

2025 annual report to the Community

# Watervale Primary School

Watervale Primary School  
number: 470

Partnership: Mid North Clare



School principal:

Michelle Pudney

*M. Pudney*

Date of endorsement:

05/03/2026



# Context Statement

Watervale Primary School caters for students from R-6. At the time of this report, the enrolment in 2025 is 29. Watervale Primary School is classified as Category 5 on the Department for Education Index of Educational Disadvantage. At the time of this report, the school population includes , 10% students with disabilities. Further information about the school is available on the school's website (including its context statement), as well as the My School website.

Data Source: Department for Education data holdings from Mid census captured in AUGUST 2025.

## Governing Council Report

Hello everybody

Thank you all for coming, amazing turnout tonight, I've been to a lot of school concerts over the years and I think if family attendance per child was a competition, WPS would win hands down

For those who don't know me my name is Mark West

Or in this crowd, I'm more commonly known as... Tex West's dad

I have the Honor of been the Governing Council Chairperson which is why I'm standing here in front of you know

What the Gov Council Does

(doesn't get involved in day-to-day running of the school)

- Helps set the school's long-term direction.
- Approves school policies.
- Oversees the school budget and finances.
- Oversee how programs like OSCH are managed
- Represents parents and the community in big-picture decisions.

In a perfect world, which I feel we have mostly achieved at WPS, the Principal and their team and Governing Council work together to ensure the school is well resourced and the children (and staff) are receiving everything they need to help them thrive.

Thank you to the committee

Hilary, Carla, Charmaine, Amy, Sharlene, James as our representatives on Council, Sue Cunningham as our Community Representative and of course Kel as the principal

-hard to find volunteers these days so kudos to you all for giving up your evenings and your time so willingly

Its always amazing how many things always are going on at the and the amount of learning and activities the children manage to fit into a school year (you kids must be exhausted) 2025 has been no different and to the educators and support crew, well, if we see you at the bar tonight, we get it!

With so much going on it always hard to pick out the highlights but I'd thought maybe I'd share some of those things that we get to see at GC that you might otherwise not be aware of

Regarding positive learning outcomes, at our GC meeting we have a section called the principal's report which we often get to hear to hear how our students are travelling in key areas like numeracy & literacy.

Teaching has evolved a lot over the years Data is collected (through testing) both internally for year-on-year comparisons and also used to compare to students across SA

With these comparisons we get to see that so much of the kids learning is Data Driven and data Informed Decision Making. Our kids are tested often and areas of strengths and weakness are highlighted and then the learning plans are adjusted (where possible) to address any areas of need.

To give you an example

- At the beginning of 2025 kids were tested for basic numeracy. When these results were compared to the 2024 results we saw a near 20% movement of our boys from the high risk/some risk group to the minimal/negligible risk group, an amazing result.

Some other results

- Two thirds of our children scored higher than 60% on an age-appropriate spelling test recently
- We have seen Growth for all children in for writing in persuasive, narrative and recount writing

A great example of how using the data is being used to benefits our children

## **Finances**

Managing the finances of the school is a tough job. I'm fortunate enough to sit on the finance committee with Kel and Liz where we all work as a team... and do it Liz's way.

No ones ever said it out loud...but I like to think the finance report is the most eagerly anticipated report at governing council

In my time on finance committee over the last 3 years finances have always been managed carefully, and like any budget, they walk that fine line between ensuring the children and educators have all the resources they require and staffing levels are adequate, while also ensuring the books are balanced.

You'll all be happy to hear that over the course of the last year; Kel and Liz have done an amazing job reigning in expenses and have increased, what was an already healthy bottom line (which is that important number at the bottom of a profit and loss) increase by a whopping 45%. So, Michelle...2026 is looking good

Other Key areas for GC are

## **OSCH**

The OSCH is a critical service that the school provides for parents and the wider community. The OSCH program is always one of the hot topics of conversation at the Governing Council meetings. The offering of an OSCH service is seen as a very important cog in the Watervale machinery and I know those who use it, love it.

Given the size of the school and the wider difficulties attracting staff as well as the logistical conundrums that comes from operating across multiple sites , it can sometimes take some mathematical gymnastics to make it all add up, but we love our OSCH and I know it's appreciated by those who use it. Plans are afoot to continue to streamline and improve the service, so on behalf of GC just I wanted to say thank you to all those involved who have helped run the service throughout the year

Theres obviously lots more to share but my time is nearly up so just wanted to quickly mention some of the more notable events that occurred throughout the year

## **Sports Carnival**

How good was that! The combination of glorious weather, picture perfect grounds, Swiss like precision with the organization all made it a day to remember. I lost count of the number of people who made comments to me about how much they loved the day and how Watervale Primary School really knows how to put an event.

There were also 2 very notable things that happened at the sports day. The first (and I have this as absolute fact straight from Hilary, we got to see Mark Mason run for the very first time. I thought he did an amazing job 2. The second (also during the parent relay) was our first sight of the amazing speed demon that is Tom Martin, perhaps the fastest parent in the Mid North. It's fair to say that if anyone had got in his way during that race, there would have been a fatality.

