

SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: May 2007

School number: 0793
School name: Quorn Area School

1. General information

Part A

School Name : QUORN AREA SCHOOL
School No : 0793 Courier: North West Country
Principal : Ms Ali Bogle
Postal Address : PO Box 21, Quorn 5433
Location Address : Stokes Road, Quorn 5433
District : Far North
Distance from GPO : 320kms Phone no : 08 86486101
CPC attached : NO Fax no : 08 86486254

	2004	2005	2006	2007
February FTE Enrolment	240.4	237.35	250.6	243.8
Primary				
Special, NAP, Ungraded				
Reception	12	14	18	21
Year 1	28	13	15	20
Year 2	19	26	12	18
Year 3	17	18	25	15
Year 4	20	18	20	29
Year 5	9	20	20	20
Year 6	20	11	22	24
Year 7	20	22	12	21
Secondary				
Special, NAP, Ungraded				
Year 8	21	20	22	14
Year 9	24	20	17	19
Year 10	25	22	17	18
Year 11	14	25	22	12
Year 12	8	12.8	15.79	17
Year 12 plus		0.6	0.82	0
TOTAL	237	242.4	238.61	246
July total FTE Enrolment				
Male FTE	117	123	126	
Female FTE	120	118	107	
School Card Approvals	59	75	71	58
NESB Total (Persons)	Nil	1	1	1
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	35	36	44	51

Part B

- Deputy Principal's name
Gayle Bury
- School e-mail address
info@quornas.sa.edu.au
- Staffing numbers
There are 22 members of the teaching staff (17 female and 5 male) who make up the school's current staffing entitlement.

The school has an allocation of

- Library (0.8)
- Primary Counsellor (0.6)
- Special Needs/ESL (1.0)
- Administration (1.5)

Current Leadership Positions include:

- Principal
- Deputy Principal (with responsibility for Senior School management)
- Coordinator: R – 5
- Coordinator: 6 – 9
- Coordinator: ICT

All members of the leadership team hold responsibilities for curriculum management Years 6 – 12, except for the Junior School coordinator who is responsible for R – 5 Curriculum.

In 2007 the school received an allocation of 164 School Support Officer hours, with an additional 23 hours for the school/community library and 8 hours for Agricultural Grounds. Seven School Support Officers, and a Groundsperson carry out the following duties:

- Administration – clerical and finance
- Classroom support and peripatetic support
- Laboratory assistance and management
- Grounds and agricultural grounds maintenance
- School/Community Library

An Aboriginal Education Worker (1.0) supports the development of programs for Aboriginal students and their families in the school.

- OSHC
Not Provided
- Enrolment trends
Stable in number, however the number of mobile and transient students has increased. The future development of Roxby Downs could impact on future enrolment figures.
- Special arrangements
Quorn Area School managed the Quorn Old School Camp which provides accommodation to school groups visiting the area.
- Year of opening
Quorn Primary School and Quorn High School amalgamated in 1969 to form Quorn Area School on the Quorn High School site.
- Public transport access
A school bus run operates to service a number of students from outlying farms.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics

The school population is co-educational and bi-cultural with approximately 50 Aboriginal students attending. Currently approximately 23% of the students at Quorn are School Card Holders. Enrolment figures show a trend toward increasing numbers of transient and mobile students. The changes to the school population result in significant impact on the school.

The school caters for senior secondary students by providing a combination of Open Access, MNSEC and face to face delivery models and vertical groupings. Senior Secondary students are able to study VET units.

The school caters for adult students, depending on the needs and interests of community members and on flexibility of staffing.

Students with special needs, including hearing and vision impaired, students with specific learning difficulties and students with high intellectual potential are supported and catered for by teaching staff, SSOs and LAP community volunteers. A full time Special Education teacher provides programmed support for NEP students and those with Learning Difficulties.

- (Pastoral) care programs

Morning administration sessions are held daily and a weekly ½ hour Pastoral Care session is timetabled for Social Skill learning.

