



## SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

**School number:** 0175

Updated: 2/2017

**School name:** Hawker Area School

### School Profile:

Hawker is a small rural township in the Flinders Ranges. Although starting out as a service centre for the surrounding cropping and grazing land today its economy is based on the pastoral and tourism industries.

Schooling first began here in 1880 and the first stone building was erected in 1883. The school started catering for secondary students in the early 1900's becoming a higher primary school, a special rural school and then an Area School.

The school is a vibrant student-centred learning environment with excellent facilities for staff and students. A wide range of challenging curriculum is offered both face to face and through distance education. The school has a strong focus on literacy and numeracy. These are supported by a range of practical based cross-curricular subjects such as Tech Studies and Home Economics across all year levels which allow students to incorporate these basic skills within wider learning situations.

As with many rural and remote communities the population of Hawker has declined in recent times. This has caused a corresponding decline in the student population. The school became a Senior Secondary by-pass school in the early 1990s. In recent years the school has been working hard to re-establish a Senior Secondary curriculum, reintroducing face to face subjects, brokering school-based apprenticeships, and investigating the use of ICT and Shared Delivery to increase the number of subjects offered. The school is part of the Pichi Richi Trade Training Centre Consortium and offers Certificate II in Construction at the Pichi Richi Railways

### 1. General information

- **School Principal name:** Sacha Uern
- **Year of opening:** 1883
- **Postal Address:** PO Box 132, Hawker, SA, 5434
- **Location Address:** Wirreanda Terrace, Hawker, SA, 5434
- **DECD Region:** Far North and Aboriginal Lands
- **Geographical location:** 388 kms from Adelaide GPO
- **Telephone number:** 08 86 484 003
- **Fax Number:** 08 86 484 149
- **School website address:** [www.hawkeras.sa.edu.au](http://www.hawkeras.sa.edu.au)
- **School e-mail address:** [dl.0175.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0175.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- **February FTE student enrolment:**

February FTE Enrolments	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Primary – Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.</b>						
Reception	8	6.2	5	4	5	6
Year 1	1	8	6.2	2	3	6
Year 2	2	2	8	4.2	2	4
Year 3	1	3	2	7	3	3
Year 4	3	5	3	1	8	2
Year 5	1	5	6	1	2	6
Year 6	2	2	3	5	1	3
Year 7	3	6	1	4	3	0
<b>Secondary - Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.</b>						
Year 8	2	2	4	2	2	2
Year 9	2	2	3	6	1	1
Year 10	4	3	1	2.1	4	1
Year 11	4	1.6	2	0.3	1	6
Year 12	2.7	3	1	1	1	1
	35.7	48.8	45.2	39.6	36	41

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Male FTE	19	20.8	15.2	14.6	19	15
Female FTE	15	28	30	25	17	26
School Card Approvals	5	16	21	20	8	11
Aboriginal FTE Enrolments	10	17	10	9	7	14
NESB Total (persons)	5	13	14	10	7	15

- **Student enrolment trends:**

Enrolments vary according to district employment opportunities.

- **Staffing numbers (as at February census):**

**Tier 1** Primary 2 FTE, Secondary 2 FTE

**Tier 2** Open Access 0.5 FTE, Special Education 0.260 FTE, ESL 0.008 FTE, Teacher Librarian 0.5 FTE, Ancillary Staff – Permanent 72.5 hours per week, Primary Counsellor 0.050

- **Public transport access:**  
There is no public transport access to Hawker. Most students walk to school or arrive by car. A school bus service is available for students living beyond the township.
- **Special site arrangements:**  
Hawker Area School is part of the Far NorthLocal Partnership. Hawker Childhood Services Centre is located adjacent to the site and there is a close working relationship between both entities.

Hawker Area School is part of the Pichi Richi Trade Training Centre Consortium and also the Stephanie Alexander National Kitchen Garden Program.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

### General characteristics:

Hawker Area School has a small but diverse student cohort. A third of all students live on properties outside the town and travel to school either by private vehicle or school bus. Approximately a fourth of the students identify as Aboriginal with about ½ of these having Aboriginal English as their first language. Eight students are identified as Students with Disabilities. The small cohort means that there is a lot of room for individual attention for these students.

Students are in multi-level classes which allow teachers to extend or further support students as the need arises.

### Student well-being programs:

All teachers at Hawker Area School have Pastoral Care responsibilities. Pastoral Care programs are incorporated across the school's curriculum, with the emphasis that the programs must support student learning, development and wellbeing. Whole School program includes KidsMatter / Better Buddies.

### Student support offered:

A special need program using Wave 1, 2 or 3 strategies, focuses on students with learning difficulties, gifts and talents and behavioural difficulties.

