

BE YOU Story– Anzac Terrace Primary School

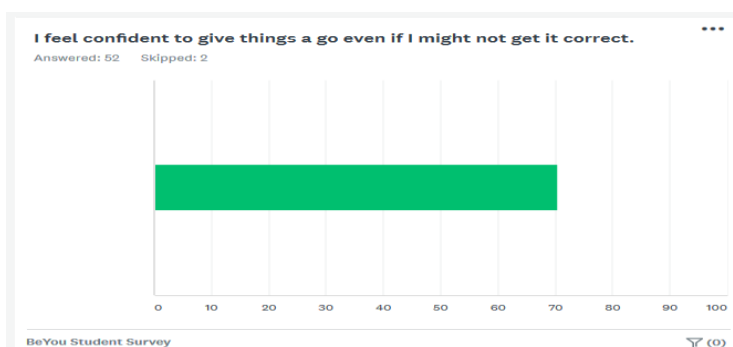
Anzac Terrace Primary School is located 11 kilometres north-east of the Perth central business district in the North Metropolitan Education Region. Established in 1969, the school currently has 371 enrolled students from Kindergarten to Year 6. The student population is diverse with nearly half of the students having a language background other than English. The school has an Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage rating of 1015 (decile 4). An on-site Out of School Hours Club supports the needs of working parents. An independent playgroup also meets once per week at the school and provides opportunities for children to develop social skills and improve school readiness. The spacious school grounds feature mature shade trees, a community vegetable garden and expansive sports ovals. The Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C) plays an important role in Anzac Terrace Primary School activities and is vital to fundraising efforts to support the needs of the school. The school is also supported by a committed School Council.

“The school has always had a lovely feel to it, hence why we still have teachers here who were teaching when I was a student. It has a vibe that says welcome.” - Sally Pitchers, Parent and ex-student.

At Anzac Terrace Primary School our Strategic Plan is a result of wide consultation with the staff and the community of Anzac Terrace. Our Focus is in Educating the Whole Child and staff wellbeing. We are committed to nurturing social and emotional development and student wellbeing to develop the whole child.

In 2018 we were successful in accessing financial aid to support a mental health program within our school. I, Shelley Keyser, was given the role of coordinating the program. I completed the Youth Mental Health First Aid and together with our Deputy Principal, Amanda McAlpine, completed Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training.

Our school joined **Be You** to address our focus on Educating the Whole Child and with the help of Be You and under the guidance of our consultant Antonia, we decided to focus on Resilience. Our Be You action team modified the Be You survey questions on resilience to address our school needs. The students, staff and parents completed a survey.



An example of one of the questions on the survey.

We implemented **Aussie Optimism**. **Aussie Optimism** is an evidence-based mental health promotion program for children in primary and lower secondary schools. **Aussie Optimism** teaches practical skills and strategies relating to social and emotional wellbeing in children, and makes use of empirically validated psychological and educational techniques. The program runs from Year 1 to 6. I wrote a separate program to include the Kindy and Pre Primary students and prepared the program for Year 1 and 2. Amanda McAlpine prepared the program for years 3 to 6. The students from Kindy to year 6 are involved in the Aussie Optimism program.



Display in a Pre Primary class for parents.

“Not long after a Pre Primary student brought home his ‘First Aid Kit for Feelings’ he was having a meltdown one morning about something he wasn’t allowed to do but we have put his First Aid Kit up in his room and he took himself in there, looked at all the different things he could do and then went and did some Yoga and Breathing ... He came back 10 minutes later to tell me that it made him feel so much better, that is nothing that would have happened before now so I thank you!”, Pre-Primary Mum.

To work in partnership with the parents, they were encouraged to promote resilience at home. I sent ideas home on how to promote resilience in the home situation. An app called Smiling Mind and the Resilience Project Website are some of the ideas the parents use at home. Parents have also joined the Be You website and followed Be You on Facebook.