- Support offered

The Sub School Coordinators, Counsellor and Aboriginal Education team support students R – 12.

- Student management

Students are managed within DECS School discipline guidelines. Policy and processes are communicated to the whole school community. Students participate in developing class rules with their teacher. The Leadership and Aboriginal education teams support teachers in their classroom management and assist them in following through incidents, although teachers are encouraged to maintain ownership of the resolution process.

The process is seen by the school as being an opportunity for the student to develop their social skills and is structured so that learning can take place. Parents are often included in the process. This includes where suspension or exclusion is necessary.

- Student government

The Year 6 – 12 Student Representative Council meets fortnightly. Class meetings are held with two students from each class representing their class on SRC. The SRC reports monthly to Governing Council and has access to the school decision making process through the school's management committee.

A Junior R – 5 SRC also meets regularly. Class meetings occur on a weekly basis, and ideas are fed back to the whole school SRC.

- Special programmes

Reading Recovery/Running Records

Thrass

First Steps Maths

Electives Program R – 11
Pichi Richi Link
Solar Bike Challenge

3. Key School Policies

- Partnerships Plan or Statement of Purpose
Students participate in quality learning experiences, which give them opportunities to achieve their personal best and prepare them to make positive contributions to a changing society.
- Recent key outcomes
Values teaching
HOTS (higher order thinking skills)
Essential Learnings

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
English
Technology
Mathematics
Health and Physical Education (includes Food, Health Studies, Life Skills, Outdoor Education and Physical Education)
Science (including agriculture at some year levels)
The Arts (includes Music, Drama, Dance, Media, Visual Arts depending on staff availability)
Studies of Society and Environment
LOTE has not been offered for some years due to unavailability of staff
- Open Access
The school has duct facilities which are used by students for both Open Access and MNSEC.
- Special needs
Early intervention is a focus for the school.
Middle and Senior School teachers offer support in classrooms R – 5.
- Teaching methodology
Staff present a balanced mix of explicit teaching and methodologies with encourage independent learning.
R – 10 staff plan using SACSA in all Areas of Study. Key Competencies are embedded in learning tasks. Staff members are encouraged to use creative methodologies, and access to Training and Development is actively encouraged and supported by the school.
- Assessment procedures and reporting
Assessment tasks are included in the planning of work units with assessment criteria made explicit to students. Annual data collection for Literacy and Numeracy takes place R – 5.
Parents receive student progress reports through:
 - school or parent initiated interviews
 - portfolios of work/assessment folders
 - written narrative reports
 - grades as required by the national reporting guidelines

- Joint programmes
Senior students access MNSEC for a number of subjects and some staff deliver subjects in specialist areas within the region

5. Sporting Activities

- An intraschool swimming carnival and sports day are held annually. Students participate in most SAPSASA and MNSEC(Mid North Secondary) sport's activities. They have the opportunity to be selected for district teams for the *****SAPSASA District and MNSEC District.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General
Friday afternoon electives R – 11 - all students participate in a variety of activities offered by staff and community members
- Special
Bi-annual Food and Fun Fair
Bi-annual School Concert
Bi-annual Crocfest/Rave
Choir
MNSEC Showcase

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
See 1 Part B. There is a mix of staff members who have chosen to live permanently in the community, and those who have moved temporarily to the town for the duration of their appointment. A few staff members commute from Port Augusta and Wilmington. There is a mix of younger staff, many of whom are in their first permanent teaching appointment and staff with lengthy teaching experience. There is a genuine sense of comraderie and sharing amongst staff members.
- Leadership structure
See 1 Part B: Principal → Deputy Principal → Subschool/Curriculum Coordinators → teachers/Aboriginal Education Worker/Aboriginal Education Teacher/School Support Officers
- Staff support systems
General staff meetings occur each Monday night after school. More specific team meetings are held fortnightly on Tuesdays when school closes ½ hour early. (Junior R – 5, Middle 6 – 9, Senior 10 – 12 Sub Schools) and Curriculum Areas meet twice per term. School Services Officers meet weekly during school time.
- Performance Management
Staff members meet at least once per term with their line manager for formal appraisal, personal reflection and planning purposes. Informal meetings occur on a regular basis.
- Staff utilisation policies
Staff generally work within a sub school although due to the relatively small size of the 6 – 12 school, and staff expertise, some teachers work across the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools.
The use of Middle School methodologies means that Middle School class teachers teach their home group for a number of subjects. The timetable structure provides

for 2 or 3 teachers to manage students across two year levels on the same subject line. This allows flexibility of methodology, class groupings and the opportunity for students to experience a wide range of subjects.

