



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/17

**School Name:** Barmera Primary School

**School Number:** 0506

## 1. General Information

### Part A

School Name	: BARMERA PRIMARY SCHOOL	Courier	: Barmera
School No.	: 0506		
Principal	: Ms Natasha Hefford		
Postal Address	: 1 Rumbold Drive, Barmera 5345		
Location Address	: 1 Rumbold Drive, Barmera 5345		
District	: Riverland 18		
Distance from GPO	: 220 kms	Phone No.	: 08 85882198
CPC attached	: NO	Fax No.	: 08 85883008

	2014	2015	2016	2017
February FTE Enrolment				
Primary				
Reception	44	31	28	20
Year1	24	45	32	35
Year2	31	26	41	31
Year3	24	32	25	40
Year4	32	26	32	27
Year5	34	30	24	28
Year6	29	34	29	25
Year7	31	33	33	34
TOTAL	246	257	244	240
School Card Approvals (Persons)	124	121	110	93
NESB Total (Persons)	63	11	38	40
Aboriginal FTE Enrolment	37	34	32	37

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

- Deputy Principal's name  
: Ruth Pfeiler
- School e-mail address  
: [dl.0506.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0506.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Staffing numbers  
: Total teachers – 14 female and 3 male (17 staff):  
1 Student counsellor female: 1.0 time  
1 Teacher-Librarian Female: 1.0 time  
1 Reading teacher/Intervention: 0.2  
11 female SSOs and 4 male SSOs – 1 \* Finance, 1\* Front Office,  
1\*IT/Admin support  
ACEO – Female  
One Grounds person – male 23 hours/week  
Pastoral Care Worker – female – 18 hours/week
- OSHC  
: OSHC consists of  
After school care  
Vac care for primary school aged children.
- Enrolment trends  
: Numbers have fluctuated over the last three years. Current (2017) enrolments at 241.
- Year of opening  
: The “new” Barmera Primary School opened in December of 1981.
- Public transport access  
: The school bus was removed from Barmera Primary at the end of 2011 and reinstated in 2014.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics  
Category 2 disadvantaged school. 37 Indigenous students (12.6%), 25 Special Education (9.9%), 33 EALD (17%), 96 on school card (38%).
- Pastoral care programs  
School Counsellor 1.0, supported by ACEO and Indigenous mentor. An intensive leadership program is conducted for all year 7 students.

- **Student management**

A well-developed and consistently implemented student behaviour management plan exists. This is implemented by all staff, Behaviour Management Team and School Counsellor. The school established a positive student management program during 2004 and has continually reviewed this.

A “No Hat, No Play” policy is enforced during terms 1 and 4.

The wearing of our school uniform is strongly encouraged and followed by most families.
- **Student government**

The SRC is strong with two representatives from each class meeting fortnightly. 2 teachers co-ordinate the S.R.C. The SRC meet with the Principal as needed. The SRC run fundraisers for one state and one local charity. They also organize some lunch time activities and education programs e.g.: recycling.

Students apply to be on the Student Ambassadors team – these older students are on duty at lunch and recess times to assist mainly smaller children with play involvement and other social aspects of their day.
- **Special programmes**

WRAP spelling program operates across the school R-7. This program runs along with Accelerated Literacy in Junior Primary.

Well-structured Special Ed Program supports all NEP students.

All students have an IEP (Individual Learning Plan).

LAP programme operates with parent volunteers.

Teaching staff have formed “buddy” classes. These are generally a junior class with a higher-grade class.

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

#### 1. Mission Statement:

*Our mission is to educate, inspire, nurture and assist all children to value and respect differences and achieve their full potential*

#### 2. Our values:

- a. *Friendship*
- b. *Positive Social Skills*
- c. *Feeling safe*
- d. *Continuous Learning and Improvement*
- e. *Respect*

#### 3: Site Improvement Plan:

*Literacy – Reading Comprehension*

## **4. Curriculum**

- **Special needs**

Students on Personalised Learning Support Plans are supported through the provision of SSO time, targeted intervention and Special Education intervention
- **Special curriculum features**

English and mathematics are central to all learning at Barmera Primary School.

Special curriculum offerings include instrumental music (flute, clarinet, trumpet, piano, and guitar), choir, and computer education.

A computer room, upgraded in 2011, is established within the school. Another learning bank exists in the Resource Centre. There are a number of computers strategically placed around the school. 49 curriculum computers are connected to one file server. Another 31 computers are for staff use.

