



Palmerston District Primary School

Annual School Board Report 2019



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This report supports the work being done in the ACT Education Directorate, as outlined in *Strategic Plan 2018-21: A Leading Learning Organisation*.

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Reporting to the community

Schools report to communities in range of ways, including through:

- Annual School Board Reports
- a (5-year) School Improvement Plan (formerly School Strategic Plan)
- annual Impact Reports
- newsletters
- other sources such as My School.

School Context

Palmerston District Primary School is situated at the entrance of Gungahlin and was opened in 1995. The student population is multicultural, as we welcome students from over 50 different nationalities. We have 805 students from preschool to year 6. We host the North Gungahlin Introductory English Centre whereby students attend from across the Network and are immersed in learning English inside a twenty-week program, before returning to their local school.

We model our school values of Palmerston PRIDE - Participation, Respect, Integrity, Determination, Empathy. Additional to this, we are a PBL School - Positive Behaviours for Learning, and our students delight in seeing Palmy, our large mascot at special events. Through PRIDE and PBL, we harness strong social emotional programs for all students, building values around inclusion, equity and being a good, kind person.

Palmerston District Primary School strives for all our students to thrive. We are a school on the move. We provide the IMP Music program – consisting of woodwind and strings, lunchtime clubs, singing across the school, student leadership opportunities, additional external and internal academic opportunities and host sporting clinics. We provide a written report to families in terms 2 & 4 with an offer of parent/teacher interviews in terms 2 & 4. As part of our reporting to parents, we provide a Learning Journey in term 3 each year. This is an opportunity for our students to showcase their learning to family and friends.

A Before and After School Care program is on site for students for Kindergarten to Yr 6.

As a whole school community we facilitate an environment which encourages and applauds contributions by students, teachers and parents. The Palmerston District Primary School community lives by its motto of: Together, we learn from each other.

Student Information

Student enrolment

In this reporting period there were a total of 600 students enrolled at this school.

Table: Student enrolment

Student type	Number of students
Male	311
Female	289
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	16
LBOTE*	304

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

*Language Background Other Than English

Student attendance

The following table identifies the attendance rate of students by year level during this reporting period. Student attendance rate is the percentage of school days attended by students in each year level at the school. Student attendance is measured over two school terms; that is from the first day of the school year for students in term 1 to the last day of term 2.

Table: Attendance rates in percentages

Year level	Attendance rate
1	90.0
2	92.0
3	92.0
4	92.0
5	93.0
6	91.0

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

Supporting attendance and managing non-attendance

ACT public schools support parents and careers to meet their legal responsibilities in relation to the compulsory education requirements of the *Education Act 2004*. The Education Directorate's *Education Participation (Enrolment and Attendance) Policy* describes its position with regard to supporting attendance and managing non-attendance. A suite of procedures supports the implementation of the policy. Please refer to <https://www.education.act.gov.au/> for further details.

Staff Information

Teacher qualifications

All teachers at this school meet the professional requirements for teaching in an ACT public school. The ACT Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) specifies two main types of provision for teachers at different stages of their career, these are detailed below.

- **Full registration** is for teachers with experience working in a registered school in Australia or New Zealand who have been assessed as meeting the Proficient level of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.
- **Provisional registration** is for newly qualified teachers or teachers who do not have recent experience teaching in a school in Australia and New Zealand. Many teachers moving to Australia from another country apply for Provisional registration.

Workforce composition

Workforce composition for the current reporting period is provided in the following table. The data is taken from the school's verified August staffing report. For reporting purposes, it incorporates all school staff including preschools, staff absent for a period of less than four consecutive weeks and staff replacing staff absent for more than four consecutive weeks. It does not include casuals and staff absent for a period of four consecutive weeks or longer.

The Education Directorate is required to report Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff figures. As of June of the reporting period, 119 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander staff members were employed across the Directorate.