The class teachers and the Principal provide general student counselling with one staff member allocated as Student Councillor.

Career counselling is provided for students in Years 7-12. Course counselling is provided for students in Years 10-12.

### Student management:

Student behaviour is managed consistently across the school in a supportive, rigorous, success-orientated culture. This is underpinned by commonly agreed classroom and yard rules with negotiated consequences. The school has a Code of Conduct, signed by all students and staff, as well as an Anti-Bullying Policy.

### Student government:

The students of Hawker Area School all participate in SMASH / SRC (Students Meeting At School at Hawker).

Each class meets to discuss school issues, fundraising opportunities and student suggestions. These are brought to the SMASH Meetings which are held twice a term.

### Special programmes:

Breakfast Club; Sporting Schools Program; Active Play and Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.

## Key School Policies

### Site Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:

PRIORITY 1 - Improving student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy through Curriculum pedagogy and assessments.

### Recent key outcomes:

In 2015 the school underwent a Supporting School Improvement Review. The recommendations from the review were:

1. Improve student achievement and growth through the strategic use of data and DECD standards to enable teachers to personalise learning for every student at the school.
2. Challenge and engage students in their learning by embedding effective evidence based teaching practices and approaches that are sustained over time.
3. Raise student achievement through the implementation of effective performance and development processes for all staff that incorporates performance planning, classroom observations and document feedback aligned to teacher professional standards , the TfEL framework and agreed school priorities.

The school was supported by the Improvement and Accountability unit to implement these recommendations. As a result the school has undertaken extensive training and development in the areas of literacy and quality teaching and the use of effective SMARTA targets has been adopted right down to the student level.

The school is currently looking at the use of teacher observations and Performance Development based on the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers as a way of ensuring ongoing improvement in teaching and learning. Subsequently literacy achievement across the school has improved and the focus has now shifted towards improving numeracy achievement.

### Statement of purpose:

Hawker Area School provides a safe, caring environment where students, staff and parents work and learn together. The school recognises the right of all students to have the opportunity to develop to their full potential through experiencing success. The schools current focus is on giving students skills and abilities to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

This provides the framework for Hawker Area School's core business:

- Social inclusion and respect
- Learning and thinking
- Cooperation and communication
- The basic right and need for Literacy and Numeracy
- Planning for future directions

Staff members at Hawker Area School:

- Work in a professional and collegiate manner
- Are flexible, tolerant and tactful
- Have the best interest of students at heart
- Demonstrate and model good time management skills
- Are positively persistent
- Have good communication skills
- Are friendly and approachable

- Respect confidentiality
- Want to be part of the community
- Are willing to take on new roles and have the opportunity to do so
- Engage in professional development and are multi-skilled
- Are able to teach across age and year levels
- We consider this ethos in our work.

## 4. Curriculum

### Subject offerings:

The school is now offering a complete range of the Australian Curriculum. Where appropriate teaching staff are available, SACE Stage 1 and 2 subjects are offered face to face. The curriculum reflects the negotiated learning and teaching practices we promote.

### Open Access/Distance Education provision:

The school uses distance education to promote a broad and balanced study program for students ranging in class years from 8-12. These subjects are predominately offered by Open Access College. Students use Webex and Moodle as part of their Open Access subjects.

### Special needs:

Individual programs are developed for students with special need and are supported by their class teachers, SSO's and the Special Needs teacher.

### VET offerings:

- Certificate I in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)
- Certificate I and II in Construction (via the Pichi Richi Trade Training Centre at Quorn)

### Special curriculum features:

Indonesian Language and Adnamatna culture are taught face-to-face in Years R-9. The school is establishing a Horticulture program, which involves all students participating in the creation and maintenance of a traditional kitchen garden and a native (edible) garden.

PLP and Research Programs are being taught face-to-face.

Instrumental music is being taught face to face.

Students participate in the Whole School Fitness Program, with a fifteen minute fitness break each morning as part of the morning lessons.

A Whole School Literacy Program based on the Big 6 is being used across the school. Accelerated Literacy is used as part of this program.

HPI's provide learning opportunities for the R-12 classes in Technical Studies and Home Economics.

Low student to teacher ratios at our school further support student learning

### Teaching methodology:

Collaborative, student-centred methodology is promoted and supported with a focus on literacy, numeracy, and senior secondary studies. Teachers use Inquiry Based

Approches where appropriate. School has excellent ICT facilities, Interactive Whiteboards.

All Senior Secondary students are provided with a laptop for their exclusive use.

Wireless access to the Curriculum network is available through out the school.

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

The school strives to provide regular and detailed information to parents and caregivers regarding student progress.