THE DIVERSE TEAM AT ANZAC TERRACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Unstoppable Me Program

All students across the school have participated in the Unstoppable Me Program. From yoga, to breathing training, power of positive thinking, to mindfulness activities; the program has been an incredible success and one that we will try to continue annually.

“On entering Anzac Terrace I felt immediately it was a welcoming place to be. My experience working with teachers and students from kindy to Year Six confirmed my impression. This school is a happy, inclusive positive place for students to blossom and grow.” Linda Bancroft, Unstoppable Me Program.

“I’ve had the pleasure of watching students take part in activities throughout the term as well as talking to students about the positive effect it has had on them.” Stuart Blackwood, Principal.

Wellness Committee

The Wellness Committee was created to assist with the mental well-being of staff at Anzac Terrace. The following are some examples of successes they have had:

- Putting little treats in pigeon holes to make all staff feel good about themselves. Done on a regular basis, for example, massage balls, chocolates, quotes etc.
- Birthday quote with balloon or chocolate put into staff pigeon hole on their special day.

- Wellness space with massage mats and equipment to give teacher a relaxing five-minute break.
- After school yoga sessions.
- Mindfulness colouring-in on staff room tables.



The Wellness Committee

Mrs Sue DeWitt shared this great moment. We gave the staff a packet of blue tac with a note saying “*Use in a sticky situation*”. She received positive feedback which made her realise that the little gestures make a big difference

When asked “What do you like about working at our school?” Mikhala Stacey our Year 3 teacher said “*The staff, students and families that I get to work with.*”

Community Garden

The community garden is a place where the students from all year levels work collaboratively with community volunteers. It gives the students a sense of purpose and belonging and a chance to make new friends. Older children support younger students. They enjoy watching the plants grow while developing life skills. With luck, there will be produce that can be used by the students (in a cooking activity) or used within the school community (flowers for the front office).

Mrs Lynda France, Year 1 Teacher, and school community garden coordinator said, “*Children develop resilience in dealing with any mishaps or disappointments that occur- caterpillars or bugs munching or plants not thriving and the students develop an understanding of the need to care for living things.*” Hopefully the program will be extended into next year to include worm farms and/or compost bins.

The wonderful greeting visitors receive when arriving at ATPS

Sue Harrison, Manger Corporate Services described the team at our reception, “We are the first people new families talk to and we are frequently thanked for our friendliness and knowledge regarding all processes for enrolment. With three staff available to provide information, it is imperative the information is accurate and timely. We regularly review our roles. All staff have to come into the office to sign in and there is always a happy vibe with greetings and chatting. Visitors, relief staff, contractors and parents often comment on our welcoming attitude to everyone.”

During a recent visit from a senior executive from DoE, our exceptional professional and personable conduct was conveyed to the staff as an example of exemplary service to the community.

In 2019/20 Anzac Terrace PS had the ultimate experience of having an **Aboriginal Artist in Residence, Leigh.**

Leigh first came to our school to work with Year 6 students to complete an Aboriginal mural for the school. He accomplished this and so much more. Magdalene McCulloch, our Art teacher worked with Leigh to complete new signs for the 6 areas of the school, each named after the 6 indigenous seasons. Some of the wonderful experiences Leigh shared were he speaking of the aboriginal culture, symbols, meanings, dreamtime stories, dance and animal movements and so much more.

“Leigh was fabulous for the well-being of several children, especially two Aboriginal boys.) He made aboriginal jewellery keepsakes for them and would visit them in their classes or in the playground. He was a most valuable asset to our school, a positive aboriginal mentor and friend to children, staff and parents. Our school was blessed with Leigh and learning and appreciating many aspects of the aboriginal culture.” Magdalene McCulloch, Visual Arts Specialist and Aboriginal Coordinator.

School Dispositions

At the start of 2020, under the guidance of Stuart Blackwood, Principal, 3 dispositions were chosen and introduced to the students. We chose *Resilience, Responsibility and Respect*. The staff and students gave each disposition a fun name and a description, *Respectful Ricki, Responsible Ringo and Resilient Rex*.

