SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

School number: 0570

School name: Prospect North Primary School

Contextual Statement:
Prospect North Primary School is located 6 kilometres from the Adelaide GPO (General Post Office) and has a February 2010 census enrolment of 178 students, which consistently grows to 200 over the year. Student enrolments have remained relatively stable over the last five years. Prospect North Primary School serves a multicultural community and has high expectations of their students, both academically and socially.

Prospect North Primary School has recently undergone a $3.95 million redevelopment, and a new $2 million gym is expected to be completed in May 2010. As a result, the facilities are state-of-the-art, with new hardplay area, Primary and Junior Primary Play equipment, Interactive Whiteboards in classrooms and the Resource Centre, PC’s in every classroom, a 31 PC Laboratory and a further three PC pod’s throughout the school. Prospect North Primary School runs specialist classes in Environmental Education, Physical Education and Art.

1. General information

- School Principal name: Julie Hopkinson
- Year of opening: 1934
- Postal Address: 30 Stuart Road, Prospect, SA 5082
- Location Address: 30 Stuart Road, Prospect, SA 5082
- DECS Region: Eastern Adelaide
- Geographical location: 6 kilometres from GPO
- Telephone number: 08 8344 4604
- Fax Number: 08 8344 3697
- School website address: www.prospectnorth.sa.edu.au
- School e-mail address: info@prospectnorth.sa.edu.au
- Child Parent Centre (CPC) attached: No
• Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service: Operates before school 7 – 8:30am and after school 3:15 – 6pm. Vacation Care operates during the school holiday periods.

• FTE student enrolment:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2006 - August</th>
<th>2007 - August</th>
<th>2008 – August</th>
<th>2009 - February</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>196</td>
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<td>57%</td>
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<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATSI Enrolment</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
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**Student enrolment trends:**

While there have been many changes in our local area which have had the potential to impact on enrolments, such as the development of Mapleton Grove in the Kilburn South area, other world events have seen our enrolments remain stable but our student population change. Over the past few years, the school has had students come as refugees from Serbia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan and other African Nations. A recent trend is a influx of families from India, with many self funding migrants settling in rental properties in our area.
Staffing numbers include:

- Principal 1.0
- Learning Support Coordinator 1.0
- Counsellor 1.0
- Eight classroom teachers 8.0
- Teacher Librarian 0.4
- Finance/Administration Officer 1.0
- School Services Officers 85 hours between 4 part-time Officers
- Grounds person 10hrs per week

- Public transport access: Circle Line Bus Route, Serco on Main North Road, Stop 16 and Prospect Road Stop 16 are all in close proximity to the school.

- Special site arrangements:
  Prospect North Primary School has an arrangement with Prospect Centre
  The students from Prospect Centre undertaking their Horticultural Certificate use Prospect North Primary School Grounds for the practical component of their course.

2. Students (and their welfare)

- General characteristics
  Students come from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds, with many children coming to Australia from India, Iraq, Afghanistan, Serbia, and Sudan and with many other cultures represented: The school has a small cohort of Aboriginal students. The high level of complexity and diversity among the school population is considered a strength of the school. The challenge is to develop relevant, explicit and challenging teaching programs and practices that support a diverse range of learning needs and abilities.

- Student well-being programs
  The School Counsellor works proactively with staff and students. The school has a commitment to social learning programs and works to develop students’ confidence, persistence, organisation and ability to get along with others.

Student support offered
  The Learning Support Coordinator works with School Services Officers as the Learning Support Team to support classroom teachers to meet the complex learning needs of students in their classes. The Learning Support Team, along with the School Counsellor, Principal and class teachers meet each term as the Student Review Team to identify students with specific
learning needs and review student progress. This review process allows the integration of the ESL, Early Years Literacy, Aboriginal Education, Special Education, NEP students, Behaviour Management and SHIP (Students with High Intellectual Potential) Intervention and support programs. A Literacy block occurs across the school R-7 and the **Learning Support Team** is available to support students with identified learning needs in classes. Individual and group support for students with NEPs and with specific learning needs is available outside of this time. Extra funding is available to the school through the Disadvantaged School’s Program and is used to purchase relevant resources, to employ SSOs to support our Literacy Program and to subsidise learning experiences both in and out of school.