The school has a dual system of reporting.

- Term 1 – Parent /Teacher interviews
- Term 3 – Open Night and Student showcase
- Term 2 & 4 - A written report with A-E reporting and an Assessment folder that includes overviews of all areas of study, student's work samples and reports on student's meeting the curriculum outcomes.

### **Joint programmes:**

- Trade School's for the Future- School Based Apprenticeships
- The Pichi Richi Trade Training Centre Consortium – Certificate I in Construction
- Australian Sports Commission – Sporting Schools program
- Stephanie Alexander National Kitchen Garden Program
- Mid North Natural Resources Management Board- Leadership Program in conjunction with several mid north schools.

## **5. Sporting Activities**

- The school organises a Sports Day and Swimming Carnival annually and is involved in joint carnivals with Leigh Creek Area School and Marree Aboriginal School
- Students can participate in WASSAC, SASSA and SAPSASA sports competitions.
- A sports complex adjacent to the school offers facilities for tennis, basketball, netball, golf, cricket and bowls.
- The school has access to a 20 metre, that is used for term-time swimming lessons, swimming carnival and activities.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

### General

Students contribute to the creation of the school's annual magazine.

Assembly is run by the students.

Presentation Night (Term 4) includes the students acting as MC's, presenting awards and performing. Every second year the school puts on a school play.

Students are actively involved in cooking and serving Community Lunches.

Students contribute to the organisation of Open Night for parents, caregivers and community members to showcase our schools learning opportunities.

Students may be involved in Religious Instruction delivered by local church personnel.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

### Staff profile:

Currently we have stable staffing within our teaching and ancillary workgroups, ensuring a healthy mix of enthusiasm and experience.

The staffing combines well and practises flexibility to best support the needs of the student and each other.

At times there are opportunities to teach across the school.

### Leadership structure:

The Principal has overall leadership over the site, with individual staff being offered opportunities to lead in areas of expertise. Decision making is a collaborative process with regular consultation on between all staff regarding site issues.

### Staff support systems:

Due to the size and remoteness of the site a high degree of collegiate support has developed amongst the staff at Hawker Area School. Staff are supported by the role of the Pastoral Care Worker and DECD staff as well as counselling from Converge International.

### Performance Management:

The school has a strong focus on performance management that supports staff in their practice. Performance management for teaching staff is based on the National Professional Standards for Teachers.

All staff are encouraged to undertake regular training and development linked to the current site priorities and individual goals.

### Staff utilisation policies:

Where possible staff teach in their area of specialisation. HPI's are employed to provide instruction in specialist areas and work along side the classroom teacher who provides Duty of Care. Classroom Support SSO's are provided for students with special needs and in programs such as MultiLit, QuickSmart.

### Access to special staff:

Specialised support is accessed through the Education Office in Port Augusta and from Adelaide.

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

### Shorter terms:

Schools in remote areas have shorter school terms. Hawker Area School closes one hour earlier in Terms 1/2/3 and one day earlier in Term 4

**Travelling time:** Not applicable

### Housing assistance:

Teachers residing in country locations more than 40 kms from their 'home' are eligible for Government housing. The rent is subsidised at varying rates according to location. This subsidy is arranged automatically.

Housing available in Hawker is mostly three-bedroom houses with air-conditioning and floor coverings.

### Medical and dental treatment expenses:

Employees who reside in Hawker by virtue of their employment are eligible for reimbursement of certain travel and accommodation expenses incurred when obtaining appropriate medical or dental assistance. This is referred to as the Non-Metropolitan Award. Time is also allowed for necessary absence from duty.

### Locality allowances:

Employees' at Hawker Area School are eligible for Locality Allowance, with additional amounts for spouse and children.

### Relocation assistance:

Staff at Hawker Area School are eligible for assistance with relocation expenses, travel, overnight accommodation, furniture insurance, and allowances for packing and accelerated depreciation of furniture. The following are **not** applicable to teachers: reimbursement of costs of connection/disconnection of services; redirection of mail and leave with pay when relocating.

### Principal's telephone costs:

Principals appointed to Hawker Area School are entitled to reimbursement of the cost of basic rental and the cost of official calls.

## 9. School Facilities

### Buildings and grounds

Most buildings are timber framed which have been reclad in hardiflex. The Samcon Community Library and Administration building was upgraded in 2001.

The Home Economics and Multi-Purpose rooms were upgraded in 2010.

The Technical Studies building was upgraded in 2012.

The student toilets were upgraded at the start of 2017.

A stone building used as a teaching space and is the oldest building on the site, parts of which have been heritage listed, is in good condition and classroom spaces recently renovated.

