

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/08

**School number:** 1292

**School name:** Smithfield Plains Junior Primary School

## 1. General information

### Part A

School name : SMITHFIELD PLAINS JUNIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL  
School No. : 1292 Courier: Kumangka Para  
Principal : Kim Cooper  
Postal Address : Heddle Street, Smithfield Plains 5114  
Location Address : Heddle Street, Smithfield Plains 5114  
District : Kumangka Para  
Road distance from GPO : 32 kms Phone No. : 08 82546323  
CPC attached : NO Fax No. : 08 82840529

	2004	2005	2006	2007
February FTE Enrolment				
Reception	37	39	25	40
Year 1	44	42	35	47
Year 2	56	41	37	38
TOTAL	137	122	99	125
July total FTE Enrolment	148	122	112	134
Male FTE	84	63	64	63
Female FTE	64	59	64	62
July School Card (Persons)	100	74	56	80 (May)
NESB Total (Persons)	16	11	5	7
Born O/S & in Aust less than 1 yr (Persons)				
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	22	14	17	16

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document. "Placement Points History" in the "Admin Information" section of the "Legal and Policy Framework Library" available on the departmental CD-ROM.

### Part B

- **PRINCIPAL'S NAME:** Kim Cooper
- **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S NAME:** Jacqui Bowen

An Assistant Principal position with a counselling focus has been established using local management resource flexibility.

- **SCHOOL E-MAIL ADDRESS:** [admin@spps.sa.edu.au](mailto:admin@spps.sa.edu.au)
- **STAFFING:**
  - Principal 1.0
  - Assistant Principal 1.0
  - Classroom Teachers 8.0 including 1 special class
  - Special Education converted to classroom support
  - ICT/Science (NITT) 0.5
  - Aboriginal Cultural Studies (NITT) 0.5
  - AET 0.2 + ACEO 11 hours
  - Library 0.3
  - Early Years Mentor Teacher .3
  - ESL 0.13
  - SSO hours 76.0 hours including Groundsperson 7 hours per week
- **OSHC**
  - A Before and After School Care facility is available in the Primary School Activity Room.
- **ENROLMENT TRENDS**
  - Enrolments have dropped steadily in recent years as many houses have been vacated for redevelopment. 2007 saw a small increase in numbers.
- **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS**
  - Smithfield Plains Junior Primary School shares the site with Smithfield Plains Primary School. Some facilities are shared.
  - The Smithfield Plains Kindergarten is located on an adjoining site
  - The school is a member of the Peachey Road Schools Cluster. Principals meet fortnightly. Schools work in close collaboration on a range of Teaching and Learning initiatives including shared Professional Development opportunities.
- **YEAR OF OPENING:**
  - 1969
- **PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACCESS:**
  - Bus service to Munno Para Shopping Centre and to the Elizabeth City Centre Interchange.
  - A rail service to Adelaide and Gawler is within walking distance of the school, from Smithfield station.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:**
  - 75% School Card. Currently approx 10% Aboriginal and Non English Speaking Backgrounds students. Approx 31% students currently have NEPs. There is approximately 30% student transience.

## **CLASS STRUCTURE:**

There are 8 classes, working collaboratively with buddy partners, with approximately 18 students in each class. There is 1 Special class, 1 Year 2 class and there are 6 vertically grouped R-2 classes.

- **SUPPORT OFFERED**

The Principal and Assistant Principal work together to provide assistance to students and their families through information, referral and a preventative and developmental counselling program and also behaviour support implementation and monitoring

Aboriginal students are supported by the AET and the ACEO. All students access lessons in Karna Language and culture.

Oral language development with individual students and whole class groups is supported by Oral Language Through Play programmes in classes and by SSO support and small group work. The school works very closely with a Speech Pathologist to improve phonemic awareness teaching and learning.

There is close liaison with support services including Behaviour Management, Attendance, Disability Services and Guidance.

A cluster Co-ordinator in the social skills and learning pedagogy, Program Achieve, has been appointed to develop school and community programmes in this area. He is based at Smithfield Plains Junior Primary School.

- **STUDENT MANAGEMENT:**

Student Behaviour Education is aligned with DECS School Discipline Policy and reviewed regularly. Program Achieve is being used as whole school and cluster strategy. Small group pro-active programs and structured Yard play program are offered throughout the year.

Staff Student Review Team meets twice per term to manage the identification, allocation and ongoing monitoring of resources to students with special needs. SSOs support transition and behaviour development programs.

- **STUDENT GOVERNMENT:**

Regular class meetings are held in each class

Student Representative Council meets weekly, and is active in peer support and environmental projects.

- **SPECIAL PROGRAMMES:**

Whole school uninterrupted Literacy Block time each morning

Kindergarten and Year 2/3 Transition Programmes.

Cross age tutoring with primary school students.

Learning Assistance Programme.

Coordination programme.

Year One literacy intervention programme caters for students identified after screening each term.

Reading Recovery levels collected termly and used to program for Guided Reading sessions.

