SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT  
Updated: 20 08 10

School Name:  COOBER PEDY AREA SCHOOL  
School Number:  0920

1. General Information

Part A

School Name : COOBER PEDY AREA SCHOOL  
School No. : 0920  Courier : Northern Country  
Principal : Mr. Ronald Pratt  
Postal Address : PO Box 353, Coober Pedy 5723  
Location Address : Paxton Road, Coober Pedy 5723  
District : Far North & Aboriginal Lands  
Distance from GPO : 856 kms  Phone No: 08 8672 5077  
CPC attached : YES  Fax No: 08 8672 5738

February FTE Enrolment

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School Card Approvals (Persons)  
124  99  110  90

NESB  
57  45  55  42
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment  
81.7  73.0  67  90

Note: Placement points for Complexity and (Base plus Isolation) can be obtained from the document 'Placement Points History' in the 'schools/placement' section of the 'Legal and Policy Framework Library' available on the departmental CD-ROM or web-site.
Part B

- Staffing details

  : **Current leadership** structure at Coober Pedy is as follows

  Mr. Ronald Pratt - Principal
  Mr Bob Pryce - Assistant Principal (Secondary)
  Ms Kym Taylor - Assistant Principal (Primary)
  Ms. Rebecka Thomas - Coordinator R-12
  Ms Belinda Sydor - Primary Counsellor (Coordinator 2)

**Teachers**

Child Parent Centre - .56 Teacher
Junior School R-6: 6 Teachers
Senior School 7-12: 10 Teachers
R-12 – 1.0 AET
R-12 – 0.5 ESL
R-10 - 0.5 Special Education
R-12 - 1.0 Librarian

Several staff have more than one role, Special Education, Aboriginal Education and English as a Second Language roles often overlap. In 2010 four staff are in their initial year of teaching.

**Support and Ancillary Staff**

419 hours per week of SSO time in place for 2010 – this is a mixture of DETE allocation of hours paid for from Early Years Literacy, Basic Skills Test, Behaviour Management Funding, Indigenous Tuition Assistance Scheme, Pre-School Attendance Improvement Plan and Special Education Funding.

We also receive funding for a Community Library SSO.

Coober Pedy Area School has two permanent Aboriginal Education Community Officers (AEC)'s who work 35 hours per week.
OSHC: Outside School Hours Care is offered at the school

- **Enrolment trends:** The student population is very transient and varies between 200 and 220.

- **Special arrangements:** Year 10, 11 and 12 have the opportunity to study blended SACE/TAFE/general mixtures of subjects. Approximately half of the stage 1 and 2 subjects are delivered via open access. This includes school based apprenticeships and the school will become affiliated with the Far Northern trade Training Centre.

- **Year of opening:** 1960

- **Public transport access:** A bus and plane service operates between Coober Pedy and Adelaide. (Rex Airlines operates Monday to Friday and Sunday; Greyhound bus service operates daily.

  The school owns two buses; both 13 seaters. The school also has a Captiva station wagon available for ACEO's when doing attendance checks and other staff for T&D at other locations.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- **General characteristics**
  Approximately 90 of the students are Aboriginal, 22% are Anglo-Australian, 15% are from the former Yugoslavia, and 16% identify with Greek culture, the remaining 12% being comprised of 35 different nationalities. 98 of our students have been approved as School Cardholders. Students within the school can speak approximately 20 European and Aboriginal languages.

- **(Pastoral) Care programs:** Pastoral Care lessons are integrated in morning and afternoon Home Group programmes from R-12. Assemblies are held fortnightly - encouragement awards, performances, displays of student learning and student and staff news items make up the agenda. Whole school assemblies are held twice each term.

- **Support offered:** There is a substantial amount of in-class support through Special Education, Aboriginal Education and ESL funding.

- **Student management:** A student behaviour code developed by staff, student and parents is currently under review.

- **Student government:** Student Voice operates R-12.

- **Special programmes**
• Kids Voice CPC to year 6 and Student Voice 7-12 allows students to have input into, the running of the school.

• Accelerated Literacy Program is offered R-8 but is currently under review.

• A local call cost Internet Point of Presence was housed in the School/Community Library in 1998 for school and community/business use. Access to wireless broadband via the RC is now an option for individuals with their own computers and a wireless card / dongle.

3. Key School Policies

• Mission statement: Our core business is to develop the best possible student-teacher relationship with each student in our care and together strive for continuous improvements in learning outcomes.

PRIORITY ES FOR 2009 - 11

Site Plan is in progress. It requires focussed and progressive leadership to address significant learning issues that have arisen from the high turnover over of Principals in the last decade.

4. Curriculum

• The school is in the process of establishing an ‘Outback Academy’. Providing challenging and relevant learning for our students and possibly online for students in other schools.

• Subject offerings: Core curriculum in; English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, The Arts, Health and Physical Education, Studies of Society and the Environment. Students have access to other subjects such as specialist Instrumental Music lessons via various technology links.

• Open Access: The school offers open access education at Secondary level, particularly Senior Secondary. The school has excellent Distant Education Technology to support this, including Video Conferencing.

  : There is Special Education, ESL, and Aboriginal Education support across the school. This is provided by teaching and non teaching staff

• Special curriculum features: The school conducts a highly successful Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden.

• Assessment procedures and reporting

  : Parent interviews in term 1 and 3. Written/computerised reports in terms 2 and 4. Diary/Information Book system in place from R to 12.