There is an irrigated grass playing field and a well-developed playground area.

The school is attractive, clean and well cared for.

### Cooling

All classroom and work areas in the school are air-conditioned, with reverse cycle systems.

### Specialist facilities and equipment

Specialist teaching areas include a Science Laboratory, a Technical Studies/Art complex, a well equipped Home Economics kitchen and Multipurpose Area.

The school is equipped with modern telephonesystem, video conferencing equipment and internet facilities.

The school has an ongoing program of computer upgrading. There is a wide range of educational software provided

There are baskets of ipads available for classrooms to borrow to use for teaching purposes.

Classrooms are also equipped with computers, interactive whiteboards, printers, and refrigerators.

### **Student facilities**

The school has a varied range of playground equipment complemented by the installation of 'soft fall' surfacing. Large shaded areas have been established through out the school yard.

### **Staff facilities**

Staff have access to a school car for travelling to training and development sessions, meetings and for transporting students.

Staff have access to the school's wide range of up-to-date information technologies.

### **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

All classroom areas and toilets have wheelchair access ramps.

### **Access to bus transport**

There is a school bus available for use during school hours.

There is a small community bus available for hire.

The school owns a car that can be used for the transport of small groups of students on educational activities.

## **10. School Operations**

### **Decision making structures**

The decision making policy ensures that decisions are made based on democratic and collaborative processes.

A range of committees operate in the school including Governing Council, Finance, Parents & Friends and Bus Committee.

Staff meetings are conducted weekly with whole school staff meeting held twice a term.

### **Regular publications**

The school produces a twice termly newsletter and weekly bulletin to parents and other interested parties.

The local paper (Town Crier) features school news.

A school magazine is produced at the end of each year

### **Other communication**

Hawker Area School has produced a Parent/Caregiver Handbook detailing relevant school information.

Diaries, communication books and handouts provide extra contact with parents and caregivers.

The school website is located at [www.hawkeras.sa.edu.au](http://www.hawkeras.sa.edu.au)

The school also uses the Skoolbag app and the school and library have their own facebook pages.

### **School financial position**

The school is in a sound financial position.

### **Special funding**

- Rural and Isolated Index Funding
- APAS Funding
- ALPI Funding
- School Sports Grant

## **11. Local Community**

### **General characteristics**

Hawker is the entrance to the Flinders Ranges and is situated thirty minutes drive, south of Wilpena Pound and four hours from Adelaide. The district population is approximately 500 with 250 people living in the town.

The history and ecology of the area, and the tourism they attract, has a major influence on the community. The presence of local businesses and small industry, National Parks personnel, the Adnamatna people as well as local pastoralists adds to the fabric of the local community.

The school is approximately one hour north of Port Augusta.

The area is semi-arid with an average rainfall of approximately 200mm per year. Summer temperatures and humidity can be high.

### **Parent and community involvement**

Parents and the wider community take pride in participation in school life. There are many opportunities for parents and community members to be actively involved in school.

### **Feeder or destination schools**

Hawker Childhood Services Centre

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

The Hawker Childhood Services offers 15 hours of pre-school education per fortnight. The school and kindergarten collaborate to provide a high standard of Early Years education. A successful transition program prepares students for school.

Playgroup operates on a Wednesday in term time and Day Care is offered by RICE on Fridays throughout the year.

The Community Library is based in the school and provides a well-resourced service to the residents of the district.

There is a hospital, ambulance service and resident doctor with visiting allied health workers from Port Augusta.

SES, CFS, RAA and the Royal Flying Doctor Service all service Hawker and surrounding districts.

The school is a member of an active branch of the Isolated Children and Parents Association (ICPA). This is a group working towards equality of educational opportunity for children in isolated areas.

### **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

There is an based in Hawker, a grocery outlet, three service stations, an art gallery, one restaurant, one hotel, one motel, one caravan park and a local contracting company that provides plumbing and electrical services.

Australia Post, BankSA and the Commonwealth Bank have agencies within the town.

### **Other local facilities**

Government agencies include the Police Station, Post Office, School, and Hospital.

Three churches (Catholic, Uniting and Christian Fellowship) hold regular services in the town.

There are numerous community organisations catering for the interests of residents including sporting clubs (golf, swimming, cricket, netball, and bowls), a well-equipped gym, a quilting group and a community group.

### **Availability of staff housing**

There is housing for teaching staff available in the township. Limited private rental opportunities also exist.

### **Accessibility**

There is no public transport to Hawker.

All the main roads into Hawker are bitumen and are in good condition.

### **Local Government body**

The Flinders Ranges District Council, which is based in Quorn forty minutes drive south of Hawker, provides local government services to Hawker and District.