# LIVING WATERS

Kwatja Etatha | A SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE




# 2026 Annual Report

Based on 2025 school year data

**Principal** Lisa Goldsworthy | **Board Chair** Liz Ziersch

Lutheran Education SA, NT & WA

**This report has been produced by Living Waters Lutheran School to meet the reporting obligations of the Australian Government**

# Our School

**TOP CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR NAPLAN GROWTH IN 2025**

**RESEARCH BASED, DATA DRIVEN APPROACHES TO TEACHING, LEARNING & WELLBEING**

Living Waters Lutheran School is a vibrant Christian primary school in Alice Springs, committed to nurturing capable, confident learners who are guided by Christ and who enrich their community.

Set on the lands of the Arrernte people, the school offers a contemporary, student-centered learning environment where every child is known, valued and supported to flourish. Through strong literacy and numeracy programs, inquiry and project-based learning, rich arts and sporting opportunities, and meaningful connections to Culture and Country, students are encouraged to grow academically, socially and spiritually.

Anchored in Lutheran values, Living Waters continues to partner closely with families as it provides a safe, nurturing place where children are free to flourish.

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Werte,

As we close the chapter of another remarkable year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have achieved together in 2025. This year has been a testament to the innovation of our community, the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students and the unwavering support of our families.

This year, we have witnessed incredible growth - not just academically, but also spiritually, socially and emotionally. Our students have embraced challenges with resilience and curiosity, embodying the values of being Relational, Purposeful, Compassionate and Adventurous that are at the heart of our school. From outstanding academic results to creative arts performances and sporting triumphs, our students have truly been Free to Flourish.

Our Lutheran ethos continues to guide everything we do. This year, we have deepened our connection to our faith through chapel services, community outreach programs, and classroom discussions that have explicitly outlined what it is to look and sound like a Living Waters student. It has been inspiring to see our students live out the values in their daily lives.

Our school community has grown stronger through shared experiences, from school camps, particularly the rite of passage Canberra camp, which, for some children, is their first time on a plane and away from family, and excursions to cultural celebrations and family events. These moments remind us of the importance of connection and the joy of learning together. I am especially proud of the way our community has supported one another via volunteering, POTS and fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and included.

Looking Ahead: As we prepare for the future, we remain committed to providing a nurturing and dynamic learning environment. With exciting plans for new initiatives and continued improvements to our facilities, we are ready to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead in 2026 and beyond.

To our graduating students, we send you off with our blessings and prayers. May you carry the lessons and values of Living Waters Lutheran School with you as you embark on the next stage of your journey.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, our amazing board, supportive families, and, most importantly, our incredible students. Together, we have made 2025 a year to remember.

With God's blessings,

Mrs Lisa Goldsworthy

# Our Students

**66** FEMALE STUDENTS

**69** MALE STUDENTS

**135** TOTAL STUDENTS

**87%** TOTAL STUDENT ATTENDANCE

**28%** INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

**44%** LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGISH

## 2025 Attendance Rate (%) by Year Level *

| FO | YEAR 1 | YEAR 2 | YEAR 3 | YEAR 4 | YEAR 5 | YEAR 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 86% | 88% | 90% | 91% | 82% | 81% | 88% |

* Average student attendance rate

*Student attendance at Living Waters is recorded each day. Parents/caregivers are contacted if no advice/explanation has been received for a child's absence.*

## 2025 NAPLAN Results

| YEAR LEVEL | READING | WRITING | SPELLING | GRAMMAR | NUMERACY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 391 | 403 | 391 | 399 | 376 |
| 5 | 480 | 454 | 468 | 496 | 479 |



## Student Characteristics

+ Diverse Cultural background
+ Remote Environment
+ Indigenous

## Social Climate

+ Pastoral Care
+ Wellbeing programs
+ Proactive SWPBS

## Learning Experiences

### Christian Education

+ Regular Worship & Devotion
+ Close congregational links
+ Christian Studies

### Adaptive Education

+ Alternative Programs & Support
+ Targeted Literacy & Numeracy teaching
+ Links with allied providers

### The Arts

+ Digital media
+ Eisteddfod program
+ Visual arts & music

### Sport

+ Inter-house swimming, cross-country and athletics carnivals
+ Regular inter-school sport
+ Partnerships with external providers
+ F-6 Swimming program

### Languages

+ Arrernte language & culture

### Camps and Trips

+ Camps for Years 1-6
+ Year 6 Canberra camp

To find out more about *Our Students* go to livingwaterslutheranschool.nt.edu.au

# Our Staff



**21**
FEMALES ON STAFF

**5**
MALES ON STAFF

**3**
TOTAL INDIGENOUS STAFF

**10**
TOTAL TEACHING STAFF

**16**
TOTAL NON-TEACHING STAFF

**100%**
+ TEACHER REGISTRATION
+ NON-TEACHING STAFF HAVE A WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

**$44,924**
INVESTMENT IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**500+**
PD DAYS ENGAGED WITH BY STAFF

## Staff Learning

Professional Development opportunities are provided for both teaching and non-teaching staff. A Staff Professional Learning Plan has been compiled to include support and growth in the following three areas:

### Educational

- Undertaking annual government legislated accountable training sessions and the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) mandated training sessions
- Systemic whole school approach to core programs, Synthetic Phonics, Science of Reading, Maths approaches and UDL training

### Theological

- Participation in regular worship and spiritual development workshops
- Staff Professional Development including units from 'Connect'
- Encouragement for teaching staff to undertake the Graduate Certificate in Lutheran Education
- Annual staff spiritual retreat

### Personal

- Undertaking the development of a personal folio for Professional Development programs
- Whole staff focus on Compassionate Systems as a way of being
- Leadership development programs









# Our Community






Lutheran schools understand the important role that parents play in the education of their children. Without a supportive home environment, the capacity of schools to maximise each child's learning is limited. When teachers, parents and the community work together to support each child, the child thrives.

There are many ways that parents can assist their children to be successful in their learning journey at Living Waters.

### Voluntary Support

- Support for learning
- Fundraising
- Financial gifts
- Working in the canteen
- Sport coaching
- Camp helpers
- POTS

### Communication

- Newsletters
- Seesaw
- School website
- SMS
- Facebook
- Instagram

### Participation

- Parents Organising Terrifc Stuff (POTS)
- Principal Tours
- Special Evenings
- Student-Led Conferences
- Information Evenings
- Sporting Carnivals
- Assemblies
- Music Performances

### Values

- God's love
- Holistic education
- Excellence in teaching, learning, pastoral care, co-curricular & extra-curricular activities
- Positive relationships
- Worship
- Service
- Community

## School Income by Funding Source

| Source of Funding | % |
|---|---|
| Australian Government recurrent funding | 61% |
| State Government recurrent funding | 18% |
| Fees, charges and parent contributions | 14% |
| Other private sources | 7% |

** Excludes government capital grants*

### PARENT & STUDENT FEEDBACK

Parents and students are surveyed regularly. The survey provides the opportunity for feedback across a broad range of areas. This information is used as part of the School's commitment to continuous improvement.

*"My child comes home sharing each of the new letters he has learnt and is really thinking about what he's learning. For a kid who would generally choose free play over a structured activity it is wonderful to see his interest grow as he learns more and more. One day he was worried that he would miss out on learning a new letter when he had an appointment!"*

### STAFF SATISFACTION

Staff satisfaction is measured formally and informally through:

- Annual performance review process
- Feedback at staff meetings
- Staff consultation

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