SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 05/2015

School number: 1123
School name: Karcultaby Area School and Pre-school

1. General information

Part A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schoolname</th>
<th>KARCULTABY AREA SCHOOL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School No.</td>
<td>1123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Mr David Elson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal Address</td>
<td>PMB 9, Minnipa 5654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location Address</td>
<td>Karcultaby 5654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnership</td>
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<td>Distance from GPO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preschool attached</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courier</td>
<td>Karcultaby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone No.</td>
<td>08 86263077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax No.</td>
<td>08 86263009</td>
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February FTE Enrolment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<td>Kindy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
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<td>11.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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TOTAL (Primay and secondary) 68.0 66.0 65.4 67.1

School Card Approvals (Persons) 16 7 10 13
NESB Total (Persons) 1 1 1 1
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment 0 2 2 2

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

- Website address
  www.karcultas.sa.edu.au

- School email address
  dl.1123.info@schools.sa.edu.au

- Staffing numbers
  : Principal, 1 coordinator plus 6.5 school teachers, 0.6 preschool teacher & 1 full time and 6 part time SSO staff. The school has a groundperson working 32 hrs/week.

- Enrolment trends

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>65.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>67.1</td>
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- Year of opening
  : Karcultaby Area School opened in 1977 as a result of amalgamation of the Minnipa Area School and Poochera Special Rural. The school is not located in a town, it is located in a 300 acre section of farmland. A school based preschool started at the school in 2002.

- Karcultaby Area School is member of the DECD Far West Partnership Group. Partnership schools include Ceduna, Miltaburra and Streaky Bay Area Schools, Penong, Koonibba and Port Kenny Primary Schools and the associated town preschools and children centres.

- Public transport access
  : There is no local public transport. Stateliner bus services stop at Minnipa and Poochera but recent timetable changes have seen the loss of the daily service to and from Adelaide. The service is now less frequent and only operates in daylight hours.

- OSHC
  : Nil

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
  : Approximately 69% of the students are in the primary section (R-6) and 31% are secondary (yr 7-9). Classes in primary are vertically grouped. A middle school (year 7-9) began in 2001.
  
  Primary classes operating in 2015 are
  
  Year R/1 = 14 students
  Year 2/3 = 10 students
Year 4/5/6 = 15 students
At the secondary level the Year 7/8 group works as a class and as the years go up various groupings occur to meet curriculum needs and subject selections.
In 2015 the first year of single intake into the Reception occurred.

- (Pastoral) care programs
  At the secondary level there are specific programmes organised for pastoral care. These provide time for programmes such as Shine SA lessons, Child Protection Curriculum, career development etc.

- Support offered
  Because of the isolated nature of the school there is limited access to external support in career and general counselling for students. This is managed within the school by staff with the assistance of other external support personnel.
  There is a strong peer network of teacher support between the adjoining schools.

- Student behaviour support
  Student behaviour is good with generally high motivation by students and parents. Behaviour Management is in line with DECD policy but because incidents of poor behaviour are rare, staff enjoy the opportunity to facilitate learning programmes to an optimum level. Parental support for the school is good, however, because of the school's location, few parents incidentally drop in to visit classrooms.

- Student leadership
  There is a Student Action Team (SAT) for years 7-12. The student team meets to consider school and social matters. The SAT is represented on sub-committees of Governing Council and it has access to staff and the principal, as do all students. Student leaders participate in the Eyre Peninsula student leaders group.

- Learning support
  Students' learning is supported through the use of ancillary staff and if volunteers are available a LAP programme. The school does convert staffing time to SSO support in an attempt to improve learning outcomes in the early years. Where possible intervention support is provided.

- School buses
  Four school buses service the school. They are Mt Damper, Chilpuddie, Chandada and Cungen. Buses arrive about 8:45am and leave at 3:30pm.
  All bar children who live in the house next to the school come to school in school buses.
3. **Key School Policies**

**Our Mission**

The aim of Karcultaby Area School is to provide a safe, supportive and caring learning environment fostered through engagement, participation and a success orientated culture.

**Our Values**

*Respect, honesty and caring*

**Our Core business is supported by:**

- Supportive behaviour management processes
- Financial management that reflects the schools priorities
- To make ICT important across all curriculum areas, encouraging students, educators and the wider community in using ICT as a tool for life.
- To provide a dynamic learning environment where student input is valued, with a particular focus on Literacy and Numeracy.
- To establish working links with in the community which cultivate pride & respect for the environment.

The major focus areas are:

- academic rigour
- raising standards in Literacy and Numeracy
- increasing student involvement
- student initiated learning

These will be achieved through very close community links and using a variety of human resources and expertise. Students will be provided with opportunities to fulfil their future directions and aspirations.

4. **Curriculum**

- **Subject offerings**

  - A broad curriculum in line with SACSA/ moving to the Australian Curriculum in 2012 and beyond
  - Where secondary teaching expertise is not available and students need alternative subjects the Open Access College curriculum is accessed.
  - Some subjects are delivered and received via local delivery.
  - Vet is a critical pathway for a number of students. (school based apprenticeships, traineeships etc)

- **LOTE (Language other than English)**
The school has Spanish as a LOTE. Spanish is delivered to us by an Open Access teacher currently based at Streaky Bay Area School.