5. Sporting Activities

• A full range of sporting activities using oval, gym, weight training room and pool are offered R to 12. SAPSASA Football, Netball, Softball and
Badminton trips occur. Staff and student co-operative competitions in Football, Cricket, Indoor Soccer and Indoor Hockey.

6. **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

- Tournament of the Minds (Primary). Extensive camping and Outdoor Education throughout the school.
- Aquatics program at school via on site pool.
- Mimli/Coober Pedy Cup (sporting competition).

7. **Staff (and their welfare)**

- **Staff profile**
  : A blend of mostly youth and some experienced staff - an enthusiastic, dedicated and co-operative staff team.

- **Leadership structure**
  : As outlined in “Staff details”.

- **Staff support systems**
  : Professional Planning – all staff have at least two meetings per term with a leadership team member.

- **Staff utilisation policies**: All staff work as Area School Teachers - not Junior Primary, Primary or Secondary Teachers. As such no matter what their primary focus is they may be utilised in other areas of the school to provide NIT and relief time.

- **Access to special staff**: Regular visits by District SBM, Hearing Impaired, Speech Pathology, Guidance, Aboriginal Education and Special Education support staff plus other advisers (eg SSABSA/Curriculum Branch).

- **Other**: Working relationships exist with TAFE, Families SA, Primary Health, Multi Cultural Forum, Crime Prevention Officer and District Council.

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

- **Complexity placement points**: 3.0
- **Isolation placement points**: 6.0
- **Shorter terms**: Term 4 is shortened by 1 week. (Country incentive conditions.)
- **Housing assistance**: 50% Subsidised by OGEH, houses or Dugouts. Water allowance for each property rented.
- **Cooling for school buildings**: Refer to School Facilities section below.
- **Cash in lieu of removal allowance**.
- **Additional increment allowance**.
• **Medical and dental treatment expenses**: “Non Metro” award - reimbursement of travel and accommodation for specialist treatment away from Coober Pedy.
• **Locality allowances**: Paid according to number of dependants - approximately $6,000 for a single teacher and approximately $2 per hour for an SSO.
• **Relocation assistance**: Paid into and out of Coober Pedy for permanent and contract employees.

9. **School Facilities**
• **Buildings and grounds**: Recent re-painting, tree planting and pergola construction has improved the appearance of the school. A new four teacher unit has opened in 2010 as part of BER funding. This houses the middle primary classes.
• **Cooling**: All buildings are air conditioned - most are reverse cycle.
• **Specialist facilities**: Community Library, 2 Science Laboratories and 2 Computing Suites; Photography Lab and Dark Room; Mechanics Shed and Technical Studies (R-12) facilities; Extensive Staff Resource collection; Gymnasium and Pool; Music Suite; Drama facility; Excellent Visual Art facilities; Home Economics facilities are scheduled for refurbishment, Weight Training Gym.
• **Student facilities**: School Canteen.
• **Staff facilities**: Separate Administration and Staff Room facilities. All staff have an office/working area.
• **Access for students and staff with disabilities**: To Administration Office and Gymnasium (including toilet facilities). Access improving to classroom buildings via paving and ramps.
• **Other**: Aboriginal Health Workers visit regularly, visiting Dentist for student dental clinic.

10. **School Operations**
• **Decision making structures**: Open, participatory decision making at full staff, hub and faculty meetings.
• **Regular publications**: Newsletter published fortnightly.
  • Other communication: School bulletin sheets daily,

11. **Local Community**
• **General characteristics**
  : Coober Pedy is a unique multicultural town with approximately 40 different nationalities making up the town population of around 3,000 people. Many cultural groups have their own clubs, which are open to the
whole community, eg Serbian Club, Croatian Club, Greek Club, Italian Club and the United Yugoslav Club. Much of this decline is linked with the reduced income from opal being mined and the significant cost increases in the mining for it. High Diesel prices in particular seem to be making Opal mining a more marginal proposition.

Mining companies within a few hundred kilometres of town such as Oz Minerals, Challenger and Goldstream are providing a growing number of people with employment and are very supportive of our local community and school.

Coober Pedy offers a range of quality restaurants and many different Social sporting options, they include; netball, darts, motorcar and go kart racing, rifle shooting, football, eightball and an 18 hole golf course. These rely heavily on local people running them and support from school staff is always sought and welcomed. A number of staff are involved in the SES and CFS.

Significant annual events in Coober Pedy include the Opal Festival - Easter, Glendi Festival - July and the Coober Pedy Race weekend, Coober Pedy Opal Fields Golf Open in May, Gymkhanas and Cattle Drafts in surrounding towns and stations are also popular events.

- **Parent and community involvement**: Governing Council meets twice per term.
- **Feeder schools**: None, but significant transience occurs between Aboriginal Lands Schools, Coober Pedy, Port Augusta and Ceduna.
- **Other local care and educational facilities**: 2 Child Care Centres, one adjacent to the school. Excellent TAFE Campus. Baby Bounce, Child Care Links programme and Playgroup.
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**: 2 Supermarkets, 2 Hardware stores, 2 building suppliers numerous Opal Shops.
- **Other local facilities**: Drive In Theatre, Westpac Bank, Post Office
- **Availability of staff housing**: Readily available REM houses and dugouts.
- **Local Government body**: District Council of Coober Pedy - supply Power and Water

12. Further Comments