- **Student management**
  The school has a well-established policy and practice which is explicit about expectations for students and related consequences. A Home School Agreement between students and class teachers is sent home at the beginning of the year. Senior staff, teachers and the school counsellor work proactively with students and parents to address issues that may be affecting a student’s behaviour or learning, and to encourage student responsibility. The school’s Be Fair Rules reinforce our value of fairness. Fair play is acknowledged by students having an extra ten minutes of play on Monday morning. Other values such as collaboration, responsibility, persistence, confidence and enterprise are acknowledged when demonstrated by students by presentation of merit awards in assembly which are then published in the newsletter.

- **Student government**
  An active SRC operates to empower students in decision-making and to increase their involvement in school activities and committees. Members are elected for two terms with a male and female representative as well as a multicultural representative elected from each class. SRC meets weekly and reports back to students through class meetings and assemblies and take issues raised to staff meeting, management meeting or Governing Council meetings if required. The Counsellor facilitates the SRC.

- **Special programs**
  Some of the special programs run by the school are Early Bird Reading, Reading Discovery, Speech Support Program, Phonological Awareness, Composting, Recycling and Gardening as a part of Environmental Education program, Specialist Art, Eat Well Be Active Program, Peer Mediation, Cross Age Tutoring.
3. **Key School Policies**

- **Vision**
  Prospect North Primary School staff, students and parents work together as a school community in a supportive, success-oriented and challenging environment to maximise opportunities and achievement for all.

- **Strategic Directions**
  Develop best practice in Literacy with **ongoing improved literacy outcomes for all learners** by implementing Early Years Literacy Plan, early intervention strategies and further developing whole school practice which meets the needs of a diverse range of learners.

  Develop best practice in Numeracy with **ongoing improved numeracy outcomes for all learners** by exploring curricula that is challenging, relevant and purposeful and engages students in problem-solving and application of mathematical skills and knowledge. Establishing consistency around expectations, assessment practices and providing a balance of explicit and guided discovery and exploration while integrating numeracy across the curriculum.

  **Develop Student Wellbeing** by developing confidence and resilience in students through celebrating difference, building identity and a sense of belonging. Staff works together to promote student voice and student engagement in all we do, and implement programs that complement Program Achieve and our values.

  **Develop engaging curriculum and pedagogy** by engaging students in real problem-solving and intellectually rich activity to develop higher order thinking skills within a supportive environment where difference is recognised and interests, talents and knowledge are built upon.

- **Recent Key Outcomes**
  Development of common practices across the school which have brought about improved learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy, including improved perceptions of students to maths. Implementation of Early Numeracy interview assessment process.

  Development of Early Years Literacy Plan with Early Years’ Staff to investigate and implement effective practices with colleagues in local schools.

  New, improved facilities conducive to learning with the establishment of upgraded grounds and play equipment and the re-establishment of garden and environmental education learning area.

  Upgrading of ICT facilities, introduction of Interactive Whiteboards, and growing confidence of teachers and students to try new ICT learning tools.
4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings** - The school delivers a balanced and integrated curriculum across the eight required Areas of Study described in the South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability Framework, with an emphasis on continuous improvement. Prospect North Primary School also provides specialist classes to all students in the following four areas: Physical Education, Environmental Education, and Art.

- **Special needs** - A Learning Support Team, comprised of the Learning Support Coordinator and four School Services Officers, support classroom teachers to meet the complex learning needs of students in their classes. Teachers are released to conduct Student Reviews four times a year. The Learning Support Team is available to support students in classes during the Literacy Block. Individual and group support for students with NEPs and with specific learning needs is available outside of this time.

