



Pirlangimpi Community

**REMOTE SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE STRATEGY (RSAS)**

Community Attendance Plan 2020

School name:	Pularumpi Primary School
School Contact:	Ashley Anderson, Teaching Principal: 0417 167 810
RSAS contact:	Michelle Murakami, School Attendance Officer: 0497 443 228 Jackie McSkimming, RSAS Coordinator: 0488 017 751

What is RSAS?

The Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS) brings together families, schools, communities and other services to find local solutions to get kids to school.

Families are at the centre of everything RSAS does. Local RSAS teams work with families to take a lead role in their children's education. They support students to attend school, fulfil their potential and have access to more opportunities.

RSAS teams help schools to work with families and learn more about local cultures and communities. They also offer a range of activities to help families and schools in their community to work together.

What does our community want to achieve (GOALS)?

- We would like to improve annual attendance average to above 85% which is higher than 2013 and almost 10% improvement from the 2018 annual average.
- We would like to increase weekly attendance rates and exceed 90% attendance for at least 20 weeks of the year.
- We would like increase attendance the week before and after mid-year bush holidays break to 70% attendance up by more than 15% from 2018.
- We want to improve family and community engagement, so parents become more involved in their children's schooling and feel welcome and part of the school community.

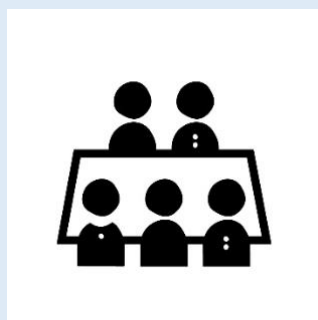
School attendance will improve when local people are involved in the solution and their knowledge and expertise is respected. Change will happen when everyone plans and works together.

What will RSAS do to help achieve these goals?



RSAS employs a full time School Attendance Officer who is based at Pularumpi school. Support is provided by RSAS Coordinator and School Attendance Supervisor who are based in Wurrumiyanga Community. The RSAS Coordinator will travel from Wurrumiyanga fortnightly to Pirlangimpi to provide support and attend meeting and planning sessions with RSAS School Attendance officer, Principal and stakeholders as required.

The RSAS team is made up of people who value education and the importance of school attendance and with a focus on encouraging children to attend school every day as well as educate and support parents to value education and get their children to school.



The RSAS Governance Committee provides advice about how best to deliver RSAS activities/services and supports everyone to work together. Families, schools and other service providers are invited to participate in the Governance committee. The Governance committee meets 4 times a year with additional special meetings when required. If you want to get involved, raise an issue or learn more about RSAS, contact Jackie on 0488 017 751

In our Community, RSAS will focus on delivering:



Daily Attendance Activities

RSAS Officer walks with children to school each morning. The School has a small bus which the RSAS officer once licenced can access as required. TITEB will contribute to fuel costs associated with RSAS services.

Family follow up visits:

Each morning the RSAS Officer checks each class to identify which children are not at school then visits each family of children not at school to find out the reason, where possible supports children to get to school and provides the information to school.

All follow up visits are captured on an APP "Why not at School" which is used to inform schools, SATO and assist with various support service referrals and identify ways to support child/family and community to overcome attendance issues. As well as assist with reporting requirements.

Additional follow up visits and service referrals:

Throughout the day RSAS also assist with various follow up visits as requested by schools and as needs are identified.

All follow up visits and referral to services are captured by RSAS Staff using online forms. Information is used to support the program as well as for reporting purposes. Data captured is also used to inform governance committee of trends for each school to address reasons for non-attendance.

Shop visits

RSAS Staff visit local store to make sure children are not hanging around and encourage them back to school and talk with community members. Although this is not a major issue in Pirlangimpi as no school no shop is well enforced by store staff.

Support community/school events and meetings

RSAS Team support all school events and a representative from the RSAS Team attends all relevant meetings and supports relevant community events.

A community events calendar which includes all relevant school and community events and meetings will be regularly updated by RSAS Team and shared with relevant stakeholders.

An **RSAS Daily Timetable and Schedule** of events and meetings will be displayed at the school and copies made available at school, TITEB offices as well as on TITEB website.



Local Employment

The RSAS Team 100% local.

In Pirlangimpi there is a Full Time School Attendance officer, local supervision takes place at Pirli by the Site Manager and program specific support is by the RSAS Coordinator who is based at Wurrumiyanga community and the other RSAS Staff. The RSAS Coordinator visits Pirlangimpi every fortnight to meet with the RSAS School attendance officer and the school principal.

