



## Context Statement

Hillcrest Primary School caters for students from R-6. Enrolments in 2024 were 416 students and 40 staff. Hillcrest Primary School is classified as Category 5 on the Department for Education Index of Educational Disadvantage. Hillcrest Primary offers excellent facilities, equipment and the full range of Australian Curriculum subjects within extensive grounds, which encompass a large oval, running track, fitness equipment, playgrounds, an under-cover sandpit and a kitchen garden. Currently, Hillcrest is having a gymnasium built which will be the size of a full-side basketball court. Our values of Respect & Responsibility, Care and Compassion, and Honesty and Trustworthiness underpin our school culture. We are a very multicultural school with families from over 38 different countries amongst our school community and a valued cohort of Indigenous students who are engaged, attending regularly and showing great achievement. At the time of writing this, the school population includes 2% Aboriginal students, 4% students with disabilities, 38% students with English as an additional language or dialect (EALD) funded background.

We provide engaging teaching and learning experiences for each child and offer specialist subjects in the areas of Physical Education, Performing Arts and German with a focus on embedding STEM design processes & pedagogy across the curriculum. As part of the Department's focus on rigorous school improvement, our student learning priorities concentrated on increased growth and high achievement of students in Years 4 -6 in reading comprehension and number sense. Actions to address these goals include funding a Reading Engagement teacher to work with our Indigenous students, identifying students who need support with reading and raising the profile of reading for enjoyment within the school community. Our improvement actions in relation to numeracy saw the middle and upper primary teachers focus their work on student misconceptions in number and address these through a targeted and explicit teaching program based on Back to Front Maths. To stretch all students, our teachers also ensure their learning tasks are carefully designed to enable students to display their critical thinking and problem solving capabilities.