Table: Workforce composition numbers

Staff employment category	TOTAL
Teaching Staff: Full Time Equivalent Permanent	34.54
Teaching Staff: Full Time Equivalent Temporary	5.60
Non Teaching Staff: Full Time Equivalent	15.32

Source: ACT Education Directorate, People and Performance Branch

School Review and Development

The ACT Education Directorate's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 provides the framework and strategic direction for School Improvement Plans (formerly School Strategic Plans). This is supported by the school performance and accountability framework '*People, Practice and Performance: School Improvement in Canberra Public Schools, A Framework for Performance and Accountability*'. Annually, system and school level data are used alongside the National School Improvement Tool to support targeted school improvement, high standards in student learning, innovation and best practice in ACT public schools.

Prior to 2016 all ACT public schools participated in a four-year improvement cycle. In the fourth year schools underwent an external Validation process. In 2016 this changed to a five-year cycle with a School Review at the end.

Our school was reviewed in 2017 and again in 2019 – Next Steps Analysis. A copy of the Report of Review can be found on our school website.

School Satisfaction

Schools use a range of evidence to gain an understanding of the satisfaction levels of their parents and carers, staff and students. Annually in August/ September ACT schools undertake a survey to gain an understanding of school satisfaction at that time. This information is collected from staff, parents and students from year 5 and above through an online survey.

Overall Satisfaction

In this period of reporting, 92% of parents and carers, 96% of staff, and 82% of students at this school indicated they were satisfied with the education provided by the school.

Included in the survey were 16 staff, 14 parent, and 12 student items which are described as the national opinion items. These items were approved by the then Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) for use from 2015. The following tables show the percentage of parents and carers, students and staff who agreed with each of the national opinion items at this school.

A total of 50 staff responded to the survey. Please note that not all responders answered every question.

Table: Proportion of staff in agreement with each national opinion item

National opinion item	
Parents at this school can talk to teachers about their concerns.	94
Staff are well supported at this school.	53
Staff get quality feedback on their performance.	57
Student behaviour is well managed at this school.	43
Students at this school can talk to their teachers about their concerns.	98
Students feel safe at this school.	92
Students like being at this school.	98
Students' learning needs are being met at this school.	86
Teachers at this school expect students to do their best.	100
Teachers at this school motivate students to learn.	92
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	94
Teachers give useful feedback.	88
Teachers give useful feedback.	88
This school is well maintained.	88
This school looks for ways to improve.	96
This school takes staff opinions seriously.	55
This school works with parents to support students' learning.	90

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

*Data derived from annual School Satisfaction Survey

A total of 364 parents responded to the survey. Please note that not all responders answered every question.

Table: Proportion of parents and carers in agreement with each national opinion item

National opinion item	
I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns.	93
My child feels safe at this school.	94
My child is making good progress at this school.	89
My child likes being at this school.	95
My child's learning needs are being met at this school.	85
Student behaviour is well managed at this school.	80
Teachers at this school expect my child to do his or her best.	94
Teachers at this school give useful feedback.	83
Teachers at this school motivate my child to learn.	90
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	86
This school is well maintained.	91
This school looks for ways to improve.	88
This school takes parents' opinions seriously.	74
This school works with me to support my child's learning.	85

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

*Data derived from annual School Satisfaction Survey

A total of 175 students responded to the survey. Please note that not all responders answered every question.

Table: Proportion of students in agreement with each national opinion item

National opinion item	
I can talk to my teachers about my concerns.	85
I feel safe at this school.	75
I like being at my school.	79
My school gives me opportunities to do interesting things.	80
My school is well maintained.	72
My school looks for ways to improve.	85
My teachers expect me to do my best.	97
My teachers motivate me to learn.	87
Staff take students' concerns seriously.	66
Student behaviour is well managed at my school.	55
Teachers at my school treat students fairly.	73
Teachers give useful feedback.	78

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

*Data derived from annual School Satisfaction Survey

Learning and Assessment

Performance in Literacy and Numeracy

Early years assessment

Students in kindergarten undertake an on-entry and on-exit assessment of their early reading and numeracy skills using the Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS) program. Student results are reported against five performance bands at the end of semester 1 and 2. Below are the results for this school for the current reporting period.