It is important to us to have local staff in RSAS Positions as they have community knowledge and established relationships in community. Local staff can engage with children and families and assist visiting services and school staff to locate and engage in a culturally appropriate manner.

Any vacancies in the RSAS Program are advertised through the CDP employment Services Team (Community Development Program) which is also a program managed by TITEB.



Training and Staff Development

All RSAS Staff will be offered Cert II in Community Services.

All RSAS Staff are offered training when being delivered in community, First Aid training, Mental health first aid. They are supported to get Driving licences and LR to drive Bus and 4x4 training.

Child Protection training for all staff is being explored.

PD is undertaken as needs are identified for individuals or teams. Induction program for staff includes one on one training. Staff attend NESAs training as available and attend conferences, and we try to give all staff opportunity to participate at least once. Where possible the option for joint training with RSAS Team from Wadeye will be supported to offer the opportunity for teams to come together, collaborate and share ideas which has been successful previously.

Where possible all training is scheduled during school holidays to ensure staff are on the ground on school days.



Parenting Workshops and support services

Community members have been requesting parenting program/training for some time. RSAS Team have also identified some parents are disengaged, struggle with disciplining their children and some households lack basic routine which results in children being hungry, having dirty clothes and tired.

Our intention was to develop a parenting program however in further consultation identified a services and programs already available in community including:

FAST NT:

- Baby FAST.

Relationships Australia

- Holding Children Together, child and family counselling
- Tiwi –BUK's Tiwi Bring Up Great Kids.

Menzies School of Health Research

- Play to connect

The RSAS Team will attend Red Cross Children for Community meetings and assist with referrals to any new and existing programs and service to increase attendance and engagement with community members.

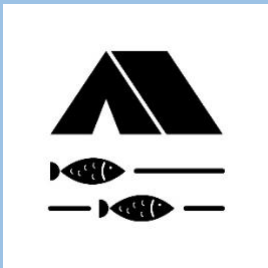


Youth and Community Summits

Although we will not schedule RSAS Coordinated Youth and Community summits, they will be coordinated on need to address specific issues affecting school attendance within the community.

For example, if there is community unrest the Police may hold community meeting. Fighting or Bullying incident at school RSAS will assist in coordinating including engaging appropriate community leaders to assist with addressing the issue.

RSAS Will continue to work with schools to support their own leadership programs within schools.



Community Events

RSAS Budgeted Activity Menu Item

RSAS Will promote school attendance and support all Community Events including: Sporting events and football carnivals and festivals, School fetes and concerts, Cultural and Sport and Recreation activities. A calendar of events will be managed by RSAS Team and used to assist with staffing and event coordination to maximise the success of events and promotion of school attendance.

RSAS Will meet with Tiwi Islands Regional Council, Red Cross and schools throughout the year and participate in planning meetings. RSAS Support may involve assistance with transport, BBQ, holding a stall or other support as required.

Once Tiwi Islands Regional Council has confirmed events schedule and school holidays program RSAS will attend Planning meetings which include Red Cross and PM&C representative.

RSAS will also continue to work with schools to support initiatives such Family Open days, Youth Camps and Back to school fun days.

Tiwi Whole Community Event


"Yellow Shirt Day"

12th October 2020

Everyone on Tiwi Islands encouraged to wear Yellow in support of the RSAS program and show support their support for the importance of school attendance.

This event will be well-advertised and whole community encouraged to wear Yellow and walk children to school.

Fun activities will be confirmed for each community/school at planning meetings. The CDP Women's Centre will support the community with affordable Yellow shirts for the occasion.

	<p>All Schools “Welcome back to school BBQ” First Day of Each Term. Families are encouraged to attend</p> <p>“Family Engagement Breakfast” Monday 27th July (after Darwin Show Day) We hope that this will encourage families to return so children can get back to school.</p> <p>Sports Day Pularumpi School and Milikapiti Joint School event June 2020 Date TBC</p> <p>RSAS Supervisor will travel with school to community to support day’s events. Providing Ice Cups and manning Water station as well as supporting other activities as required on the day.</p> <p><i>Families are encouraged to check Schedule of events which will be updated throughout the year and be displayed at school. All events will also be promoted on TITEB Facebook and community noticeboards.</i></p>
	<p><u>Breakfast and Lunch Programs</u></p> <p>Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board provides the School Nutrition Program at Pularumpi School.</p> <p>Providing Breakfast, Lunch and Fruit. For times please refer to the Daily Schedule.</p> <p>The RSAS Officer in Pirlangimpi supports the School Nutrition program by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging families to participate and sign up for the program. • Encouraging children to get to school in time to have breakfast. • Contacting the SNP staff each morning to advise how many students are at school so they can prepare meals. <p><i>It is not the responsibility for the RSAS Officer to serve meals however on occasion if needed can support the TITEB SNP staff on occasions they have a staff member away.</i></p>



Culture and Language Projects

RSAS will support the school with Culture and Language projects, including assisting to engage with Cultural leaders in each community.

