school context statement

School Name: Owen Primary School
School Number: 0325

1. General Information

Part A

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<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>57</td>
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**July Total FTE Enrolment**

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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

- **Staffing:**
  1 Principal.
  4 FTE teachers.

- **Staffing Ancillary:**
  There are four SSOs currently employed at the school. The current configuration is:
  - SSO Level 1 - library / classroom support.
  - SSO Level 1 - SWD classroom support.
  - SSO Level 2 - Admin / finance.
  - Grounds person - 4.5 hours.

- **Enrolments**
  Has been stable between 60 and 80 students. Transience is currently minimal. Predicted stability over the next few years.

- **Year of opening**

**Contextual Influences**
Established in 1883, Owen is a small R-7 school, situated in the Owen rural community in the centre of a grain growing area in South Australia’s mid north. The school is well placed in terms of facilities and resources.

The school population derives from a diverse range of socio-economic backgrounds and influences. Despite being a small rural settlement with silos reinforcing the skyline, the town in recent times has become popular with commuters due to its relaxed and casual rural living, while still being in close proximity to Adelaide. Students live either in Owen or come from outlying rural properties and homes via one school bus service.

The school and its community are impacted by:
- Changing rural economics and rationalisation
- Local business activity
- A strong and proud tradition of local identity, allegiance and independence
- Relatively stable enrolment patterns, enhanced by healthy enrolments in the Play centre
- Consistent staff targets supported by local management and governance.
- Secondary education and regional shopping services being provided at Balaklava [20 kms from Owen]

The school has a strong focus on Literacy with a large portion of each year’s budget used to purchase up-to-date resources, additional staffing to support Literacy in the classroom and an Intervention programme plus high quality training and development for staff.

The school strives for continuous improvement in service and performance, whilst being accountable, responsive, innovative and competitive in order to raise standards. A high level of monitoring and reporting of children’s development and achievement supports this process. There is strong parent interest in, and support of all aspects of school life at Owen.

2. **Students (and their welfare)**
   - **General characteristics**
     Owen has a student population of 67 students. Approximately 30% are school card.
     Some families have lived in the district for several generations, others have moved to district for various reasons (eg ‘hobby farms’, employment in poultry industry) and stayed for a long period. A small percentage of transience has been present during the last few years.
   - **Pastoral Care**
The school has a culture of caring for each other. Staff respond to students’ needs in a respectful and restorative way.

- **Support offered**  
  SSO support is provided to all classes on a daily basis to help students in Literacy and Numeracy.  
  Governing Council approves expenditure for extra teaching and SSO support.  
  District Office provides specialist support through support services (consultancy).

- **Student management**  
  Students are generally well behaved. Students care for each other and show pride in their school. New students are generally accepted into the peer group.  
  An Anti-bullying process, including grievance procedure is active.

- **Student voice**  
  The Student Representative Council (SRC) plays an important role at Owen Primary School. The SRC openly encourage and acknowledge positive behaviour through weekly awards. Students also fundraise and act as leaders in the school.  
  Students have a grievance procedure that is continually reinforced.

- **Special programmes**  
  An intervention programme operates each morning from 9am to 11am. A teacher works with individuals and small groups using a range of resources including the Multilit Programme. SSOs support intervention through class support, rainbow Reading, Lexile Reading Programme and individual support.  
  Each morning from 9am to 11am the school has an uninterrupted Literacy block. All classes engage in Literacy activities and all staff support Literacy during this time.  
  Negotiated Education Programs are provided for students requiring support to meet their learning needs.  
  Learning Plans are developed for and with our Aboriginal students.

The school is open from 8:30am – 3:30pm with lessons starting at 9am. Recess is held at 11am til 11:20am and lunch is from 1:10pm till 1:50pm.

3. **Key School Policies**

- **Vision Statement**  
  To have created an exemplary environment in which people work independently and interdependently, where students have achieved their personal best as a result of planned interventions based on need. The result has been identified improvement in skills, knowledge and understanding across our curriculum.

  At Owen Primary School our motto is ‘ACE’ and this summarises our values of:  
  **Achievement:** Aiming high, doing your personal best and being responsible.  
  **Care:** Helping others and being fair.  
  Being considerate, polite and honest.  
  **Excellence:** Presenting high standards in all aspects of education and learning.

- **Current Priorities**  
  : The Priorities outlined in Owen Primary School’s Site Learning Plan is:

  **Literacy**  
  Increase number of strategies used to improve students’ level of comprehension  
  Improve students’ spelling  
  Improve students’ level of fluency in reading in order to increase comprehension.

  **Numeracy**  
  Improve students’ growth in Number.  
  Improve students’ levels of engagement in mathematics.  
  Improve the percentage of students above national minimal standard.
Owen Primary School is at OHS & W level 3 standard.

4. Curriculum

- Subject offerings
  'See above'

- Special needs
  Students with specific needs have negotiated learning plans which underline program and methodology requirements.

- Teaching methodology
  Staff are currently planning learning programs using the SACSA Framework. Strategies such as Student Initiated Curriculum are utilised across the school. Staff are working towards reporting against the Australian curriculum in the areas of Maths and Science by the end of 2012.

- Assessment procedures and reporting
  Consists of an interview in Term 1 and 3 and two written reports in Term 2 and 4. Teachers often make themselves available for informal interviews at the end of the school day. Good communication between home and school has helped to foster strong relationships between parents and teachers.

