



Australian Government



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
OFFICE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



WANALIRRI CATHOLIC SCHOOL
GIBB RIVER

SCHOOL LEVEL PLAN

LOW SES SCHOOL COMMUNITIES NP

2010

KEY CONTACT AT SCHOOL: Sister Nola Goodwin

PURPOSE OF NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP IN LOW SES SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Funding provided through the Commonwealth Government Smarter Schools National Partnership Program, along with co-investment from the Western Australian education sectors and schools, is designed to build the capacity of Western Australian schools to contribute to the achievement of the following five higher level outcomes:

- All children are engaged in and benefitting from schooling
- Young people are meeting basic literacy and numeracy standards, and overall levels of literacy and numeracy achievement are improving
- Schooling promotes the social inclusion and reduces the educational disadvantage of children, especially Indigenous children
- Australian students excel by international standards
- Young people make a successful transition from school to work and further study

The Catholic Education Office National Partnership for Low SES School Communities:

- Aims to improve literacy and numeracy achievement across all years of schooling
- Provides a focus on strategies which will raise attendance and allow students who move between schools to be tracked and supported
- Supports schools to raise the resilience and engagement of students
- Aims to assist in up skilling staff, particularly Aboriginal Teacher Assistants
- Is contextualised in whole school improvement initiatives
- Links closely to initiatives in other National Partnership Programs
- Aligns to key policy strategies such as the 'Closing the Gap' strategy and the 'Indigenous Education Action Plan Draft' which involve schools with Aboriginal students, especially in the Kimberley.

Reporting in this National Partnership will occur against key reforms and milestones and will include qualitative and quantitative data which describe the degree of participation, the key processes and important outcomes, especially those that relate to improved student achievement and attendance.

School Profile

Wanalirri Catholic School is situated in the Ngallangunda community of Gibb River, and caters presently for students from Kindy to Year 7. A holistic approach to learning, inclusive of the Aboriginal culture and languages, is undertaken. The gospel values of Jesus are important and integrated into all learning. The school was opened in 1991 following negotiations between the Bishop of Broome and representatives from the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions as well as people from the Ngallangunda community. Sr Nola Goodwin, a Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, is presently the Principal, and the values of Mary MacKillop flow throughout the school. Wanalirri is a significant sacred site for the community; therefore a unanimous decision was made that the school be named Wanalirri Catholic School. The people also decided that the word Catholic would be part of the name and spirit of the school. This intent is as strong today as it was 1991. Wanalirri Catholic School provides a holistic and culturally sensitive education to students. There is an emphasis on literacy, and being a small community, life revolves around family and seasons. The school continues to be supported by the families living at Gibb River.

Involvement and Support in Specific Low SES Projects

Aboriginal Teaching Assistant Up Skilling

This project provides support for ATAs in Kimberley schools particularly in developing skills and competencies to assist them in classroom support, especially in literacy and numeracy. Support through this program involves school visits and *in situ* mentoring from a dedicated consultant operating from the Broome Regional Office; literacy and numeracy skills development; central support in Broome with opportunities to share learning; and opportunities to undertake Certificate level training through the University of Notre Dame in Broome.

The outcomes of this project relate to enhanced skills and competencies for ATAs, more engagement in the classroom learning process and, ultimately, enhanced outcomes for students.

Intensified Literacy Support

This project provides additional support to Low SES schools to improve levels of literacy and numeracy. Broome Regional Office consultants visit Kimberley schools on a planned cycle to provide *in situ* support and training. Funds are also available to implement specific programs (such as Reading Recovery and Extending Mathematical Understandings).

The specific outcomes of this support will be to increase levels of literacy and numeracy across all years, but with a specific focus on those students at or below benchmarks and in early years of schooling.

Wanalirri Catholic School, being at present, a one-teacher school, can not always access the support available in regards to out-of-school training sessions. The many programs needing to be run also fall on the shoulders of the one person and this can cause overload. One support, which in some way helps to alleviate these problems, is the employment of a tutor for two weeks each term. This tutor helps to extend all students, be they below, at, or above the acceptable standards.

Extending the School Day

This project supports schools to implement out-of-school day activities. This could include cultural and leisure pursuits; community based programs; and/or programs linked to educational outcomes within the school. Support includes payment of staff and/or outside providers; purchase of consumables and limited amounts of hardware; and purchase of specific training programs.

Outcomes relate to increased engagement and attendance which will be reflected in higher levels of achievement. Improved health and wellness outcomes are also anticipated.

Promoting Alternate Thinking Skills

This is an internationally acclaimed program which develops a stronger sense of achievement, confidence, self efficacy and interpersonal skills in students. It provides teachers with resources and a framework for classroom management and discipline processes. Support to schools occurs through assistance in the purchase of PATHS kits. In the Kimberley, a consultant has been engaged on contract to visit schools and assist with ongoing training and support to teachers.

The specific outcomes relate to more appropriate classroom practices, better levels of general and self-discipline and ultimately, higher levels of achievement.

Tracking Students

An issue in providing appropriate educational programs to students in remote and Kimberley centres is to be able to track these students as they move across schools, including across systems/sectors. Once an appropriate tracking system is developed, the whereabouts of students, attendance data and exchange of achievement data can occur.

Specific support is through the creation of structures and processes, negotiation with other systems/sectors, development of appropriate attendance record processes and methods for exchange of information. Once established schools will be directly supported through training, ongoing professional support and direct payments for administrative roles involved in the project.

Outcomes will include a clearer record of student attendance and the ability to support students through exchange of educational programs and achievement information. Enhanced student learning outcomes will hopefully result.

Funding

Specific National Partnership Project	Low SES School Communities NP
Australian Government Funding Allocated	\$73,000.00
Western Australian Co-investment – CEOWA	\$38,000.00
School Co-Investment	\$35,000.00