RSAS officer will be engaging with Tiwi Land Rangers to try to coordinate “Turtle dreaming” cultural and environmental camp which has been successful in previous years. It is intended as a reward for students with High attendance to be offered to participate and an incentive to attend school everyday.



In School Support *(not in classroom)*

RSAS School attendance officer is based at the school. The RSAS officer is available to assist with children who are experiencing behavioural issues, are upset, sick or need someone to talk to.

The RSAS School Attendance Officer will mentor children and return them to class when they are ready. RSAS Staff are also available for teachers to assist with communicating with children and can locate parents or carers to deal with problem behaviour a sick child etc.



Rewards and Recognition

RSAS Budgeted Activity Menu Item

RSAS Support all School initiatives to reward children’s attendance and behaviour.


Family Hampers

It is important to recognise that it takes the effort of all people living in the home of a child to ensure children attend school every day. Trails of a family hamper has proven successful and due to plea from schools and families will be continued in 2020.

Each time a child attends a full week of school they will go into the draw to win a Family hamper which will be drawn at the end of Semester 1 and 2.

2 hampers will be drawn to the value of \$300 and 2 hampers to the value of \$150. (all include \$50 power or Fuel vouchers) at the end of Semester 1 and 2. Local community Elders will be invited to draw names of winners and present awards.

Mid-Year (Bush Holidays) Hampers contain camping equipment and essential items for the family to enjoy while spending time on country.

	<p>End of Year hampers include essential perishable items and Christmas treats for everyone to enjoy.</p> <p>Attendance Certificates and Prizes Each week a child attends every day of school they receive a Certificate and those that collect 3 certificates get to choose a small prize.</p> <p>RSAS Purchase small prizes to stock school rewards buckets so children can select item of their choice.</p> <p>At the end of each Term, children with the highest attendance get to choose larger awards including books, sports gear supplied by RSAS.</p> <p>RSAS will also be working with School and Land Rangers to re-establish Turtle Dreaming Camp for children with high attendance.</p> <p>RSAS Staff also have small awards and gifts handed out for encouraging good behaviour, which include stickers, stationary and RSAS Promotional items.</p> <p><i>Additional rewards initiatives for children will be further explored with the school.</i></p>
	<p><u>Mentoring</u></p> <p>RSAS Staff mentor children daily, taking time to talk and listen to children. This is not a formal arrangement. Structured mentoring programs are not effective, flexible non-intrusive engagement with children and families had proven most effective. Our RSAS staff can identify an appropriate staff member, peer, relative or community leader to mentor students to address needs of children.</p> <p><i>If a parent or family member has concerns for a child in their care, they can speak to the RSAS Officer, so they can check on children during the day or even provide advice about other support services available.</i></p> <p><i>There are a range of support services available on the Tiwi Islands through Red Cross, Catholic Care, Relationships Australia, Menzies and Territory Families. RSAS will continue to develop relationships with all services and be available to provide guidance to families to seek appropriate support.</i></p>



Communications

RSAS Budgeted Activity Menu Item

TITEB will utilise its Facebook page and Tiwi Times Newsletter to promote RSAS good news stories and inform community of events and other relevant information.

Other organisations are welcome to send any information they would like shared about services offered in community and RSAS will help promote any services available to families and children.

TITEB have a website that provides information about RSAS and will be updated regularly.

RSAS Will be developing short videos to promote the RSAS Program on the Tiwi Islands, clips which will include interviews with influential Tiwi people, role models and elders talking about why they think school is important. Education for parents and community about the importance of school attendance, tips on getting children to school and bedtime routine.

Clips (Short Videos) are planned to be shown on Tiwi to Darwin Ferry, local store TV's, during engagement events such as movie night, TITEB website and Facebook. We will also share promotional videos with PM&C as good news stories and provide as a resource for NESAs in their training and workshops in other regions. It will be a source of pride for our RSAS Team and Tiwi community to have the opportunity to share their culture, the work the RSAS team do is doing in their communities and how they value the importance of education.

We hope to start filming before the end of Term 1 and have some content available to share in term 2.




