

# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 07/07

**School Name:** Port Augusta Secondary School

**School Number:** 0790

## 1. General Information

### Part A

Schoolname : PORT AUGUSTA SECONDARY SCHOOL  
 School No. : 0790 Courier : Northern Country  
 Principal : Mr Brenton Osborne  
 Postal Address : 3 Stirling Road, Port Augusta 5700  
 Location Address : 3 Stirling Road, Port Augusta 5700  
 District : Northern Country  
 Distance from GPO : 320 kms Phone No. : 08 86473300  
 CPC attached : NO Fax No. : 08 86423209

		2004	2005	2006	2007
February FTE Enrolment					
Primary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.				
	Reception				
	Year 1				
	Year 2				
	Year 3				
	Year 4				
	Year 5				
	Year 6				
	Year 7				
Secondary	Special, N.A.P. Ungraded etc.	12	12	12	6
	Year 8	127	144	123	116
	Year 9	128	128	142	124
	Year 10	129	153	129	156
	Year 11	128	120	133	103.84
	Year 12	65	72	85	65.5
	Year 12 plus	10	7	11	13.8
TOTAL		599	636	635	585.14

### Term 3 Enrolment Specific Population

Aboriginal	133.6	134.0	164.3	196
Disabilities	66.8	65.1	59.6	77
ESL	13.0	94.0	129.5	137
NESB	2.0	2.0	4.0	5
School Card	189.1	176.5	161.4	160

## Part B

- Deputy Principals
  - Iain Elliott, Stirling Campus (Years 10 - 12+)
  - Jim Oakey, Seaview Campus (Years 8 & 9)
- Assistant Principals
  - Simon Finch, Stirling Campus (Years 10 - 12+)
  - Beth Walsh, Seaview Campus (Years 8 & 9)
- School Website Address: [www.pass.sa.edu.au](http://www.pass.sa.edu.au)
- School E-mail Address: [info@pass.sa.edu.au](mailto:info@pass.sa.edu.au)
- Staffing No's for 2006
 

Tier 1	45.02
Tier 2	<u>6.93</u>
Total	51.95
Ancillary Hours	SSO 327.5hrs
	GSE 95 hrs
AEW's	3 100 hrs
AET	1.38 (FTE)

- Leadership

The school has 10 Coordinators with the following roles

- Science 8-12/Senior School/Year Level coordination/Literacy
- Student counsellor (1 Middle School & 1 Senior School)/Literacy
- Mathematics 8-12/Middle School/Sub-school coordination/Literacy
- Special Education/Year Level coordination/Literacy
- Maths & Science Middle School Innovations
- Aboriginal Education/Literacy
- SOSE 8-12, SSABSA, SACE & Senior School/Year Level coordination/Literacy
- HPE 8-12/Sport & Middle School/Year Level coordination/Literacy
- Literacy & Numeracy coordination 8-12

The Deputy Principal (Senior School) has the Design and Technology 8-12 coordination

The Deputy Principal (Middle School) has ICT 8-12 coordination

The Assistant Principal (Senior School) has Arts 8-12/VET coordination/Innovative Programs

The Assistant Principal (Middle School) has English 8-12/Innovative Programs

The school has two teacher Librarians (one per campus).

- Enrolment Trends

:Enrolments are expected to stabilise if not increase with the developments in Pt Augusta.

<b>2007 enrolments:</b>	Year 8	118	<b>2008 estimates:</b>	120
	Year 9	125		120
	Year 10	157		126
	Year 11	106		140
	Year 12/13	<u>79</u>		<u>90</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		585		596

- **General**

The school is based on two campuses approximately 2 kilometres apart. Seaview campus on Seaview Road has Year 8 and 9 students and Years 10, 11 & 12/13 students are at the Stirling campus on Stirling Road.

The school has a middle campus with two sub-schools. The small learning communities provide programs and structures to promote educational outcomes for young adolescent students. Staff teach across curriculum areas and in teams with an emphasis on developing relationships.

The senior campus provides a range of SACE, VET and TAFE programs designed to meet the diverse needs of the student population.

Port Augusta Secondary School is now part of the Northern Country District including Whyalla, Woomera, Roxby Downs, Andamooka, Coober Pedy, Mintabie and Oodnadatta.

- **Transport**

Port Augusta is a major service centre and is well serviced by public transport including train, bus and air.

## **2. Students (and their welfare)**

- **General characteristics**

Approximately 35% of the students are Aboriginal. There are a few students from non-English speaking backgrounds. Most students live within Port Augusta, or at Stirling North. A few students attend from surrounding areas.

The school district has a relatively high mobility factor. More than 60% of students are either school card or Aboriginal.

The school has the largest number of secondary Aboriginal students in schools in South Australia.