- **Special curriculum features** - To provide a relevant and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of its students the school has:
  - A strong commitment to Literacy and Numeracy with Literacy and Numeracy Blocks in place across all years in the school
  - Specialist program in Art
  - Environmental Education program with a focus on “Civics and Citizenship”, “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”, Looking After Ourselves and the Environment and a Hands-On Gardening program
  - Curriculum focus incorporating Program Achieve, Drug Awareness, Dicey Dealings, Road Safety program, Protective Behaviours and Conflict Resolution.
  - A specialist teacher running the Physical Education and Eat Well Be Active programs
  - Information technology is used by all students as a resource to learning. Our School has interactive whiteboards in classrooms and the Resource Centre, PC’s in every classroom, a 31 PC Laboratory, and three additional PC Pods.

- **Teaching methodology**
  - Prospect North Primary School staff members use a wide variety of methodologies to cater for the diverse learning needs of our student population. Teaching methodology is explicit and challenging. Learning is relevant and purposeful.
  - Explicit teaching is a focus of the Literacy and Numeracy Blocks and other areas of learning are integrated wherever possible. SHIP (Students with High Intellectual Potential) methodologies provide a teaching focus that meets a wide range of learning needs and styles. Teachers work together in Junior Primary, Middle Primary and Upper Primary teams to plan and share expertise and skills and to develop appropriate methodologies.

- **Student assessment procedures and reporting**
In Week four of Term One, the school holds an Acquaintance Night. Parents and students are invited to visit the classroom and informally chat together to enable parents, children and teachers to develop a positive working relationship. Teachers present a formal outline of their class program and share their expectations with parents. This night is usually combined with the Annual General Meeting of the School Governing Council.

In Term Two, week nine, Three-Way Interviews are held between teacher, student and parents in which the parent and student are invited to attend a 15-minute interview. A Written Summative Report is also sent Home.

In Term Three, Week eight, optional interviews are held. Both parents and teachers can request these.

In Term Four, Week nine, a Written Summative Report is sent home.

Data is collected for each student in order for the school to document and monitor their progress.

- **Joint programs**
  Prospect North Primary School works closely with our local preschools to ensure a smooth transition for each student to school.

5. **Sporting Activities**

Every class has a daily fitness session with some class teachers working together to provide variety of activity both in fitness and Physical Education lessons.

Reception – Year 3 students are involved in a Be Active program.

Year 5/6/7 students participate in Friday afternoon SAPSASA inter-school sports competition and Lightning Carnival events. We currently have teams in softball, cricket, soccer, and netball. Students have also represented our school in District Team SAPSASA competitions.

Sports Day is held every year.

Sport's clinics are organised throughout the year.

Junior Primary and Years 3 - 5 swimming lessons are held at Thebarton Aquatic Centre every year. Year 6/7 students participate in Aquatics at West Lakes.

6. **Other Co-Curricular Activities**

- **General Co-Curricular Activities**

  Students in Years 6/7 are encouraged to participate in the Choir which performs at the Festival of Music each year at the Festival Theatre.

  Each year a number of culturally significant events are celebrated in a variety of ways.

  Fortnightly class-run assemblies feature work and performances by groups of students.
Year 5/6/7 students are involved in Friday afternoon Sports Program.
Year 6/7 students attend camp every alternate year.
Elective activities are run throughout the year.

- **Special Co-Curricular Activities**
  Celebration Night is held at the end of each school year.
  Many excursions and incursions are organised as whole school events with ongoing involvement in Come Out, Book Week Celebrations and Harmony Day activities. The school has been involved in The Artist in Residence program and performed at the local Prospect Town Hall to a packed audience.
  Whole school excursions to Port Adelaide, The Big Day Out, the Museum, Botanic Gardens and Tandanya to learn about Aboriginal culture and a whole school camp to Arbury Park have also been features of our learning program.

