KEY CONTACT AT SCHOOL: Sue Bursey
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

St Clare's School is a Catholic secondary school for thirty girls at risk of not completing their education due to issues that have compromised their ability to achieve success. The life experiences of the students have made it difficult for them to participate in mainstream schooling. The school embraces the charisms of the Good Shepherd Sisters, who founded the school in 1956. The school's motto is "One person is of more value than a world" - Saint Mary Euphrasia (Mother Foundress of the Good Shepherd Sisters.) St Clare's provides intervention and support for the individual needs of the students, offering learning opportunities through a varied curriculum, as well as students being able to access the services of a school psychologist, youth worker and social worker. The school has a partnership with the 'School for Isolated and Distant Education' for senior students requiring individual curriculum pathways for entry to other levels of study such as university or TAFE or for those who will graduate. Enrolment acceptance will depend upon the outcome of an interview, composition of classes and the existing conditions of the current student group. The school is purpose built to ensure our environment is supportive and welcoming to our school community.

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 St Clare’s School, their project is titled Engagement and Attendance with School. The focus of this project is on:

- Engagement and Attendance with School – a youth worker has built up a relationship with parents, and the parents understanding of their responsibility in informing the school of the students' whereabouts and also about absences.
- Upskilling in numeracy through QuickSmart – provides one to one time to learn basic maths facts, complete class work, outcomes and competencies
- Building community and industry partnership through the partnership between the University of Notre Dame Australia and Clontarf Aboriginal College. Through the formalising of the unit of study ED3102: Diagnostic Literacy Clinic within a Service-learning context in the Bachelor of Education, pre-service teachers will continue to have the opportunity to engage with Aboriginal students in a relevant, meaningful and exciting educational setting.

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

<table>
<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>$45,000.00</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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