- **Student Care**

There is a Care Group Program, which teams groups of students with staff. These groups meet each day. There are Coordinators for each Year Level to ensure proper care and efficient organisation. A Year 7 to 8 transition program ensures that students new to the school are well looked after and settle in well. A year 9 to 10 Transition program ensures a smooth transition of students from the Middle to Senior Campus. Student Counsellors provide counselling and care to all students and parents where appropriate. Aboriginal students and parents have an Aboriginal Education Team to assist them and provide support in all school matters. The Port Augusta Secondary School Aboriginal Family Voice group works with the school to identify programs and processes that support Aboriginal students.

- **Student Well-Being**

The school is currently developing a Student Well-Being policy. The school has a well-documented Student Behaviour Management Policy incorporating processes, procedures, code of conduct and practice.

- **Student Government**  
 Student Voice/Leadership became a priority at the school in 2007. A range of meetings, class and general (including assemblies) have been set up to foster and improve student access to participation in school directions. Students attend meetings regularly and act as a voice for the students on school issues and development.
- **Dress Code/Uniform**  
 Port Augusta Secondary School has a dress code/uniform policy supported by the school council. School colours are navy blue, white and maroon. Students may wear a range of clothing within this colour scheme. Selected garments (such as polo-necked shirts, windcheaters and rugby tops) are available for purchase from the school book rooms. Students are encouraged to wear uniform/dress code. There is a concerted effort, supported by school funds, to promote the wearing of appropriate school shirts and in winter months a recognisable school jumper.
- **Special Programs**  
 Both campuses have Aboriginal Education teams to support the work of Aboriginal students. There are special class programs on each campus with learning support programs to cater for identified students who require extra support in particular areas of schooling. With the middle school and senior school a diversity of programs are in place to support.

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

- **School Priorities**  
 The school gathers input from staff, parents and students within the context of DECS to assist in determining school priorities. The priorities and Strategic Plan were taken into account when the final school priorities were agreed upon.  
 The school's priorities for the next year will be built around the School Curriculum – Teaching and Learning programs.  
 The Site Learning Plan
  1. Improve Student Engagement
    - attendance
    - literacy
    - retention
  2. Improve Student Retention
    - SACE completion
  3. Student Well-being
    - parent satisfaction
    - student behaviour management

There is an action plan for Aboriginal Education 2005 – 2009 to improve the attendance, engagement, achievement and retention and enhance cultural identity of Aboriginal students.

## 4. Curriculum

- Seaview Campus

The Seaview Campus (Middle School) at Port Augusta Secondary School has implemented programs and structures for the teaching of 'Young Adolescent Students'. These have been specifically designed to improve learning outcomes for students at Year 8 and 9 level and we look forward to further developing these directions in the future.

We have established:

- 2 Sub schools, Eyre and Stuart are small learning communities where students are taught by a specific group of teachers in Mathematics, English, Society and Environment and Science
- All Care Group teachers teach a minimum of two areas in Year 8
- A Leadership structure is in place with a counsellor, 2 Sub school Coordinators, Coordinator in Aboriginal Education. Coordinators work across Years 8-12.
- The Campus has a number of middle school and/or primary trained staff to provide appropriate methodology to our students.
- Student Voice is encouraged to increase student participation in the school.

We cater for a diverse range of students at this campus and we are continually searching for the key that sparks enthusiasm and a desire to be successful young adolescents. We do, and will continue, to promote positive attitudes to learning and encourage students to value a good education and attendance at school.

- Stirling Campus

The Stirling Campus (Senior School) at Port Augusta Secondary School has implemented programs and structures best suited to meet the needs of young adult students. Catering for an older age group of students than the Seaview Campus, the emphasis is more on developing appropriate attitudes to learning and independent learning skills necessary for life-long learning.

Students are gradually given more responsibility for their own learning programs but are expected to meet requirements and school expectations that are clearly defined and well documented.

We provide a comprehensive range of programs to meet the diverse needs of students. We have students who move into employment, further education and training. A range of VET programs including Aquaculture, Hospitality, Tourism, Retail and, Sport and Recreation. One priority is to

retain students at school until they complete 12 years of schooling. We believe the developing directions of our learning programs and the school management practices will enhance this aim.

We also provide some programs outside of the usual school hours and have set up our daily timetable to make it easier for part-time and re-entry access to our courses.

A District Special Education class is located at Port Augusta Secondary School, catering for students in Years 8 to 12.

To cater for the breadth of students who want to pursue a practical rather than academic career path, we have developed a class based on the Mineral Resources Program. The students in this class aim to complete their SACE or move into apprenticeships/traineeships in the Mining Sector. They also spend time at the local TAFE in appropriate courses and in work experience placements. The school has also developed a class for Post-Compulsion, disinclined students who wish to leave school before the end of Year 12. Students in this class will be actively seeking employment, further education through TAFE, apprenticeships/traineeships or in some cases, return to mainstream education. This 'Pathways To Success' class, involves students completing 2 days per week in Work Experience, 1/2 day in a Voluntary placement, 1/2 day in a Community placement and 2 days in upgrading their work-related skills. To maximise their success, each student is individually case managed by one of the two teachers supervising the class.