Classes can access class sets of Ipads .

The school also has a well-equipped resource area, which includes the library. This is made available for students before school and during lunch. All classrooms are equipped with Interactive Whiteboards.

The Specialist Environmental program is a nationally recognised aspects of Barmera Primary School – involving many activities, the most significant being the annual award winning Kids teaching Kids Expo.
- **Assessment procedures and reporting**

Interviews are held in terms 1 and 3 with written reports going home in terms 2 and 4. An acquaintance night or Teacher information sessions are held early in the year.

Individual Student Learning Plans are developed for every student and form the basis of agreed goal setting between the student, parent and teacher.

Students who wish to are encouraged to enter the University of New South Wales Mathematics, English, Science, Computing skills and Writing competitions.

Students in grades 3, 5 and 7 complete the NAPLAN testing every year.
- **Joint programmes**

Links with local schools are strong. The Barmera Primary School operates within the Berri Barmera Partnership of schools which includes , Cobdogla, Glossop, Berri and Monash Primary Schools ;

Barmera, Berri and Monash Preschools, Riverland Special School and Glossop High School.

## 5. Sporting Activities

SAPSASA participation is encouraged and is strong. There are excellent facilities at school and local sporting involvement is encouraged. Well-attended coaching sessions and games conducted in and out of school hours in a wide variety of sports. Students in junior and middle primary classes attend swimming lessons at Berri Pool whilst upper primary students take courses at nearby Barmera Aquatic Centre as an integral part of the school curriculum. An annual Sports Day with lead-up practice is held and well attended by members of the wider community.

The Activity Hall is a centrepiece for many sporting activities. Refurbishment of the hall under the BER (Building Education Revolution) has considerably upgraded these facilities.

Our grounds are well maintained by our Groundsstaff, providing excellent safe spaces for the various sporting activities children participate in.

## 6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

- General

Involvement in the Festival of Music Combined Primary Schools Choir has been an annual event.

Our Christmas Assembly is a feature of the school calendar- a celebration of the whole school year.

A strong outdoor education programme exists with camps encouraged for students in Years 4 and above as well as overnight excursions and/or sleepovers for younger students.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

Some staff members have served in excess of 10 years at this school, while others are new to the school providing a healthy mix of expertise and new ideas.

All staff are encouraged to attend relevant professional development linked to our Site Progress Plan or their own Professional goals.

- Leadership structure

Principal, Deputy, Student Counsellor form the core of the leadership team.

Additional to this is a Management group which includes the leadership team plus a representative from each teaching unit and an SSO that meet fortnightly.

The PAC is also an extremely active body focussing on staff and their welfare. They meet fortnightly

- Staff support systems  
Staff combine in 4 Unit groups for professional development and support. Unit and year level meetings are held through each term.
- Performance Management  
Ongoing discussion with staff in accordance with the guidelines of the DECD policy.  
All staff are expected to use a Personal Portfolio that includes AiTSL (Australian Teacher) professional standards.
- Staff utilisation policies  
Non-Instructional Time is currently provided in the form of Health and Physical Education and Science specialist subjects.  
An award winning environmental program runs throughout the school .  
Student Welfare team, headed by the student counsellor includes ACEO, Pastoral Support Worker .

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

- Housing assistance  
A limited amount of Government housing is available in Barmera with more available in Berri (14 kms).
- Cooling and heating for school buildings  
School Air Conditioned – split systems – including the hall/ gymnasium..
- Medical and dental treatment expenses  
Staff are eligible for reimbursement of certain travel and accommodation expenses incurred when obtaining medical or dental assistance if unable to access specialised treatment locally. Time is also allowed for necessary absence from duty.

## **9. School Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds  
The school is located on very attractive grounds of some 9 1/4 hectares including a large oval. It consists of the following excellent facilities: 4 hexagonal brick buildings each with 4 teaching spaces, a wet area, withdrawal room, teacher preparation room and student toilets. Each unit is colour coded ie. Red, Yellow (also has shower facilities), Blue

and Orange. 1 hexagonal brick building with a large resource centre, music/meeting room and a canteen, 1 hexagonal brick building containing a large staffroom, offices for Principal, Deputy Principal and Counsellor's room, a printing room, toilets and a shower. 1 large brick activity hall (upgraded in 2011), 17.2m x 11.5m with storage areas and a toilet for handicapped persons. 1 double wooden portable classroom used mainly for Science, Music and Technology and OSHC. All units are air-conditioned. A teaching space is set up for each of the following: Health and PE, Educational Computing (upgraded in 2011), Literacy and student welfare team.

