LUURNPA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
BALGO HILLS

SCHOOL LEVEL PLAN
LOW SES SCHOOL COMMUNITIES NP

2013

KEY CONTACT AT SCHOOL: Br Rick Gaffney
PURPOSE OF NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP IN LOW SES SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Funding provided through the Commonwealth Government Smarter Schools National Partnership Program, along with co-investment from the Western Australian education sectors and schools, is designed to build the capacity of Western Australian schools to contribute to the achievement of the following five higher level outcomes:

- All children are engaged in and benefitting from schooling
- Young people are meeting basic literacy and numeracy standards, and overall levels of literacy and numeracy achievement are improving
- Schooling promotes the social inclusion and reduces the educational disadvantage of children, especially Indigenous children
- Australian students excel by international standards
- Young people make a successful transition from school to work and further study

The Catholic Education Office National Partnership for Low SES School Communities:

- Aims to improve literacy and numeracy achievement across all years of schooling
- Provides a focus on strategies which will raise attendance and allow students who move between schools to be tracked and supported
- Supports schools to raise the resilience and engagement of students
- Aims to assist in up skilling staff, particularly Aboriginal Teacher Assistants
- Is contextualised in whole school improvement initiatives
- Links closely to initiatives in other National Partnership Programs
- Aligns to key policy strategies such as the ‘Closing the Gap’ strategy and the ‘Indigenous Education Action Plan Draft’ which involve schools with Aboriginal students, especially in the Kimberley.

Reporting in this National Partnership will occur against key reforms and milestones and will include qualitative and quantitative data which describe the degree of participation, the key processes and important outcomes, especially those that relate to improved student achievement and attendance.
School Profile

Luurnpa Catholic School is located in the Aboriginal community of Balgo Hills in the south-eastern Kimberley. The school motto Nintirrikuwala Tjitjukurlu (Learning with Jesus) highlights the school focus on Gospel values and the importance of the local culture and community. The school enjoys strong support from the families of Balgo providing education for all children from Kindergarten to Year 10. The school also has a significant number of students visiting Balgo for cultural and family events. Close links with the local community and learning support is provided by an Aboriginal Teacher Assistant in each classroom. The school's learning program is based on the principles of attendance, participation and achievement to provide for students a successful and nurturing learning experience. Strategies to achieve this include attendance competitions, local language and cultural activities, family visits and the Positive Attitudes and Thinking Strategies program implemented in the school. Learning approaches build on student strengths and the context of their lives in Indigenous communities. In literacy this is achieved by the use of the Accelerated Literacy program. All classes follow this program especially developed for Indigenous students.

Involvement and Support in Specific Low SES Projects

Senior Secondary Support
This project provides specific support for those remote Kimberley schools which have students of senior secondary age and which are not designated K – 12 schools. The outcomes of this project relate to providing an appropriate and ongoing transition for the students from primary to secondary schooling with an aim to post-school destinations and to increase the qualification and skills levels, including the attainment of the senior secondary certificate or equivalent.

Aboriginal Teacher Assistant Up Skilling
This project provides support for ATAs in Kimberley schools particularly in developing skills and competencies to assist them in classroom support, especially in literacy and numeracy. Support through this program involves school visits and in situ mentoring from a dedicated consultant operating from the Broome Regional Office; literacy and numeracy skills development; central support in Broome with opportunities to share learning; and opportunities to undertake Certificate level training through the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education

The outcomes of this project relate to enhanced skills and competencies for ATAs, more engagement in the classroom learning process and ultimately, enhanced outcomes for students.

Intensified Literacy Support
This project provides additional support to Low SES schools to improve levels of literacy and numeracy. Broome Regional Office consultants visit Kimberley schools on a planned cycle to provide in situ support and training. Funds are also available to implement specific programs such as Reading Recovery.

The specific outcomes of this support will be to increase levels of literacy and numeracy across all years, but with a specific focus on those students at or below benchmarks and in the early years of schooling.

Promoting Alternate Thinking Strategies
This is an internationally acclaimed program which develops a stronger sense of achievement, confidence, self efficacy and interpersonal skills in students. It provides teachers with resources and a framework for classroom management and discipline processes. Support to schools occurs through assistance in the purchase of PATHS kits. In the Kimberley, a consultant has been engaged on contract to visit schools and assist with ongoing training and support to teachers.

The specific outcomes relate to more appropriate classroom practices, better levels of general self-discipline and ultimately, higher levels of achievement.
**Tracking Students**
As a move to monitor and improve attendance, schools are now reporting absentees through MAZE in a centralised campus mode. Absentee data is uploaded regularly to the Tri Border SIF-AU database. The same information will be uploaded to the Kimberley Success Zone project with the inclusion of St Mary’s College (K-12), Broome.

Specific support has been designated through the creation of structures and processes, negotiation with other systems/sectors, development of appropriate attendance record processes and methods for exchange of information. Schools will be directly supported through training, ongoing professional support and direct payments for administrative roles involved in the project.

Outcomes will include a clearer record of student attendance and the ability to support students through exchange of educational programs and achievement information. Enhanced student learning outcomes will hopefully result.

**Targeted Initiatives: Kimberley**
To further expand the Extending the School Day model, this project will enable an extension of the type of services available for students and parents alike.

At Luurnpa Catholic School, this has involved a Student Engagement Coordinator overseeing all the school’s efforts to ensure that the families of absent students are visited to ascertain the reason for absence. When necessary return to school plans are developed to support the family to improve the attendance of their children.

Outcomes relate to increased engagement and attendance which will be reflected in higher levels of achievement. Improved health and wellness outcomes are also anticipated.

**Funding**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific National Partnership Project</th>
<th>Low SES School Communities NP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Government Funding Allocated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Australian Co-investment – CEOWA</td>
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