



Wurrumiyanga Community REMOTE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE STRATEGY (RSAS)

Community Attendance Plan 2020

| School name: | Xavier Catholic College |
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| School Contact: | Andree Rice, Principal: 8978 3970 |
| RSAS School Team Contact: | Xavier RSAS Bus: 0497 443 423 |
| School name: | Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School |
| School Contact: | Berkley Muldoon, Principal: 8978 3986 |
| RSAS School Team Contact: | MCPS RSAS Bus: 0497 443 396 |
| RSAS contact: | 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 for both Wurrumiyanga schools by above 10% compared to 2019 average. Primary school to 70% Annual and High School 55% annual average.
- At MCPS we would like to achieve above 85% attendance for at least 10 weeks of the year.
- At Xavier CC we would like to achieve above 70% attendance at least 10 weeks of the year.
- We want to improve family and community awareness of the impact of children missing school on both children and the Tiwi Community in the future.
- We want community members particularly elders and community leaders to support and encourage parents and carers to make choices that prioritise Tiwi Childrens growth and development to set them up to be future leaders, healthy and happy adults with opportunities.

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.

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What will RSAS do to help achieve these goals?

| RSAS employs an RSAS Team for the Primary and High School in Wurrumiyanga. Each team has a full time School Attendance Supervisor and 3-4 School Attendance Officers part-time and full-time. Teams are coordinated by the RSAS Coordinator who is based in Wurrumiyanga community and is supported by a Team Leader who is an engagement expert and two teams based at each of the schools. All RSAS staff are local members of community and represent each skin group. The RSAS team is made of up 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. |
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| 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 per year with additional special meetings if and 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

Transport assistance:

RSAS Teams provide a bus service for Primary and High School students and Preschool Students.

Child Safety seats are available for small children.

Children are encouraged to walk to school however if parents/carers would like children to catch bus, please have them ready at front of house for collection if you live in Enrail or Forestry bus will come past a few times from 7.30 each morning.

RSAS will be discussing options to set up bus stops and seating at pick up points around community with Tiwi Islands Regional Council. If approved will work with TITEB CDP Activities to set up this project and then set a bus route schedule with times for each pick up point. These can also be used for Tiwi College pickups.

If you have not made the RSAS Team aware a child in your care requires collection you can contact the RSAS Team.

| Family fol | low up | visits: |
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Each school/community:

Each morning the roll is collected RSAS staff follow up with each family when a child is not at school, to find out reasons, where possible support children to get 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 nonattendance.

Shop Visits

RSAS Staff visit local store/s to make sure children are not hanging around and encourage them back to school and talk with community members.

RSAS no school no shop signs are displayed at stores and takeaways, RSAS continue to work with community leaders and store managers to ensure this policy is enforced.

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 schools, TITEB offices as well as on TITEB website.

Local Employment

The RSAS Team 100% local.

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

In Wurrumiyanga the team represents each family group so are able to identify an appropriate member of staff to 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. |
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| | 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 NESA 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 |
| U E U | 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. |
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| 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. |
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| Careers Day |
| Senior Students, Xavier Catholic College and Tiwi College Date to be confirmed Term 4 |
| TITEB plans to hold a careers day in Term 4 for Senior students from Xavier and Tiwi College, RSAS Will support this event and will include |

representatives from TITEB's CDP Employment Team, Group Training Organisation and local employers.

All Schools

"Welcome back to school BBQ"

First Day of each Term. Families encouraged to attend. RSAS also work with Cathy Freeman foundation in Wurrumiyanga to support their Walk to school March at start of term.

"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.

"Sports Day"

Date TBC August 2020 MCPS and Xavier Schools RSAS Will support activities on the day and attend planning meeting to prepare for event.

"School Fete"

Date TBC MCPS and Xavier Schools. RSAS Will hold stalls and assist with set up and activities for the day.

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.

RSAS Will also attend all other community events such as football carnivals and Art Fair promoting school attendance.

Families are encouraged to check Schedule of events which will updated throughout the year and be displayed at school. All events will also be promoted on TITEB Facebook and community noticeboards.