A whole school approach to the First Steps literacy programme. There is a trained First Steps tutor at the school. Students are mapped on Learning Continua in Writing.

Program Achieve used in class and whole school organization.

The Early Years Mentor teacher works with staff to develop skills and confidence in literacy teaching and programming.

### **3. Key School Policies**

- **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

As reflective of our curriculum priorities and directions we have identified the following priorities in our School Development Plan for 2005-7

Numeracy

Literacy

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Aboriginal Education

- **RECENT KEY DEVELOPMENTS:**

Collection of Literacy data including First Steps Writing, Reading Recovery levels, alphabet knowledge and Phonemic Awareness to inform both whole school and classroom programs.

Expansion of computer room. Investing in Our Schools Grant used for Interactive White Boards in classrooms in 2007.

### **4. Curriculum**

- **SUBJECT OFFERINGS:**

School programmes in all required areas of study with a strong emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy across all curriculum areas.

There is a strong commitment to providing a supportive Teaching and Learning environment inclusive of all learners. To achieve this we offer a curriculum that is inclusive, encourages collaboration at all levels, is responsive to individual needs and strengths.

Kaurna Language and Culture

ICT/Science and Aboriginal Cultural Studies are offered as NIT subjects.

Whole school fitness programme "100 Minutes a Week" is run daily.

Currently trialling "Our Common Curriculum" each term as part of our Wellbeing Strategy.

- **SPECIAL NEEDS:**

Tier two salary supports Special Education, Aboriginal Education, ESL, and Literacy programs. Our school has a high level of NEPs and many other

learning difficulties not identified by NEP. These students are supported by a variety of affirmative action programs.

Student review Team meets twice per term to support special needs through class and whole school screenings.

A strong developmental behaviour education program is incorporated into all classroom practice.

- **SPECIAL CURRICULUM FEATURES:**

Whole school approach to First Steps literacy programme. This year we are focussing on Writing.

Whole school commitment to establishing targets and benchmarks using Reading Recovery levels, alphabet knowledge, sight words and phonemic awareness skills.

Strong whole school commitment to Social Justice and equity and its reflection in school processes and curriculum.

Special Education program that closely monitors progress of NEP students.

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY:**

Teachers work together in both partnerships and teams, with high degrees of collaboration.

Play and creative activity are important parts of all class curricula.

A variety of teaching and learning methodologies, which are inclusive of all student needs and learning styles and support constructivist practice, are used. Support personnel work across whole school as needed to provide quality support.

- **ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND REPORTING:**

A variety of assessment procedures are employed to develop supportive teaching and learning programmes including observations, analysis of work samples for plotting on literacy continuums, formal and informal testing.

Parent/Teacher interviews are held during term one and term three, a MidYear report is provided in term two and a Final report in term four.

- **JOINT PROGRAMMES:**

Cross age tutoring with Primary school students on class by class negotiated basis.

Reading mentor program with Primary School.

Training and Development activities with Primary staff and across Peachey Road schools.

Whole of Cluster and District Numeracy and Literacy Professional Development and initiatives.

## 5. Sporting Activities

- Provided through the Physical Education and Health areas of study.
- Students have a Yard Play Trolley provided at recess and lunch.
- A Sports Day and Walkathon is held each year. Jump Rope For Heart is held on a bi-annual basis.
- Swimming lessons at the Elizabeth Aquadome are held each year in term one.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General:

The Aboriginal students meet regularly and have input into activities to develop cultural understandings. The Aboriginal Education Teacher together with the parent committee and the ACEO plan experiences to support students to achieve educational outcomes.

Buddy class relationships with Primary site are being developed and strengthened in a range of curriculum areas.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- **STAFF PROFILE:**

Staff are appointed through Local Selection and have a high level of skills and commitment to ensuring a positive, successful learning environment.
- **LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE:**

The Principal and Assistant Principal, along with the Admin Officer, make up the core leadership team.
- **STAFF SUPPORT SYSTEMS:**

Teaching staff work in collaboration with a partner and in other staff groups for a variety of projects, whilst SSOs work in an ancillary staff team and with teaching staff.
- **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT:**

Staff Performance Management Program focuses on program discussion, personal and professional development and student review meetings.

Meetings each term with Leadership Team members provide a developmental approach to ongoing improvement. There is a particular focus on our Site Learning Plan Priorities.

Staff are encouraged to develop their own career pathway planning and goals. A range of PD is offered and supported.
- **STAFF TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Staff undertake a number of roles to meet the needs of the school.

Staff are expected to participate on committees which address identified school priorities and share responsibilities across the school.

- **ACCESS TO SPECIAL STAFF:**  
Guidance Officer and Speech Pathologist visit school on a regular basis to assess and monitor children's progress.  
Behaviour Support Team personnel, on request, assist the school in the management of student behaviour.

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

- **COMPLEXITY PLACEMENT POINTS:**  
Teachers gain three points per year of teaching at Smithfield Plains Junior Primary School.