- Access to special staff
DECS services are accessed as needed
Flinders District Office in Port Pirie provides a number of specialist services

8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Complexity placement points
:0.0
- Isolation placement points
:2.0
- Travelling time
:4 hours by car from Adelaide
½ hour by car from Port Augusta
- Housing assistance
:Six Office of Government employess houses are located in the town of Quorn. These are all available to teaching staff for subsidised rental. Staff needs dictate what OGEH accommodation is available. If OGEH owned houses are not available, they will lease a private house which is sub leased to staff. One OGEH house is an old stone building, semi-detached to the Quorn Kindergarten. It has four bedrooms. The other 5 houses are all modern three bedroom brick dwellings. All houses are fully fenced with garages. Single teachers can choose to share, which makes housing more affordable.
Private rental is also available. Some members of staff choose to commute from Port Augusta, where an extensive variety of OGEH housing is available.
Private housing in Quorn is generally of an older, stone variety, which reflects the historic character of the town, although newer houses are sometimes available for purchase. Prices compare vary favourably with city prices.
- Cooling for school buildings
:Refer to School Facilities section below
- Cash in lieu of removal allowance
As per non-metro award
- Additional increment allowance
As per non-metro award
- Designated schools benefits
Not applicable
- Aboriginal/Anangu schools
Not applicable
- Medical and dental treatment expenses
The Non-Metropolitan award applies to Quorn Area School. Travel and an accommodation allowance is provided for staff who need to travel to a larger centre for treatment. The allowance does not apply if the same service is available locally.
- Locality allowances
Minimal
- Relocation assistance
All information relating to relocation is available from the DECS website in the Relocation Information Booklet.

- Principal's telephone costs
Rental and charges are paid by DECS

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
The school is a mix of solid stone, new brick, weatherboard, transportable and demac buildings. The buildings are comfortable and well appointed, with carpet in most areas.
- Cooling
All buildings (with the exception of the gymnasium) are air conditioned.
- Specialist facilities
School/community gymnasium
School/community library
Home Economics
Technical Studies
Agricultural facilities
Two computing rooms
Art
Science
Music
DUCT room for Open Access
Special Needs/SSO room
R – 5 Activity Room
- Student facilities
Canteen
Year 11/12 Common Room
- Staff facilities
Staffroom with quality kitchen facilities
Access to computers and internet
Colour printer and photocopier
Offices/preparation areas close to main teaching area
- Access for students and staff with disabilities
Wheelchair ramps to Science, Technical Studies
All school buildings on ground floor level (3 step maximum)
New Disabled Toilet commissioned beginning 2007
- Access to bus transport
One DECS approved 23 seater Toyota Coaster bus in available for excursion hire during school hours
One privately owned 23 seater Toyota Coaster bus available for hire during or after school hours (is used on a school bus route)
One 12 seater community bus with wheelchair access available for hire
All local bus hire is at reasonable costs. Larger bus services can be contracted though Port Augusta, Whyalla or Port Pirie.
- Other
The school has access to community swimming pool, tennis courts, netball courts and bowling greens which are across the road from the school. A community golf course is located a ten minute walk from the school.