| | Breakfast and Lunch Programs Catholic Education Department provides the School Nutrition Program at |
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| | the primary and High Schools in Wurrumiyanga. |
| | Breakfast is available from 7.30 – 8.15am |
| | Providing Breakfast, Lunch and Fruit. For times please refer to the Daily Schedule. |
| | The RSAS Staff in Wurrumiyanga supports the School Nutrition Program by; Encouraging families to participate and sign up for the program. |
| | Encouraging children to get to school in time to have breakfast. |
| | Staff not on bus duty or on break are expected to walk school grounds and engage with children. At breakfast sit and talk to children. |
| | <i>If Parents or carers want more information about the School nutrition program, they can speak to RSAS Staff who will provide information and advice.</i> |
| | Culture and Language Projects |
| | RSAS will support the school with Culture and Language projects, including assisting to engage with Cultural leaders in each community. |
| | Red Cross provide regular cultural programs in Wurrumiyanga schools. |
| | MCPS: Culture Garden project , RSAS Team will liaise with School and CDP Activities Manager (TITEB) to coordinate a CDP Work for the dole activity at school for interested and suitable Jobseekers to work on this project. |
| | Xavier: Pukamani restoration and culture meeting place. RSAS Team will liaise with school and CDP Activities Manager (TITEB) to coordinate a CDP |
| | Work for the dole activity at school for interested and suitable jobseekers with to work on this project. |
| | In School Support (not in classroom) |
| | RSAS staff are based on school grounds and have an office at each school. |
| | RSAS Staff are contactable by teaching staff to assist with children who are experiencing behavioural issues, are upset, sick or need someone to talk |
| T | to. MCPS RSAS Office is set up as a safe place for children who need time out. |
| | The RSAS staff will mentor children and return them to class when they are ready. RSAS Staff are also available for teachers to assist with |
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| | communicating with children and can locate parents or carers to deal with problem behaviour a sick child etc. |
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| | Rewards and Recognition RSAS Budgeted Activity Menu Item |
| | RSAS Support all School initiatives to reward Childrens 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. |
| V | End of Year hampers include essential perishable items and Christmas treats for everyone to enjoy. |
| - | Xavier Attendance Certificates and a small prize is awarded to students with high |
| | attendance at the end of each term. 100% and above 95%. RSAS will continue to work with the school to identify other attendance |
| | award initiatives. Some attendance incentive initiatives that are being further explored |
| | include support for students to travel to attend cultural exchanges and rewards trips to Darwin to attend events and camps. |
| | MCPS MCPS School have existing Data points system PSAS support school |
| | MCPS School have existing Dojo points system, RSAS support school initiative and hand out Dojo points to children for good behaviour on bus, on school grounds. |
| | Attendance Certificate and small prize are presented at the end of Each term for students with high attendance. 100% and above 95% RSAS will work with school further to identify other attendance award initiatives. RSAS Staff also have small awards and gifts handed out for encouragement good behaviour, which include stickers, stationary and RSAS promotional items. |
| | items. Additional rewards initiatives for children will be further explored with the school. |

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Additional rewards initiatives for children will be further explored with the school.

Mentoring

RSAS staff mentor children on a daily basis, 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 are able to identify an appropriate staff member, peer, relative or community leader to mentor students to address needs of children.

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.

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.

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 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 NESA 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 end Term 1 and have some content available to share in Term 2.

Family Engagement

RSAS Budgeted Activity Menu Item

Wurrumiyanga:

Family engagement occurs on a daily basis, all RSAS staff are local members of community and represent all Tiwi family groups. Knowing all families, staff are able to engage the most appropriate staff member to engage with families in the most effective and culturally appropriate way.

It is important that the RSAS "Yellow Shirts" team are seen as the helpers, that parents, caregivers and 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.

RSAS staff provide a range of support and encourage families to engage with various programs and support services available to them in their communities.

RSAS will act as the link between families, schools and support services by; 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.

RSAS are planning to hold a family movie night as well as hold family engagement events in consultation with schools as a forum to promote the importance of school and encouraging families to be involved with their children's schooling.

Events and dates have not been finalised and will be scheduled and promoted after further consultation with Schools, and other key stakeholders.

All community and school family engagement events are supported and promoted by RSAS team.

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. 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. |
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| Youth Engagement TIRC and Red Cross have funded youth engagement programs, RSAS support and promote these programs. RSAS will assist in the promotion of activities and participate on planning meetings. |
| 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 SupportRSAS staff 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 settling 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 can contact the RSAS Team who will be able to provide advice. |

Targeted Girls and Boys Program

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There is an ongoing issue with Young Tiwi men and women getting "Married up" this impacts attendance at High School. RSAS will continue to work with High School to address this issue. Recent personal development program for young female Jobseekers to build self-esteem and resilience was successful in Wurrumiyanga, RSAS will continue to work with high schools to see if this or a similar program would be beneficial to student's, which could be delivered in school or students to join other young women.

Enrolment Strategy



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

Parents and families can talk to RSAS staff 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 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

Support for Transition from school to employment

As a community we are tired of seeing students leaving school and becoming disengaged. Local employers, teachers and community members want to see more young Tiwi men and women move straight to employment from school. TITEB and RSAS will be helping to address this and support schools to get students prepared for work and life after school.

Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board (TITEB) is 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 all Tiwi Schools which includes;

Offering training programs to schools, teachers and students. Supporting schools with providing careers advice for senior students, support to engaging with local employers to offer work experience





| opportunities for senior students and school based Traineeships and Apprenticeships. |
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| RSAS staff will be available to mentor students attending work experience or traineeship and apprenticeships and assist with transport. TITEB will hold a Careers Day for senior students and work with schools to support them with providing careers and work preparation advice for students. |
| 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.