

## ***Context Statement – Kangaroo Inn Area School***

Kangaroo Inn Area School is an isolated, rural school located 45 km from Millicent, 35 km from Beachport and 50km from Robe in the states' south east. There is no town surrounding the school and all students travel from rural farms and small towns up to 50 km by bus to access their education. We have an enrolment of 115 students from Preschool to Year 12 and this is steadily growing after a few years of decline in the last decade. We have 10% of students from Aboriginal, Maori and Japanese backgrounds, 10% of the students are on NEP's or have other diagnosed issues affecting learning, with a further 19% having emotional concerns affecting their behaviour which adds to the complexity of our site. Preschool is often the first contact some families have with education and health services as families live in isolated pockets up to 75 km from services.

Kangaroo Inn is very family orientated with 40% of the students having inter-generational attendance at KIAS, leading to a strong sense of loyalty and support for the school. We have a total of 62 families at the school so many students are siblings or cousins.

We don't see parents on a day to day basis so utilise varied means of communication, including email, phone calls, texting and, three times a term, a whole school newsletter with weekly communication in EC. Our site is the location for the Child Care on Wheels – Mobile Childcare service one day a week. The Learning Together program operates Playgroup each fortnight and Parenting session including Circle of Security.

In 2014 we introduced Chinese lessons for Reception to year 8 students through Open Access. Senior Secondary students also utilise Open Access for specialist subjects (eg Legal Studies), but we also offer many face to face subjects and are part of the Wattle Range Education Network where specialist staff are accessed from 5 member schools to teach SACE subjects to group of students. Our Year 10 students participate in VET Cert 1 Food and Hospitality, Health Services and Rural Operations (Health is one of the fastest growing industries in the Limestone Coast). We are able to identify and support students to access individual pathways in secondary whether academic to further study, apprenticeships and trainee-ships or local employment. Last year 75% of the Year 12 students continued to further education. Our school has been identified as one where higher than expected NAPLAN gains were made over the last 2 years. I believe this is due to the focused approach to school improvement of the previous and current leadership team, our strong Site Improvement Plan and a stable leadership team. The KIAS mission statement, Strive for Life, and the new values collaboratively developed this year in response to an identified need - Friendly and Supportive / Innovative Learning / Safe and Inclusive / Respect and Integrity - underpin all we do as a site and lead us into the future positively and successfully.