning is assessed against goals set in individual NEPs.
 - The NEP review is ongoing and goals updated when achieved
 - The site uses ABLES which is an assessment, planning and reporting program to assess student progress in the areas of Personal and Social (introduced 2017), Literacy and Numeracy (to be introduced in 2018). The program enables teachers to assess students using four levels that sit underneath Foundation level of the Australian Curriculum.
 - Written reports are provided for parents twice a year, in terms 2 & 4, using a common reporting format

5. Sporting Activities

The school participates in the Premiers BE Active Challenge
 Students attend the local gym and have access to extended swimming programme.
 The school has a site Sport's Day in Term 1 each year
 The Senior Students participate in an interschool basketball carnival each year.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General
 - School camps / sleepovers as organised by classroom teachers
 - Sport days combined with other special schools
 - Interschool basketball
 - Whole of school activities as organised by their "well being" focus group

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
 - 1 male teachers, 6 female teachers, all 1.0 FTE
 - 1 x .4 FTE female teacher (special
 - 9 female SSO's for classroom support
 - 2 SSO staff trained as HSO's
 - 1 male SSO's
 - 1 x SSO2 1.0 FTE for finance & admin support) 1 female SSO admin support x 10 hrs
 - 1 male ICT support SSO
 - 1 male Groundsman

- Leadership structure
 - Principal
 - Deputy Principal
 - Personnel Advisory Committee

- Professional Learning Communities
 - Post School Options
 - Wellbeing, Social Skills and Behaviour Support
 - Community Connections
 - Life Skills

- Staff support systems
 - Whole of staff meeting weekly
 - Ancillary staff meeting twice a term (weeks 4,10)
 - The site has a close connection with Adelaide North Special School and each teacher has a support partner at that site.

- Performance Management
 - Meet with line manager each term
 - Staff cohorts meet to discuss & review issues, concerns & to share successes

- Staff utilisation policies
 - Cooperative classroom workgroups and teamwork across the school is an expectation of all staff

- Access to special staff
 - The school is visited by Kilparrin Teaching and Assessment Unit staff and staff from Novita on a regular basis. The school has access to DECD Speech Pathologists, Guidance Officer and Behaviour Management Support personnel. They visit the school on a regular basis and have direct input to student programming. Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists from Flinders Terrace Health Centre regularly visit the school. Pika Wiya Aboriginal Health Centre can be contacted at any time. The school can also call directly on the services of the Port Augusta Hospital's paediatrician. Support services are also available from the Regional Office. The school has a working relationship with DisabilitySA in planning transition from school.

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

Full details of incentives can be found on the DECD website.

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

There are 4 key buildings, connected by an enclosed and covered walkway.

Three buildings comprise of teaching blocks and the other the administration office, staffroom and resource centre.

- Cooling

The school is fully airconditioned

- Specialist facilities

School is able to negotiate the provision of additional support from DECD and nonDECD agencies

- Student facilities

Students have full access to a redeveloped play ground area, sporting equipment, resource centre and computers. Two buses (owned by the Governing Council) are available to provide transport for community based learning .

Students also utilise the Flinders View Primary School Gym and activity room

- Staff facilities

The staff have regular amenities in the staff room. Each teacher is provided with a laptop with wireless internet access for professional use. School mobile phones are provided for staff to use when on curriculum excursions with students.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities

The site is fully accessible for students and staff with disabilities

- Access to bus transport

The site is accessible by public transport.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures

Decisions are made through collaborative process at PAC / staff / teacher meetings and minuted accordingly. All meeting agenda & minute books are available in the staff room

- Regular publications

A school newsletter is published every fortnight

A day book is updated each day that chronicles all site events / meetings / visitors. Information in relation to Professional Development and DECD information.

- Other communication

Each student has a diary that is used to communicate between school and home. Staff phone parents/carers to discuss issues, concerns as necessary

- School financial position

The school financial position is sound.

- Special funding

The school receives funds & targeted grants from DECD as well as federal funding for specific projects

11. Local Community

- General characteristics

The City of Port Augusta, 300kms north of Adelaide, is situated at the head of Spencer Gulf and at the foothills of the Flinders Ranges, and is a city with a long and proud history.

The city, which is built on both sides of Spencer Gulf, has a population of more than 15000 people and caters to the needs of families living on sheep and cattle stations in the far north and smaller surrounding towns.

The Open Access College, School of the Air and the Royal Flying Doctor Service are based at Port Augusta.

Educational facilities:

- Six primary schools.
- Secondary school.
- Pre-school, kindergarten and day care facilities.
- Special school.
- Caritas College – R-12 college, MacKillop House – Hostel for Rural Students.
- Spencer Institute TAFE.

For further community information refer to Pt Augusta City Council website

- Parent and community involvement

The school has an active and supportive Governing Council.

Governing Council meets twice each term, in weeks 4 & 8.

Families are always welcome at the school and are encouraged to be activity involved in our school community.

- Feeder schools

Pt Augusta Special School provides a learning environment for eligible students from Pt Augusta, Stirling North, Quorn and Wilmington.

- Other local care and educational facilities

Pt Augusta has a number of primary schools, one secondary school, child care and early childhood centres and a private school

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Pt Augusta has a central shopping hub (Commercial Road) plus smaller shopping centres at Loudon Road (on the Westside) and Carlton Parade

- Other local facilities

Pt Augusta has a full range of sporting and recreational facilities

- Availability of staff housing

Adequate, via private rental or Government Housing

- Accessibility

Pt Augusta can be accessed by road, air and bus.

- Local Government body
Pt Augusta City Council

12. Further Comments

I certify this to be a true and accurate statement.

Sarah French
Principal

Septmeber, 2017