MERCY COLLEGE
KOONDOOLA

SCHOOL LEVEL PLAN
LOW SES SCHOOL COMMUNITIES NP

2013

KEY CONTACT AT SCHOOL: Dr Tony Curry
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
- Where involving schools with Aboriginal students, especially in the Kimberley, aligns to key policy strategies such as the ‘Closing the Gap’ strategy and the 'Indigenous Education Action Plan Draft'.

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

Established in 1972, Mercy College is a Catholic coeducational College that offers excellent learning opportunities for over 1500 students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The College is committed to creating a climate where students can develop a love of learning by encouraging self-awareness, tolerance, compassion towards others and independence in thought and action. With over 50 different nationalities represented, Mercy College students and staff embrace cultural diversity and through Christ we seek to develop our gifts of collaboration, love and service. The College motto of Love in Action reflects the College's commitment to teaching students values and the importance of social justice. Through our pastoral care program and in partnership with parents, the College helps students develop the tools to effectively deal with the opportunities and challenges they encounter now and in future years. Mercy College's Junior (Kindergarten - Year 6), Middle (Years 7 - 9) and Senior (Years 10 - 12) Learning Centres each have a dedicated team of teachers who are committed to meeting the individual needs of their students. The varied learning programs provide a balance of challenge and rigor and are developed to cater for a diverse range of student abilities and interests.

Involvement and Support in Specific Low SES Projects

Extension of Bluearth Program
The Bluearth Program has a proven record in developing social, emotional; interpersonal, personal and physical attributes of students. This typically leads to students who are healthier, more engaged and exhibiting increased attendance rates. This project provides financial and other support to participating schools. The financial support allows for visits to the school by accredited Bluearth trainers as well as support to train other staff members.

The specific outcomes of this project relate to enhanced interpersonal, personal, health and engagement outcomes which are recognised as being essential for improved learning.

Targeted Initiatives: Non-Kimberley Schools
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 Mercy College, their project is titled School-Based Early Intervention Program. The focus of this project is on:
- Providing individual/small group work for both remediation and extension
- Providing valuable Parent Information Sessions such as Ngala Brain Development
- Occupational Therapy and Speech Screening for all Kindergarten children, that is conducted in partnership with Curtin University

The specific outcomes of this project relate to raising student achievement and reducing educational disadvantages, through the use of additional 'wrap-around' services in the school and local communities.

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>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Australian Co-investment – CEOWA</td>
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<td>School Co-Investment</td>
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