Family Engagement

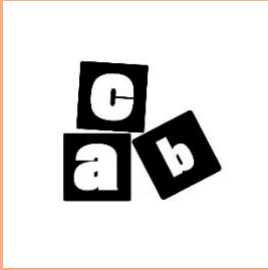
RSAS Budgeted Activity Menu Item

Family engagement occurs on a daily basis.

It is important that the RSAS "Yellow Shirts" team are seen as the helpers, the people families can come to for guidance, advice and support.

RSAS staff will be available by schools, Department of Education Student Engagement Officer and Territory Families to assist with engagement and locating families however cannot be involved with dealing with complex issues that may impact their lives as members of community and risk losing the trust of families.

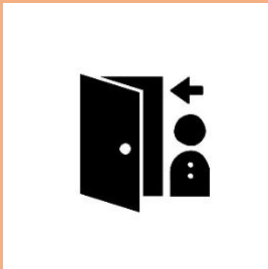
	<p>RSAS staff provide a range of support and encourage families to engage with various programs and support services available to them in their community.</p> <p>RSAS will act as the link between families, schools and support services by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting schools and service providers with locating and engaging with families, parents and carers. • Encourage families, parents and carers to be involved with the school and services and programs available to them and their children. <p>RSAS are planning to hold a family movie night as well as hold family engagement events in consultation with the school as a forum to promote the importance of school and encouraging families to be involved with their children’s schooling and school community. Events and dates have not been finalised and will be scheduled and promoted after further consultation with Schools, and other key stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Families are encouraged to check the RSAS Schedule which will be displayed at the school and TITEB’s Website which will be updated with events throughout the year, events will also be promoted on Community Notice boards and TITEB Facebook page.</i></p> <p><i>Families wanting to be more involved with the school, meet their child’s teacher or Principal are encouraged to talk to the RSAS Officer who will be happy to introduce you and even support you in meetings with the school.</i></p>
	<p><u>Youth Engagement</u></p> <p>TIRC and Red Cross have funded youth engagement programs, RSAS support and promote these programs.</p> <p>RSAS will assist in the promotion of activities and participate on planning meetings.</p>



Early Childhood

RSAS staff will encourage families to become involved with existing programs such as Families as First Teachers (FaFT) and be available to assist all visiting services and program providers to engage with families and parents.

Parents can ask RSAS School Attendance Officer about FaFT and assist them to engage with the program at the school.



Transition Support

RSAS School Attendance Officer assist schools with engaging parents and enrolling students, being a local community member the school attendance officer and knows all families and are aware of new children arriving in community.

RSAS Coordinator is also contactable by Tiwi College to support them to engage with families transitioning between schools to limit time away from school.

RSAS Staff are available to all families to provide support with enrolment assist with setting up meetings with school and attend meetings to help their children to settle into school and deal with any concerns or barriers.

RSAS Staff are friendly and approachable, they encourage children to talk to them if they are having any troubles, sometimes talking to someone they trust in language is enough to assist them, other times RSAS may seek other support to help children where needed.

If families need assistance with children enrolling at school, they are encouraged to speak to the RSAS Officer or Coordinator.



Targeted Girls and Boys Program

There has not been any need identified for Targeted Girls and Boys Programs in Pirlangimpi.

However, will be monitored and initiatives identified when required.



Enrolment Strategy

RSAS Officer will assist the school with engaging parents and filling out paperwork to enrol students. As a local community member RSAS Officer is aware of new children coming to community and their circumstances so can provide valuable information to schools.

Parents and families can talk to RSAS Officer about changing schools or children relocating and can provide contact details of appropriate contacts that can assist with the enrolment process.



Mobility Strategy

There is some movement between Tiwi Communities often to attend funerals. RSAS Staff work (including in their own time) to engage with relatives and families to encourage people to get home as soon as possible to get their children to school.

During holidays Bush Holidays and Christmas, RSAS Staff also engage with families to encourage them to return to community so children can attend school and promote return to school with posters, Airport/strip, ferry and bus services.

RSAS Staff from Milikapiti, Pularumpi and Wurrumiyanga schools communicate regularly and work together to help get children back to their home communities and back to school as soon as possible after funerals or visiting families.

We will also be utilising contact details for RSAS providers in other communities as provided by Department of Education RSAS Manager to assist with locating children when travelling to other communities for family and cultural reasons.

The Darwin Show day which is held in the first week of Term 3 has an impact on attendance and results in low attendance. To address this issue and encourage families back to school a BBQ breakfast well be held.