7. **Staff (and their welfare)**

- **Staff profile**
  There are 25 employees paid by DECS currently working at Prospect North Primary School. This number includes a number of part-time SSOs including Bi-Lingual School Service Officers to work with ESL students. This number fluctuates as additional staff is employed on a temporary basis, but the core profile of staff is relatively stable.
  The school is eligible as a Category Three school for an extra Junior Primary Teacher to allow for a ratio of 1:21 in Junior Primary based on enrolment at the beginning of the year.

- **Leadership structure**
  Entitlement by formula provides a Principal, a part-time Deputy, a part-time Counsellor and a part-time Coordinator. At Prospect North Primary School, staff has chosen to use our funds to provide a full-time Principal, Counsellor and Learning Support Coordinator. A collaborative leadership structure and shared responsibility is a strong feature, encouraging team-work while allowing for individual interests and skills.

- **Staff support systems**
  The school has a commitment to collegial learning, open communication, mutual support and high expectations for teaching and learning. Staff has developed a Code of Conduct to support positive interactions. Team structures that support staff include Year Level and Learning Teams, Curriculum and School Priority Committees along with ad hoc committees. Classes buddy with each other and team up to run assemblies and cross-age tutoring. T&D needs are addressed through attendances at conferences and at staff meetings. Social activities are valued and staff take responsibility for a range of activities each term.
School Service Officers work collaboratively to provide curriculum and administrative support to students and staff. Professional development is undertaken to maintain a high quality service.

- **Performance Management**
  A performance management process for all staff is both formal and informal. Staff is engaged in a range of activities to acknowledge and build on success and continually reflect on and improve their practice.

- **Access to special staff**
  Prospect North Primary School staff has ready access to specialist support staff and are encouraged to make referrals as necessary through the Student Review Team. Tier 2 salaries provide specialist teachers including special education, ESL, teacher librarian and school counsellor. We have four specialist teachers that provide Non-Instructional Time to teachers, including Science, Environmental Education, Physical Education and Art.

- **Other**
  Prospect North Primary School regularly participates in supporting University Student Teaching Programs and Work Experience programs.

### 8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- **Complexity placement points**
  Prospect North Primary School teachers acquire 1.5 points per year of service.

### 9. School Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**
  Prospect North Primary School has recently undergone a $3.95 million redevelopment. A new $2 million Gymnasium is also currently underway as a part of the Federal Building the Education Revolution funding. The School has a free standing Activity Room which is used for Whole School assemblies and other events. There is new Primary Play equipment with a large shade structure covering it and Junior Primary Play equipment with a sandpit. A new turf area has recently been laid complete with soccer goals. There is a new hardplay area complete with netball, basketball volleyball and handball courts, and it also includes a permanent shelter structure.
  The school has a Secret Garden which is fenced off from the rest of the school and is part of our Environmental Education program. Funding has been gained from Prospect Council and Landcare Australia to help develop this garden. Peripheral areas are landscaped with native trees, shrubs and ground cover.

  **Heating and cooling**
  All classes and building are heated and airconditioned.
• **Specialist facilities and equipment**

Prospect North Primary School has Interactive Whiteboards in the Resource Centre and all classrooms and the PC Suite. It has between two and four PC’s in every classroom, four freestanding PC Pods in shared learning areas, including one in the Resource Centre, and a PC suite which contains 31 PC’s. All PC’s in the school are networked.

The School has a free-standing Activity Room which is used for Whole School assemblies and other events, and a new $2 million Gymnasium, part of the Federal Building the Education Revolution funding, is nearing completion.

• **Staff facilities**

Reception and administration, the staffroom and staff preparation area are located in the downstairs Administration section of the Regency two-storey building, accessible from Stuart Road. Disabled toilets and shower facilities are available. All facilities and equipment are new as they were part of the redevelopment, and include tables, chairs, colour photocopier, fridge, oven, stove, microwave, dishwasher, fridge and freezer, tea and coffee-making facilities and a fully automated DeLonghi Coffee machine. Telephones are available for general staff use in the Front Office, Staff Prep Area, Staffroom and some classrooms. Networked (to both curriculum and administration servers) and Internet capable PC’s are available for staff use in the Front Office and Staff Prep Areas.