## **New Principal**

I'm not sure if anyone has heard but Kel is leaving. I had the opportunity (I say opportunity, when I mean nerve wracking and terrifying job) along with Miss Alison of sitting on the selection panel for Kels replacement. This was a fascinating process that of course resulted in Michelle Pudney graciously accepting the role as our new principal.

Trying to replace the irreplaceable Kel Bunfield is a obviously a tough gig however I'll like to thank my fellow parents who offered comforting words of wisdom like "Don't stuff it up Westy" and "If we have to leave, its all your fault"

I'm just joking, but I can honestly say we had amazing candidates for the role. It was made very clear to me throughout the process that quality educators want to come to Watervale Primary School. And so, to Michelle, welcome! We're all absolutely delighted to have you as our principal and know that you will make it your own and continue (in your own way) to build on the legacy that Kel has left.

To Kel, I know lots has already been said and there's more to be said but on behalf of the Governing Council and wider school community, I just wanted to thank you. Your commitment to WPS and to the children and quality education is unsurpassed. You leave an amazing legacy, one I hope you're immensely proud and even and though these kids don't know it now, in years to come, they will look back on their time at Watervale as some of the best times of their life and you will have played a big part in that.

We all wish you nothing but the best for whatever the future holds

Some thankyou

-A big thank you to Linda & the Paws for all their work throughout the year supporting the school by raising money and helping to create a welcoming, supportive and engaged school community for families through activities such as the new parents welcome morning tea and activities day.

- Thankyou to Kristy for all your fabulous work with Playgroup. I know playgroup is often the first exposure people have to WPS and many current students have started their journey there

And to you guys (the community and extended families, I know Watervale punches well above its weight with community support so thank you

And finally, a massive thankyou to our educator's and support staff, you guys are The Best! and even though I'm sure you question your life choices some days I want you to know that you do extremely valuable work and we appreciate each and every one of you.

I'd like to wrap up by saying that Watervale Primary School is in good shape, 2026 is going to to feel a bit different, but different is good! /Change is necessary. We have 26 Students starting next year so hopefully we can build on that and continue to make WPS a wonderful place to educate our children

Thankyou

PAWS –

On behalf of the PAWS committee, Linda has requested my assistance in inviting all staff to come forward and receive a token of our appreciation. Additionally, each of the three departing staff members will be presented with a bottle of champagne as a gesture of gratitude for their contributions, although their presence will be greatly missed. (Not including kel, because she received her gifts yesterday)

Please come up to collect your gift when your name is called.

Ben Johnson, Bec Reynolds, Mark Mason, Hillary O'Leary, Loren Liebelt, Joanne Tilley, Alison Burford, Julie Kelly, Liz Moreton, Paulie Calaby, Sharyn Williams, Dean Williams, Kristy Schutz, Bec Bryksy, Kel Bunfield, OSHC staff - Glenn, Chantelle and Sharni

## Performance Summary

## **NAPLAN Proficiency**

In 2023 the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) - a Commonwealth Independent statutory authority - announced changes to NAPLAN performance reporting. The new approach replaces the previous numerical NAPLAN bands and the national minimum standard.

NAPLAN results are not shown where sites have enrolment of less than 6 students in the applicable NAPLAN year levels.

## School Attendance

Year Level	2023	2024	2025
Reception	86.5%	89.3%	86.5%
Year 01	92.1%	86.3%	92.5%
Year 02	92.6%	88.4%	82.6%
Year 03	90.1%	89.4%	86.9%
Year 04	81.2%	87.9%	89.9%
Year 05	90.0%	86.5%	90.2%
Year 06	81.9%	86.3%	90.3%
Total	86.5%	87.6%	88.1%