Quorn School manages the Quorn Old School Camp, which provides dormitory accommodation for 40 people, and is hired out to other schools and groups for minimal cost.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
 - The Governing Council and Finance Committee meet on the first Wednesday of every month. These committees are very active in supporting development within the school.
 - Staff use democratic decision making processes, with discussion and decision making occurring at regular whole staff or team meetings as appropriate.
- Regular publications
 - Quorn Area School newsletter is published and distributed fortnightly.
 - Quorn Area School Family Handbook is provided to new families when students are enrolled.
 - Sub schools publish handbooks with level specific information for students and parents
 - Staff receive an updated Policy and Procedural Folder at the beginning of each school year.
 - A bulletin book is kept. Each staff member receives a copy daily.
 - Notices which are urgent or not in the bulletin book are written on a whiteboard in the staffroom.
- Other communication
 - Notices are posted in the entrance foyer
 - Staff information is posted in the staffroom
 - Email is used regularly to disseminate information
- School financial position
 - :The school seeks funding through grants and fundraising activities to support school initiatives. This enables the school to actively continue program, curriculum and facility developments within a defined plan. Currently school priorities are Grounds and Health and Well Being initiatives.
- Special funding
 - Country Areas Programs
 - Disadvantaged Schools' Program
 - Healthy Schools Grant

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
 - Quorn is a rural community of 1200 in the Flinders Ranges, located 40kms from Pt Augusta, Quorn's major service centre. Limited opportunities for employment exist in Quorn, and many residents commute to Pt Augusta for work. The recent growth at Roxby Downs has seen some parents commuting to Roxby in rotating shifts. Local employment includes farming, local government, education, health services, mineral processing and small business, with an increasing interest in tourism.
 - The population of Quorn is made up of farm and non-farm residents. These include long-term residents, and increasing number of transient and mobile families (who move for employment or housing) and a significant Aboriginal population who have cultural and family ties with the area.

The school population is predominantly bi-cultural with Aboriginal students making up 20 – 25% of the total school population of which 40% are School Card holders. The school receives funding under the Commonwealth Literacy Program (CLP), Disadvantage Schools Program (DSP) and Country Areas Program (CAP). Traditionally a small percentage of students move away from the town to other educational providers (usually private, metropolitan). However, because of the changing economic construct of the town, an increasing number of students may remain at Quorn to complete their secondary education.

Wide opportunities exist to be involved in the community through service or sporting groups and organisations.

- Parent and community involvement
Quorn Area School is an integral part of the Quorn community. It actively seeks to support community activities, and is well supported by the community. Parents and community members work within the school supporting classroom activities, electives, spelling and fruit program and transporting students for excursions and sport.
Parent membership on school committees such as Governing Council is strong. The Parents and Friends group has been identified as requiring invigoration, after a lapse in its activities.
- Feeder schools
Quorn Area School is the only school in this community and a well developed transition program exists with the Quorn Kindergarten.
- Other local care and educational facilities
Quorn Kindergarten
Family Day Care Play Group
TAFE in Port Augusta
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Shops within the community provide all items needed for day to day living. Likewise, all general services (council, electrical, banking, car maintenance, plumbing etc) are available within the community.
All other shopping and services are available at Port Augusta, a 40km drive away.
- Other local facilities
Resident doctor
Quorn Hospital
Flinders House Aged Care facility
A police officer is stationed in the town
- Availability of staff housing
See Section 8 – Housing Assistance
- Accessibility
Quorn is serviced by a well developed road network and is a gateway to the Flinders Ranges. Daily week day flights and bus services connect Port Augusta and Adelaide.
- Local Government body
The Flinders Ranges Council covers the Quorn and Hawker townships and surrounding country areas. All Council services are provided.
The Flinders Ranges Council is located at:
Seventh Street
Quorn 5433
Phone: 8648 6031

Fax: 8648 6254

12. Further Comments

- Quorn Area School is located in a very picturesque and historic location, with the opportunity to pursue varied outdoor activities. Opportunities abound for camping, mountain biking and bushwalking adventures.
- Quorn is a continually developing tourist destination which is visited regularly by intrastate, interstate and international tourists. The Pichi Richi Historical Rail Society is based in Quorn and there is the opportunity to be involved with the organisation and Pichi Richi steam train rides.