- **Special needs**
  - There is support for students with special needs from SSO support in the classroom and withdrawal situations,

- **Special curriculum features**
  - The school has an Agricultural Science focus, and is well set up for this, having 400 acres of land.

- **Teaching methodology**
  - From 2015 TFEL has provided a platform for improving teaching practice. In 2015 the Far West Partnership has also had a particular drive towards developing ‘Intellectual Stretch’
  
  The curriculum offered aims to take into account the wide range of abilities of our students and is therefore varied. There is an emphasis on student Initiated Learning, negotiated curriculum and establishment of achievable goals with student input through contracts. The middle school is endeavouring to take an integrated constructivist approach to all learning.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting**
  - Secondary parents receive written assessment reports twice a semester. Primary classes (R-6) have formal assessments twice a year supported by parent interviews.
  
  All reports are made against the SACSA/Australian Curriculum outcomes or standards.
  
  Preschool parents are issued with a report at the end of their preschool years as well as receiving learning profiles termly.

- **Joint programmes**
  - The preschool was integrated into the school in 2002. (Previously Minnipa and Poochera had Play Centres)

5. **Sporting Activities**

  - Sport plays an important part in the local community and this is reflected in student commitment to sport and general behaviour. Individuals and clubs support students well in their sporting aspirations, and the school is involved in intra school and inter school swimming and athletic competitions, as well as SAPSASA, WASSAC and the Sun Smart Games.

6. **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

  - **General**
    
    - The school hosts the Eyre Peninsula Cross-Country event at Tcharkuldu Rock near Minnipa annually. This event won a National Heart Foundation
Award in 2000 for the best Physical Activity category and was also recognised by a SA Great Award in 2006.
The 2016 Tcharkuldu Cross Country event will be the 40th consecutive time the event will be run.

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

- **Staff profile**
  : Staffing tends to be relatively stable. Staff often travel to school in car pools as only 1 teaching staff member lives on site.

- **Leadership structure**
  : Management centres on a principal and one coordinator position. There is currently a Teaching and Learning Coordinator. These roles reviewed annually.

  Staff support systems
  : Staff participation in decision making has a top priority. This is reflected in a cooperative group working for improved student outcomes with individuality respected and encouraged.

- **Staff utilisation policies**
  : Teaching staff are well supported by the ancillary staff in administration and class room fields. The groundsperson maintains the extensive grounds and attends to minor maintenance and some facility repairs.

- **Access to special staff**
  : A music teacher attends weekly and the music programme is also supported by parent and community member involvement.

- **Performance Management**
  : A system of performance management is in line with the department policy. Line management is provided by the Principal, Coordinators and the Librarian.

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

- **Isolation placement points**
  : 5.0

- **Shorter terms**
  : Karcultaby Area School dismisses one day earlier than most schools in Term 4.

- **Travelling time**
  : Karcultaby is 6 hours from Adelaide, 2½ hours from Port Lincoln 3 hours from Whyalla, 90 minutes from Ceduna, 40 minutes from Wudinna
- Housing assistance
  : Rental assistance is offered to teaching staff by the government through subsidised Government Employee Housing. (about 10% less than market rental)

- Cooling for school buildings
  : The main teaching and administration blocks are serviced by an airconditioning cooling/heating system.

- Country Incentives
  Teaching staff at Karcultaby are eligible for a cash based Country Incentive Allowance. This starts at a base level and increases each year until the end of the 5th year when it ceases.

- Medical and dental treatment expenses
  : Under the Teachers Non-Metropolitan Award, travel and accommodation may be claimed by staff for specific specialist medical and dental treatment for themselves and their families.

- Locality allowances
  : Locality allowance is paid by the South Australian Government but no claim may be made on the taxation department.

- Relocation assistance
  : Available for teaching and leadership staff

- Principal’s telephone costs
  : Telephone rental repayment is made by DECD.

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  : The school is an open space school including a school, kindergarten & community library.
  The buildings have fibro asbestos walls and floors. This does provide challenges with regards to maintenance and structural work.

- Specialist facilities
  : Administration, class, activity, change rooms and toilets are all connected by covered walkways and the whole unit surrounded by a wide verandah and extra pergola areas. This coupled with the reverse cycle air-conditioning makes for comfortable working and leisure activities despite the weather.
  The grounds are heavily treed and further tree planting around the 400 acre site is an ongoing process. There is a large well grassed and appointed oval and a number of other grassed playing and leisure areas around the building.
  The school has a swimming pool, netball/basketball/tennis courts and cricket nets. Cricket nets are utilised by the Western Districts Cricket Club
during the cricket season. A user agreement is signed annually with the club.

A restoration area reflecting the history of the area and including the original Karcultaby school building and a fully functional blacksmith shop is a feature of the grounds. Lack of external funding has meant this section of the school is deteriorating.

The restoration of an old railway tank provides recycled grey water for playing fields and gardens.

The school Home Economics room was upgraded as a part of the Federal BER (Building an Education Revolution).