Table: Palmerston District Primary School PIPS 2019 mean raw scores

Agency	Reading start	Reading end	Mathematics start	Mathematics end
School	48	141	40	57
ACT	49	123	39	55

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

NAPLAN

Students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all ACT schools participate in the National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This program assesses skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

In this reporting period, 8.70 % of year 3 students and 3.20 % of year 5 students were exempt from testing based on nationally agreed criteria.

For reasons of statistical reliability, as well as to protect the privacy of students, results are not reported when the sample size is less than five.

The following table shows the mean scores achieved by students at this school compared to all other ACT public schools for this reporting period.

Table: NAPLAN Mean Scores

Test Domain	Year 3 School	Year 3 ACT	Year 5 School	Year 5 ACT
Reading	445	438	531	516
Writing	421	418	496	474
Spelling	418	408	521	497
Grammar & Punctuation	440	440	532	500
Numeracy	402	411	512	496

Source: ACT Education Directorate, Analytics and Evaluation Branch

Financial Summary

The school has provided the Directorate with an end of year financial statement that was approved by the school board. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school. The following summary covers use of funds for operating costs and does not include expenditure in areas such as permanent salaries, buildings and major maintenance.

Table: Financial Summary

INCOME	January-June	July-December	January-December
Self-management funds	283997.18	177183.13	461180.31
Voluntary contributions	0.00	9735.00	9735.00
Contributions & donations	10608.94	-608.94	10000.00
Subject contributions	0.00	4560.00	4560.00
External income (including community use)	29174.78	33638.06	62812.84
Proceeds from sale of assets	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	2890.62	2445.77	5336.39
TOTAL INCOME	326671.52	226953.02	553624.54
EXPENDITURE			
Utilities and general overheads	65670.73	68563.58	134234.31
Cleaning	66814.59	-2650.63	64163.96
Security	1581.26	860.92	2442.18
Maintenance	77405.30	58305.40	135710.70
Administration	21704.63	-6002.57	15702.06
Staffing	0.00	200.30	200.30
Communication	7596.46	3632.31	11228.77
Assets	21991.35	25010.89	47002.24
Leases	0.00	0.00	0.00
General office expenditure	31131.05	25469.53	56600.58
Educational	19784.11	25641.85	45425.96
Subject consumables	0.00	24671.07	24671.07
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	313679.48	223702.65	537382.13
OPERATING RESULT	12992.04	3250.37	16242.41
Actual Accumulated Funds	110573.25	88908.77	88908.77
Outstanding commitments (minus)	-6583.24	0.00	-6583.24
BALANCE	116982.05	92159.14	98567.94

Voluntary Contributions

The funds listed were used to support the general operations of the school. The spending of voluntary contributions is in line with the approved budget for this reporting period.

The School established a Building Trust Fund at the end of 2019, with a contribution of \$1,680. The Library Trust Fund contribution of \$12,230 and the spending of voluntary contributions is in line with the approved budget for 2019.

Reserves

Name and Purpose	Amount	Expected Completion
IT 2022 Devices required for students	\$20,000	2022
Staffing 2022 Reserve to cover possible staffing bill at end of 2020-2022	\$18,000	2022
Action Plan 2022 To cover teacher and admin staff absences to work on the Action Plans 2020-2020	\$2,000	2022
LED Sign 2020 Contribution to the front of school LED Sign	\$7,500	2020 - completed

Endorsement Page

Members of the School Board

Parent Representative(s): Lisa Fior, Kate Baron, Adam Davidson.

Community Representative(s):

Teacher Representative(s): Jessica Lago, Maxine Green, Marijana Pasalic.

Student Representative(s):

Board Chair: Lisa Fior

Principal: Kate Smith

I approve the report, prepared in accordance with the provision of the ACT *Education Act 2004*, section 52.

Board Chair Signature:



Date: 24 / 06 / 2020

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the evidence and information reported in this Annual School Board Report represents an accurate record of the Board's operations during this reporting period.

Principal Signature: KLSmith

Date: 24 / 06 / 2020