5. Sporting Activities

Owen Primary School offers a whole school Swimming program in Term 1. The school also participates within sports programmes through the Gilbert Valley Sports Day and Inter-School Swimming Carnivals. Participation in SAPSASA and Mid North District sporting events is encouraged. Coaching clinics and special events (eg nine-a-side football carnival) are embraced. Students at Owen Primary School are actively involved in local weekend sports. Basketball, tennis and cricket are offered in summer at Owen. Golf is available at the local Golf Course. Nearby towns offer Football and Netball during winter. Horse riding and carriage events are all year around. School has access to town tennis/basketball courts. The School has a large variety of sports equipment that is used regularly as the students are very active.

6. Other Co-Curricular Activities

All students participate in Performing Arts culminating in a well attended school concert at the end of the school year. Whole school excursions to educational venues throughout the area and Adelaide. Whole school activities with cross age groups occur regularly. All students have the opportunity to attend camps during their primary years. The students have the opportunity to help the environment with activities such as planting trees with help from the community, assisting with a recycling programme, raising chickens and helping in the school vegetable garden.

7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
  Currently Owen Primary School has 1 Principal and 4.0 FTE teachers. Shared leadership opportunities exist within the site. Owen Primary is well supported by, and supportive of, ancillary staff.

- Staff support systems
Staff are able to seek peer support and active participation in Professional Development activities. Three School Support School Officers are responsible for administrative duties, library management and classroom support. A grounds person is permanently employed for 4.5 hours per week.

- Performance management
  Staff Performance Management is ongoing.

- Staff utilisation policies
  Classes are grouped across a number of years eg R/1, Yr 2/3/4, and Yr 5/6/7.
  Access to special staff
  Staff are supported by the Yorke and Mid North District Offices based at Port Pirie, Clare and Kadina which has specialist services of Curriculum Coordinators, a Student Support and Disabilities Coordinator, a Student Inclusion and Wellbeing Coordinator, Inter Agency Student Behaviour Management, a Hearing Impairment Coordinator, and Speech and Language Pathologists.

- Housing
  Rental housing is in short supply
  The closest Government Housing is in Balaklava and Kapunda
  Limited private rental is available in Owen and most close towns.

8. Incentives, Support and Award Conditions for Staff

9. School Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  The school opened in 1883. The school is made up of five main buildings: front office, resource centre, hall, double classrooms and single classroom. The grounds are well set out and with areas grassed, bitumen and native area. Investing in our Schools grants have provided air conditioning, playground, painting and floor covering in resource area. A grounds committee supports the grounds person with upgrading as an ongoing activity.

- Cooling / Heating
  The School is fully air-conditioned and heated. Reverse cycle.

- Student facilities
  The Owen Arms Hotel provides lunches daily. The Parents and Friends Club offers a lunch order for students on some Tuesdays during the year.

- Staff facilities
  A Staff room and Resource Area.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities
  Ramp access is provided to all rooms.

- Access to bus transport
  A number of students access a DECS school bus to get to school from outlying areas. As this bus is linked to a high school, these students arrive at Owen Primary School at approximately 8:10 am and do not leave until 3:45 pm. This does extend yard duties.

10. School Operations

- Decision making structures
All staff attend school staff meetings, which are held on Tuesday afternoon. In this manner all staff have input into decisions. A staff representative attends school council meetings. PAC consists of the whole staff. Governing Council meets twice per term (Weeks 3 and 8). Smaller subcommittees exist, these include:
- Finance Committee
- Grounds Committee.
- The Parents and Friends provide fundraising and well-being activities.
- The school is represented on local committees including Owen Community Centre Committee (progress association).

- Regular publications
  A School Newsletter is published fortnightly (Wednesdays).
  Annual report and summary brochure

- Other communication
  A school website – [www.owenps.sa.edu.au](http://www.owenps.sa.edu.au)
  Articles in ‘Owen Matters’ and ‘Plains Producer’ when possible.

- School financial position
  The school’s finances are in a sound position. Staff spend within budgets and follow a process. Significant investment is made towards improving Literacy.

- Special funding
  Additional Admin SSO time
  Additional administration / Leadership Time
  Aboriginal Students
  Disability funding
  ICT technical support

11. **Local Community**

- General characteristics
  Owen is a rural community with a local district population of approximately 350 in the town and 500 in the district who call Owen home. A small number are self-employed, including local business and farm owners. Some employment in and around town eg ABB. Ingham’s Chickens provide some work for local families. Many commute out of Owen for employment.

- Parent and community involvement
  The Community anticipates that the Principal and Staff will participate in and contribute to community activities. Parents are very supportive of school activities. Governing Council and Parents and Friends are active and successful groups.

- Feeder schools
  Owen Primary School is a feeder school to Balaklava High School, with most students travelling on a DECS bus.
  The Horizon Christian School located in Balaklava competes for students of the district.

- Other local care and educational facilities
  Owen Play Centre is held each Wednesday morning in the School Resource Room to provide an educational and social support for parents and children under 5. This also makes transition to school easier for Reception students. Play centre is considered an important aspect of our school.
Owen children attend the Balaklava and Hamley Bridge Pre-schools as well.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
  The township consists of a town hall, silos, post office, hotel, delicatessen, and Red Cross shop.

- **Other local facilities**
  The local Owen Community Church is a community focus and there is a strong Community Centre Committee. There is a swimming pool, oval, bowling green, tennis and basketball courts, a golf course, CFS, playground and wetlands.

- **Accessibility**
  Adelaide is 92kms from Owen and many residents regularly travel to Adelaide by car. Major centres close to Owen include Balaklava (19kms), Gawler (approximately 50kms) and Clare (approximately 75kms).

- **Local Government body**
  Owen is located in the local government area of Wakefield Plains Regional Council.