• **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

The Regency two-storey building has a lift to the top floor and all buildings in the school have wheelchair access. There is a toilet for the disabled in the Regency building.

• **Access to bus transport**

The Circle Line bus stops at Prospect North Primary School on Regency Road. Serco buses run on Main North Road and Prospect Road. The school is ideally located to involve our students in events happening in the city due to its close proximity.

10. **School Operations**

• **Decision making structures**

Weekly staff meetings are the main decision-making forum.

SSO meetings are held twice a term.

SRC is held every week.

Governing Council meets twice a term. The SRC and Governing Council are an integral part of decision-making structures.

Management Team (Principal, Counsellor and Learning Support Co-ordinator) meet on a regular basis as does the Office staff and Principal, SSO team and Principal and the OSHC Director, Principal and Finance Officer.
• Regular publications
  The school newsletter is distributed fortnightly. A Staff Handbook is produced annually and Induction information given to all staff at the beginning of each school year. Information is disseminated via email and daily notices for both staff and students are placed in the Day Book, which is photocopied by students and distributed to all classes. A Parent Information Booklet and assorted Brochures form the enrolment pack which is given to parents of enrolling students.

• Other communication
  A Year Planner is on the staffroom wall to facilitate long-term organisation and co-ordination of all school events.

  Special purpose newsletters are produced and distributed according to the school’s requirements. Community notices are displayed in the Office Foyer.

  Every student has a diary or communication book and folder for notes to facilitate the sharing of information between home and school.

  Parents are encouraged to make appointments to discuss issues of concern with staff. Grievance procedures have been developed and are used.

• School financial position
  The school operates a consolidated account using the EDSAS Finance module and has discretion over its spending. The Governing Council ratifies the School Budget every year before it is put in place.

  The Governing Council Fundraising Sub Committee is a small but active group that sets realistic fundraising targets.

• Special funding
  Additional funding is gained through the Commonwealth Disadvantaged Schools Program. Prospect North Primary School actively seeks funding from local government grants and other grants available.

11. Local Community

• General characteristics
  Prospect North Primary School is situated in Prospect, a near northern suburb of Adelaide, approximately six kilometres from the city. Due to its close proximity to the city, Prospect is a sought after suburb to live in, and it is experiencing a boom in real estate sales. The local community is a complex and diverse socio-economic mix. A large percentage of our students come from either Kilburn or Blair Athol, which are predominantly housing trust areas or rental properties. However, house prices in these two areas have risen sharply. A number of Housing Trust houses in the Kilburn South area have been demolished to make way for multi-density housing, which has increased the percentage of privately owned accommodation in a development called Mapleton Grove.
• **Parent and community involvement**
  Parents support the school in its learning program by assisting teachers with their classroom programs and by assisting with special events and fundraising. Parents have shown interest in the decision-making process of the school and are members of the Governing Council.

• **Feeder or destination schools**
  Blair Athol Pre-School and Prospect Kindergarten are main sources of Reception enrolments. We also have students attending from Folland Park Kindergarten, St Phillips Kindergarten and further afield. Our Year 7 students transition to a large number of local and further afield secondary schools.

• **Other local care and educational facilities**
  Prospect Kindergarten is 1 km west along Regency Road and Regency Child Care is 1 km east along Regency Road. The nearest High Schools are Gepps Cross Girls (Grand Junction Road), Enfield High School (Grand Junction Road), Ross Smith Secondary (Hampstead Road) and OLSH (Years 8-12 Catholic Girls) is nearby on Regency Road. However, much of this will be changing with the introduction of the Superschool at Pooraka in 2011.

• **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
  Northpark, Sefton Park and Regency Plaza shopping centres are nearby. Parts of Kilburn, a “feeder suburb”, are highly industrial.

• **Other local facilities**
  Prospect Water Park, Prospect Oval and Ern Sconce Park are nearby.

• **Local Government body**
  Prospect City Council.