The school has a School/Community library which attract 20 hours of Community Library SSO time.

- **Student facilities**
  - Student and staff facilities include withdrawal and staff work rooms, computer rooms for primary and secondary areas, technical studies and home economics centres and a distance education room. A meeting room has been established and furnished with meeting table and various cupboards for storage of equipment. The year 11/12s are privy to a common room for break time use.

- **Staff facilities**
  - There is a spacious staff room and large welcoming administration area. There are two courtyards offering secluded study/work areas and a large activity room connected to change rooms with all personal hygiene facilities. Adjacent to the school are four large paddocks used for agriculture studies that are cropped annually by the Governing Council for raising funds. Further afield, but within the school grounds is a large area of natural scrub, valuable for interest, conservation and outdoor education.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**
  - The immediate school area is generally flat. Provision has been made for access to all areas by people with disabilities.

- **Access to school bus transport**
  - Currently, apart from children of staff, all students arrive by school bus. The two residences on site are currently occupied by a caretaker and a teacher. School and private contractor buses are available for excursions.

### 10. School Operations

- **Decision making structures**
  - Most decisions are made in consultation with staff, students and parents, and committees have been established to ensure the decision making policy guidelines are followed. Governing Council has several specialist sub committees. They meet each term and staff and students are represented. Staff weekly and involve information sharing, decision making and professional development. Management and faculty meetings also
take place regularly. School planning is circulated to all staff and parents, and is monitored and reviewed. A term plan is located in the staff room and staff are kept informed of daily activities through this.

- Regular publications
  : A weekly newsletter/Community Information publication is distributed to community members and local schools. A school magazine is produced towards the end of each year.

- Other communication
  : An atmosphere is fostered to welcome parental, student and community involvement.

  All meeting minutes are held in a file cupboard in the staffroom for quick access.

- School financial position
  : Funding of school programmes is a constant issue with budgeting priorities having to be made and reviewed regularly. Most operations are funded from the global budget and fundraising activities. The Governing Council crops the 400 acres of farm land owned by the school. They then financially support the agriculture programme budget as well as maintain plant and machinery used for school grounds.

- Special funding
  : The school receives Rural and Isolated Index funding to help overcome the educational disadvantages that arise as a result of our isolation. Funds are used to subsidise school camps, local travel and items such as visiting artists.

11. Local Community

- General characteristics
  : The community in which Karcultaby Area School exists is generally very conservative holding high traditional family, religious and sporting values.

- Parent and community involvement
  : This is evident through student behaviour and parental/community support. School is a focal point for the community that is primarily agricultural or related to that industry, and much community activity centres on the school and its children. Some parents help regularly within the school on canteen rosters or in classrooms.

- Feeder schools
  : The school is situated midway between the towns of Minnipa and Poochera and students come by bus from these towns and outlying farms.

- Other local care and educational facilities
  : There presently exists a playgroup which operates fortnightly. Limited private childcare is available. There is access to Family Day Care providers in Minnipa. TAFE offices are located in Wudinna (56kms from the school)
• Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  : There are facilities in Minnipa such as a supermarket and hotel. The nearby towns of Wudinna and Streaky Bay both have good shopping facilities.

Other local facilities
: For medical or other specialised needs Wudinna or Streaky Bay are service centres, while Port Lincoln or Whyalla are the major centres for the area with Ceduna also taking an important role. The isolated nature of the school has advantages with implications for student behaviour, but disadvantages where after hours school centred activities are concerned.

Local Churches - Catholic and Uniting and Anglican Church services are held at Minnipa and Poochera on a weekly basis. Other church denomination services are held regularly in nearby towns.

Sporting Facilities within the townships of Minnipa and Poochera include a swimming pool, football and cricket ovals, netball, tennis, and basketball courts, lawn bowling greens and a golf course. A table tennis competition operates in the Minnipa hall during winter.

• Availability of staff housing
  : Government Housing is available for the Principal and staff either in Minnipa or at the school. Private local rental is also available.

• Local Government body
  : Karcultaby School sits on the border between the Streaky Bay District Council and the Wudinna District Council. The road next to the school forms the Council boundary. (Streaky Bay District Council, 29 Alfred Tce, Streaky Bay 5680, 8626 1001. Wudinna District Council, Burton Tce, Wudinna 5652, 8680 2002.) Both Councils share joint funding responsibility for the Karcultaby Community Library. The Councils have also provided support for the school with the provision of machinery for various projects that have been undertaken on site.

12. Further Comments

: Karcultaby Area School offers a safe and caring learning environment for both students and staff. It is located in a community of hard working people anxious that their children achieve the best possible education and, who are prepared to give support and make sacrifices to that end. The school sits in rolling farm country dotted with patches of untouched original Eyre Peninsula mallee scrub between the spectacular West Coast and the unspoilt Gawler Ranges. The district offers a wide range of leisure activities including fishing, swimming, surfing, sailing, camping, exploring, and rock climbing. Living in the area offers a pleasant lifestyle in unspoilt surroundings around the Gawler Ranges and the granite outcrops of Pildappa, Ucontitchie and Tcharkuldu. The area is rich in history, tradition and leisure.