- **Specialist facilities**

All classrooms have an electronic white board.

The computer room accomadates a full class

Gymnasium /Activity Hall is very well equipped and used for a diversity of activities.

Tennis courts were resurfaced in 2002.

A science room with numerous resources exists.

A well stocked resource centre exists.

A large school oval is used by outside groups.

The school has incorporated a pond, greenhouse, worm farm and aviary into an Environmental Learning Centre. A chicken coop will be placed in the school during 2011.

- **Student facilities**

Healthy food Canteen operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with a wide range of offerings (Tuesday after a Monday holiday).

Fresh fruit platters are supplied, free, to all classrooms on Tuesday and Thursday.

- **Staff facilities**

Internet access is available throughout the school.

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

All buildings except the double wooden transportable are at ground level. A toilet for handicapped persons is located centrally.

- **Out of School Hours Care**

We operate this care service after school & are currently investgating a before school servie as well.

## **10. School Operations**

- **Decision making structures**

Decision-making is democratic through Staff Meetings, Management Meetings, Unit Meetings, Year Level Meetings, SRC, Class Meetings,

OHS&W committee, Governing Council and associated subcommittees: Education, Uniform, Grounds, Fundraising, Finance, Canteen and Traffic Safety.

- Regular publications

School Newsletter is distributed weekly in hand copy and electronically and some classes have regular Newsletters.

A weekly staff bulletin is issued to all staff on Fridays.

The school Facebook page promotes activities and school publications to the community and beyond.

Many classes communicate with families using the Class DOJO online system.
- Other communication

A yearly Planner is used in the Staffroom along with a Staff Day Book.

All units have a phone system for both external and internal calls.
- School financial position

The school is in a reasonable financial position. It is well resourced with the active Fundraising committee generally quick to support new student focussed initiatives.
- Special funding

Category 2 disadvantage School.

## 11. Local Community

- General characteristics

Barmera is located in the Riverland, 220 kms from the Adelaide GPO. It has a population of approximately 4500 people. The town provides private and public hospital facilities, as well as dental and aged care. Within the Riverland there are some resident medical specialists as well as visiting specialist.

Past droughts, water allocation and high levels of the river in 2011 have had an adverse affect on the Riverland Community

The Barmera School Community consists mainly of fruitgrowers, people in small business and people associated with the tourist industry. Students with a Greek background form the majority of students from non-English speaking backgrounds.

School rooms are used for a number of meetings run by local organisations and school grounds are used for sporting events. The activity hall is used for a variety of activities including netball, basketball, volleyball, karate and taekwondo.
- Parent and community involvement

The school supports the Barmera Community through Clean up Australia Day, Salinity monitoring, use of the school's facilities, part of Barmera Action Group etc. The school encourages an "open door" policy towards parents and their involvement within the school.



Volunteers take on many roles within the school with reading, fresh fruit program etc.

- **Feeder schools**

Most enrolling students come from the Barmera Kindergarten (1 km) whilst virtually all students travel by bus to Glossop High School (7 kms) for secondary studies. A senior campus and TAFE operates at Berri.
- **Other local care and educational facilities**

Glossop High school middle campus is located at Glossop (years 8 to 10). The senior campus (year 11 and 12) is located at Berri

The OSHC is located at Barmera Primary School and is the only care facility in Barmera
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

Sporting, cultural and shopping activities are well catered for. Nearby centres include Berri, Renmark, Loxton and Waikerie.
- **Other local facilities**

Many activities revolve around Lake Bonney, the Recreation Centre, churches and sporting clubs.
- **Availability of staff housing**

OGEH accommodation exists in Barmera along with private alternatives.
- **Accessibility**

There is no local public transport. Stateliner Bus Company operates between the Riverland, Adelaide and Mildura. There is a local taxi company as well as the Hospital community transport scheme.
- **Local Government body**

The District Council of Berri-Barmera operates as an amalgamated Council with main offices in Berri.

## **12. Further Comments**

- **Environmental Issues**

The school is extremely active in Environmental programmes, including Waterwatch, Clean-Up Australia Day, Salinity monitoring. Special Forever, Salinity monitoring, Congress Convention, etc.
- **Barmera Primary School conducts an annual leadership camp in term 1 in conjunction with these cluster schools, role modelling, taking responsibility and develops transition familiarity for year 8.**