## 9. School Facilities

- **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:**  
Main Administration brick building houses staff room with adjoining teacher prep area, five classrooms, a Resource Centre with a computer network room and a Teacher Reference room adjacent.  
4 recently painted and refurbished outside portable buildings – a 3 teacher space used as a 2 teacher unit; a 2 room building used for teaching space and a single portable used as a Parent Workshop room.  
A large gymnasium and an Activity Room in the Primary School are shared campus spaces.
- **COOLING:**  
All spaces have reverse cycle air conditioning
- **SPECIALIST FACILITIES:**  
In addition to the Resource Centre, there is a computer room, which has 20 networked curriculum computers. There is also a literacy room.  
A storeroom for sports and physical education equipment is in the main building.
- **STAFF FACILITIES:**  
Staff room for all staff and a preparation room for teachers, adjoining the staffroom. The teacher preparation room has a computer work station and A small laminator.  
Two small rooms in the main building near classrooms are used as a calm down room and withdrawal speech room.

### **ACCESS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF WITH DISABILITIES:**

Ramp access to most doorways and a toilet for the disabled in the main building.

- **ACCESS TO BUS TRANSPORT:**  
Bus Company provides a service to Munno Para Centre and to the Elizabeth City interchange.
- **OTHER:**  
A dental clinic operating one day per week is on site.  
The Smithfield Plains Kindergarten is on an adjoining site.

## 10. School Operations

- **DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES:**  
A joint School Governing Council meets in weeks 3 and 8 of each term and is supported by various sub-committees. The Annual General Meeting is held in February each year.  
An R-7 Parent Reference Group, consisting of parent representatives from each class, meets fortnightly with the Junior Primary Assistant Principal and looks at development of initiatives and programs, grounds and Fund-raising strategies.  
Staff make decisions using a consensus model. In addition to the general staff meeting ancillary staff meetings are held regularly  
Student Representative Council considers issues arising from class meetings.  
The school Leadership team, comprising the Principal and the Assistant Principal, meet regularly to discuss leadership and management issues.  
The Student Review Team meets twice per term to allocate resources for individual students, discuss and review whole school intervention programmes.
- **REGULAR PUBLICATIONS:**  
School newsletter is published fortnightly and includes examples of student work.  
Class newsletters, flyers and information sheets.  
Parent booklet and school brochure.  
Staff induction handbook/Resource Kit, updated annually.
- **OTHER COMMUNICATION:**  
Weekly staff bulletin, term and year planners, fortnightly administration staff meeting, professional development staff meetings. School Governing Council and Parent Reference Group meetings.
- **SCHOOL FINANCIAL POSITION:**  
The school is in a sound financial position. School Fees are set by the Governing Council at \$125 for 2007.

## 11. Local Community

- **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

- High level of unemployment.

- High level of low income earners

- Many one parent families

- High level of mobility reflected in a significant transient student population.

- High level of Housing Trust rental and private rental accommodation

- **PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

- Parents are members of the School Governing Council. Governing council sub committees also attract a number of non-council members.

- Parent Reference Group meets fortnightly with the Assistant Principal.

- Parents help in the Learning Assistance Program.

- A number of parents help out in a variety of ways in classroom programmes and attend excursions with classes.

- A small number of parents volunteer to assist in the school canteen.

- **FEEDER SCHOOLS:**

- Majority of children come from Smithfield Plains Kindergarten.

- A small number come from Andrews Farm Child Care Centre.

- **OTHER LOCAL CARE AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES:**

- Smithfield Plains Primary School on campus

- Smithfield Plains Kindergarten adjacent.

- St Columbia College, a non-government school, at Andrews Farm.

- Smithfield Plains High School within 2 kms.

- Para West Adult Campus (or adult re-entry school) is 4 kms away.

- The Elizabeth TAFE campus is near the Elizabeth centre.

- **COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL AND SHOPPING FACILITIES:**

- Munno Para Shopping Centre within 2 kms but there are local shops within close walking distance.

- In Smithfield there are light industry and services such as Crash Repairs, Mechanics and garden centres.

- **OTHER LOCAL FACILITIES:**

- There is a doctor's surgery at the adjacent shopping centre. The Smithfield Sports and Social Club are adjacent to the Munno Para Shopping Centre.

- The community library is located in the Munno Para Shopping Centre.

- Anglicare is located in the adjacent shopping centre.

- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODY:**

- The local council is the City of Playford whose offices (and postal address) are at Warooka Drive Smithfield SA 5114. The phone number is 8254 0222. "The Community Directory" gives information about the local area and is available from the Council Offices.

**FURTHER COMMENTS:**

Teaching at Smithfield Plains Junior Primary is both challenging and rewarding. Teachers display a high level of professional skills, commitment and flexibility in dealing with complexity. Ongoing refinement of our curriculum reflects futures thinking and the changing needs and expectations of our community and society. Behaviour Education is an ongoing challenge and school structures and procedures reflect our work in this area.

Smithfield Plains Junior Primary School is part of the Education Works program and is scheduled for closure at the end of 2009, as the new Birth-Year 7 school and the new Birth-Year 12 school are scheduled to open for the 2010 school year.