This is an ongoing issue impacting attendance at all schools and some families become stranded in Darwin. We will continue to raise concern with Department of Education to try to get school holidays to coincide with Show Day. Until this issue is addressed the RSAS team will continue to encourage families to make sure they get back to community, so their children don't miss out on school.

If any families are having trouble getting back to community so their children can get back to school, they are encouraged to contact the RSAS Officer or RSAS Coordinator who may be able to assist with attending a different school until you are able to return home or assist with arrangements to get children back home for school.



Boarding School Support

RSAS Coordinator will be encouraging Tiwi College students to be ready for collection and contactable to support Tiwi College staff to engage with families.

Although Tiwi College is not included as a School in the RSAS Program TITEB RSAS will also be supporting Tiwi College as all students are Tiwi.

We will support Tiwi College by assisting to promote their school events, assist with locating and engaging with parents and family of their children. Inviting to relevant meetings and community events and supporting all Tiwi schools to work together to identify ways they can work together to address attendance issues.

Tiwi College will also be represented in the RSAS Governance committee.

Any parents or family wanting to engage with Tiwi College or boarding schools in Darwin or interstate and don't know where to start are encouraged to talk to the RSAS Officer who will be happy to provide some guidance.



Locally Designed Initiatives

Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board are also a Registered Training Organisation, Group Training Organisation and Community Development Program provider on the Tiwi Islands, RSAS will be working with other areas of business to provide support to Pularumpi school which includes;

Offering training programs to teaching staff including First aid and other training as scheduled.

CDP Program offering potential work experience opportunities and CDP Activities at the school in areas that may lead to employment opportunities at the school and as well as other community identified projects at the school such as family garden or cultural areas.

RSAS Staff will act as a link to other TITEB services available to support the school.

Any community member that has ideas about initiatives that may improve attendance are strongly encouraged to share their ideas with the RSAS Officer or RSAS Coordinator.

What will our Community do to help achieve these goals?

Community members:

Community members can get behind their local Yellow Shirts team by encouraging everyone to value the importance of school attendance and prioritising children.

Community members can show their support by wearing Yellow on “Yellow Shirt Day” which is a whole community event.

Schools:

Work closely with RSAS teams and utilise their local knowledge and relationships in community to assist with engaging with families. Meet regularly to address children’s attendance and find solutions together to best address non-attendance that is appropriate to the needs on individual child and family.

Other community services:

All services should feel welcome to talk to our RSAS Staff who can help promote their programs and services available to families. Our RSAS Staff are local community members so are able to help locate families and provide guidance for culturally appropriate engagement.

It is important to remember that the RSAS Team “Yellow Shirts” are community members so are not able to get involved with complex issues that may impact their relationships with families. They must remain impartial and maintain the trust of families within community.

Families:

Families can talk to RSAS staff about any problems they are having that is impacting their children’s attendance at school. RSAS Staff are there to offer guidance and can help you to get the right support and meet with the school.

Families need to make sure all children have a good night sleep so they can be up and ready to learn each day.

Families are also encouraged to attend parenting workshops that can help them learn more about healthy routines and how to deal with children’s behavioural problems. Workshops will be fun and provide tips on ways to make parenting easier and to grow happy healthy Tiwi for the future.

Students:

Students can make sure they go to bed early and are ready for school each day.

The RSAS team are people you can trust and talk to about your problems they can find ways to help if you are feeling sad, angry or bullied. They are also there because they want you to do your best for your future so they will be there to celebrate your achievements.

Other information:

- A copy of this Community Attendance Plan will be available on TITEB's website and copies available at school or TITEB office. As other initiatives are identified to improve attendance the RSAS Coordinator will take actions to update the Community Action Plan in consultation with relevant stakeholders and governance committee members.
- Regular meetings with Principal will be held on a fortnightly basis and progress towards goals will be reviewed. At each meeting RSAS Coordinator will provide details of Family visits conducted for the fortnight and together will identify appropriate actions to address non-attendance.
- An RSAS Calendar will be maintained that lists all community events and meetings. Planning meetings will be held to prepare for events, to maximise their success and ensure collaboration. This includes school holiday activities where RSAS will meet with Tiwi Islands Regional Council and Red Cross who also provide school holiday activities for children.
- Attendance data will be monitored on a fortnightly basis TITEB will utilise its Facebook page to share attendance success. Community notice boards will be utilised to inform community of attendance rates.
- All community members are welcome to discuss concerns and ideas regarding school attendance directly with RSAS Officer or the RSAS Coordinator.