Close liaison between the campuses enhances the culture of continuing education.

## **5. Sporting Activities**

The school participates in a range of sports including SASSSA (state wide Knockout sporting competitions). The school participates in the Western Area Secondary Schools Sports Association Athletics Carnival (WASSAC) and a First Term Sports Day. The local community provides both competitive and social opportunities in a variety of traditional and non-traditional sports.

## **6. Staff**

The teaching staff is characterised by a large number of beginning teachers in either permanent or contract positions. As a result there is a regular turnover of staff. There are often opportunities for short-term leadership positions within the school.

Each campus has a number of Tier 2 salaries including salaries in Special Education, ESL and Aboriginal Education. The school also has an allocation of hours for peripatetic support for students with disabilities.

Cross campus teaching is becoming increasingly possible with a number of staff involved this year. Staff receive a bonus Zone 4 Country Incentives salary allocation.

## **7. School Facilities**

The majority of the Stirling Campus buildings are of solid construction and most are air-conditioned and heated. There has been a recent facilities upgrade at Stirling Campus including; painting and structural alterations, major roof refurbishment of the two storey teaching block, major Science Block upgrade and provision for handicap access – ramps, safety railing, toilet and an internal lift in the teaching block.

The Seaview Campus buildings are of DEMAC construction and flexible design. The grounds on both campuses are in excellent repair. Landscaping on both campuses has improved the school environment.

Both sites have a gymnasium, music centre, multi-arts centre, art room, extensive computing facilities, technology workshops, library, science laboratories and, food and catering areas.

At the Senior Campus there is a cafeteria, student meeting area, an outdoor education teaching room and a Year 12 common room.

At the Middle Campus there is a specialist Dance room, with a sprung wooden floor, office, change rooms and mirrors and an attached room and office which is the base for the District Instrumental Music Service.

## **8. Staff Facilities**

Each staff member has an office work station - at Stirling within curriculum areas, at Seaview within Year Level areas. Each site has a well-serviced staffroom with access to administration computing networks. Both sites have disabled access for staff and students.

The school has a mini bus as well as access to two large, yellow DECS buses to assist in camps and excursions.

## **9. School Operations**

- Decision making procedures

The school's decision-making process involves staff meetings, curriculum area, and year level teams who feed in recommendations to campus management and school management teams. There are also other reference committees; OHS & W, Curriculum Leadership, Finance Advisory, Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC), Canteen, Facilities & Grounds and Information Technology. Students are represented in a number of these groups. The School Council is representative of each campus. Each of these teams meets on a regular basis and the Administration team meets weekly.

- **Communication**  
There are a wide range of communication strategies designed to improve the school/parent/caregiver and community knowledge and understanding of the school.
- **Staff**  
There are daily information bulletins for staff and students. There are regular staff information bulletins from the Principal and regular meetings. Staff can access electronic minutes of all meetings through the PASS Eduport page of Educonnect.
- **Students**  
There are daily bulletins, assemblies, and, sub-school and year level meetings.
- **Parents**  
Diaries and regular articles in the local media are the main communication avenues from the school to parents. The School Newsletter is published fortnightly and distributed to parents/caregivers. Noteworthy events, meetings and student successes are published in the local paper (Transcontinental) and the local Television station (GTS4).
- **Special Funding**  
The school receives a range of grants for Commonwealth Literacy Project (CLP) and Country Areas Program (CAP). These grants are specifically to increase student access to programs and activities. The school receives other grants to support Aboriginal students particularly through the Federal Government Parent Student Partnership Initiatives (PSPI).

## **10. Local Community**

- **General characteristics**  
Port Augusta is an industrial and service city 310kms north of Adelaide, 75kms from Whyalla and 89kms from Port Pirie. The Flinders Ranges provide a picturesque backdrop to the town. The two main employers are NRG Flinders and Augusta Power Stations and EDI. The proposed expansion of the mine at Olympic Dam (near Roxby Downs), the development of other larger mines to the north, east and west of Port Augusta, the expansion of the El Alamein army base and the building of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway line has seen a major boost to the confidence of the wider Port Augusta community. This has been reflected in the building of a Big W supermarket, many local businesses expanding, a booming housing market and a multi million dollar foreshore redevelopment. Much of this has been achieved by the work of the City of Port Augusta and other organizations. Port Augusta is well serviced by shops, community facilities, sporting and recreational clubs and venues. The total population is about 15,000 with an increasing number of transient and mobile families. Tourism is becoming an increasing source of income.

Over 4,000 Aboriginal people live either in the town, or in the Davenport Aboriginal Community. Port Augusta, and neighbouring Stirling North, has a total of five primary schools, an R-9 school and an R-12 Catholic school.

- Housing

There is an adequate range of Government employees housing. Applications need to be made on the appropriate form and endorsed by the schools placement officer. Private rental is also available at reasonable rates.

Applications for housing can be lodged through Building Management Accommodation Services [www.rem.sa.gov.au](http://www.rem.sa.gov.au) ⇒ employee housing.