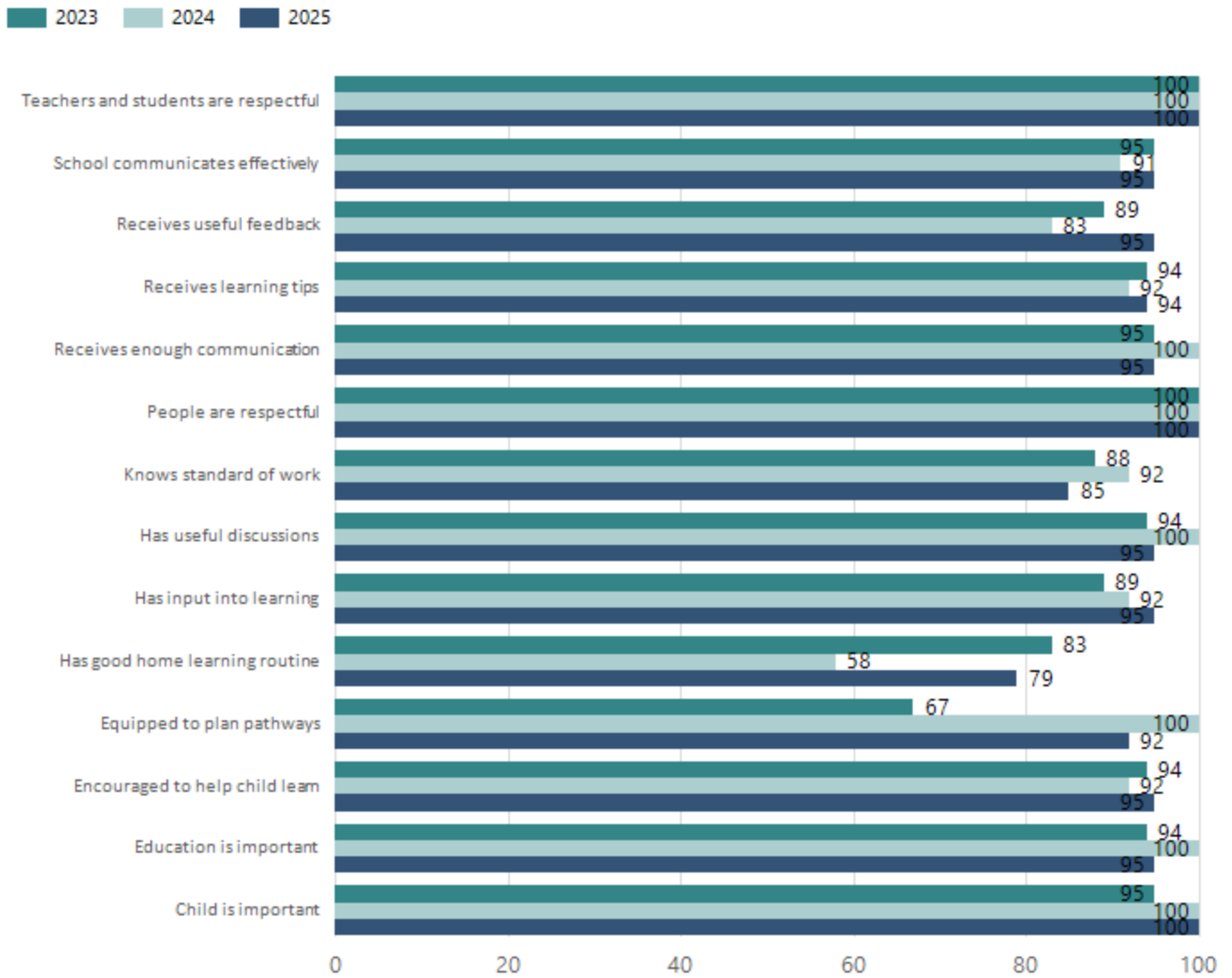
Data Source: Department for Education Attendance Data, Semester 1 Report 2025. A blank cell indicates there were no students enrolled. 'Primary Other' includes students enrolled in specialised education options. 'Secondary Other' includes students who have already spent a year at Year 12 and elected to undertake further study at Year 12.

## Attendance Comment

In South Australia, all children and young people must be in school from 6 years to 16 years old. They must attend a government or non-government school full time. From age 16 to 17 however, young people must attend school or an approved learning program (such as an apprenticeship, traineeship, accredited course or university). Schools and parents must encourage and support students to come to school every day. Parents and caregivers must make sure their child is enrolled in a school, and attends school all day and everyday it is open, unless a child is sick or has an approved exemption. Teachers and leaders actively follow up when a student misses school, including recording all absences and non-attendance. All schools in South Australia have local attendance procedures governed under the Education and Children's Services Regulations 2020.

# School Parent Opinion Survey Results

Proportion of agree/strongly agree response(%)



Data Source: 2025 Department for Education Parent Opinions Survey, Term 3 2025.

# Intended Destination

Leave Reason	Number
--------------	--------

Data Source: Department for Education Destination Data Report, 2025. Data extract term 3 2025. Data shows recorded destinations for students that left the school in the previous year. Data is uploaded by schools in term 3 and may not reflect final or total figures at time of report creation.

# Highest Qualifications held by the teaching workforce and workforce composition

All teachers at this school are qualified and registered with the SA Teachers Registration Board.

Qualification Level	Number of Qualifications
Bachelor's degrees or Diplomas	4
Postgraduate Qualifications	1

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collections as on the last pay date of June 2025. As self-reported by staff in the system.

Please note: Data includes staff who are Actively employed and on extended paid leave. Please note only the highest qualification of the Teaching staff is reported. Excludes any number of other certifications earned.

## Workforce composition including indigenous staff

	Teaching Staff		Non-Teaching Staff	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Full-Time Equivalents	0.0	3.6	0.0	2.7
Persons	0.0	5.0	0.0	6.0

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collection as on the last pay date of June 2025.

Please note: Data includes staff who are actively employed and on extended paid leave. "Indigenous category" is self-reported by staff in the system.

## Financial Statement

Funding Source	Amount
Grants: State	\$876,330.20
Grants: Commonwealth	\$1750.00
Parent Contributions	\$3325.00
Fund Raising	\$7402.11
Other	\$450.00 Hire \$487.00 Sponsorship/ Donation

Data Source: School supplied data.