Professional posters were made to go into each class. Students unpacked the posters and these posters are used daily in each class. In 2021 two more dispositions are going to be introduced to the students.



Pre-Primary Student



Kindergarten Class

Principal's Pin

The Principal's Pin is handed out to one deserving student who displays all three of the learning dispositions virtues, *Respectful Ricki, Responsible Ringo and Resilient Rex* every day. Staff nominate a student/s from their class to Admin. Admin will then choose one student per assembly. Our principal, Stuart Blackwood presents the student with a pin and at the end of the year, all students who received a pin will be invited to lunch with the Principal as a reward. This was introduced to promote the Learning Dispositions within the class and across the school.

Social Committee

Our Social Committee coordinator Sue Crawford said the following:

"Socialising with the Staff at Anzac Terrace feels comfortable and inclusive. The social activities allow us to get to know each other and share funny times and antics. I really look forward to staff functions. When organising staff events I am always impressed by how easily the staff get involved or volunteer to help or assist. Whether it is soup day organised by one of our staff or a night of lawn bowling, the staff embrace the event and enjoy the activity."

Message from Stuart Blackwood, Principal of Anzac Terrace Primary School

I am privileged to be the Principal of Anzac Terrace Primary School; which I call the best little country school in the middle of suburbia. There is a real community feel that you just don't get at other 'city' schools (a real tight community spirit).

We have 371 Students, 15 classes, 46 staff and an ICSEA 1022.

We also have a number of 3G Students (third generation); their grandparents attended, their parents, and now them. Some of the staff of Anzac Terrace have been here for over 30 years including, until quite recently, both deputy principals.

Admin, staff and the wider school community have had to tackle a lot of change during my time at Anzac Terrace. When I arrived at the school seven and a half years ago I was the 15th Principal in 10 years and we had some huge behaviour management issues both with Staff and Students.

In the last couple of years, we have enrolled more EAL/D students, more Muslim, Asian, African (the change in community is reflected in the change in our student populous). We also have more disadvantaged students. And the establishment of two DCPFS houses (6 kids per house) show a dramatic change in our student diversity.

54% of staff are 60 years or older; 30% of our staff are fixed term – both of these have required workforce planning.

Earlier this year, we had our school review (should this be capitalised), confirming us an 'Effective School'. This also proved our success in building strong relationships. To quote the PSR - *Positive, supportive and proactive relationships and partnerships at Anzac Terrace create an ideal collaborative ethos which encourages collective teamwork and energy, increasing the possibilities for students at the school exponentially.*

Our P&C are so supportive ... they work tirelessly to help us both financially and are always ready to lend a hand when we need it. We couldn't do what we do without their support.

With the School Board, I set about head hunting and encouraging parents to apply to establish a strong Parent Body with good representation of our changing cliental. I was realistically recruiting to shape my future Board. I have up-skilled the School Board members in student data analysis, financial planning and school strategic planning and how to drill down in all of these so that they could shape their approach; give depth and sophistication to their line of questioning. I wanted our school to be more accountable to our wider community. Our School Board is comprised of members who have that deepened commitment to work together to benefit students. And that is what we are endeavouring to build.

Together we developed a Shared vision – The Anzac Terrace Way (our strategic plan) named by one of our parents. The nucleus of the plan:

- We want to ensure we have high quality teaching and learning
- We want to ensure we are educating the whole child
- We want to become a school of choice
- Our School mantra ... Creating Bright Minds For A Brighter Future
- we are building this together (both school and School Board)

Along our journey, we have built relationships with the wider community, rebuilt trust, and we ensure we are bringing people on the journey. Be You has played such a huge role in this process.

Now the worse thing I say to students is don't run on the concrete ... We really do have a beautiful school.

I have been honoured to be part of this team and thank everyone for their contribution,

Shelley Keyser

Early Childhood Teacher

Be You Team Leader

Mental Health and Well Being Coordinator

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Anzac Terrace Primary School
Creating bright minds for a brighter future