



Pooncarie Outreach Children's Service
Pooncarie Primary School
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Pooncarie is a small township of about 60 people on the banks of the Lower Darling River. In recent years the town has experienced significant hardship with no water in the river.

The Pooncarie Outreach Children's Service was established in 2014 after a decline in numbers led to the local school closing. The service provides a fortnightly play session for isolated infant children, classroom setup for school age children who either attend Broken Hill School of the Air or Palinyewah Public School (80kms away) and a place for parents to interact. Families drive up to 200kms each way to attend and allow the children and opportunity to interact.

Whilst the government allow us use of the school building and provides a teacher for the students, our group is otherwise self-funded. We have fundraised for all equipment including tables and chairs and any extra-curricular activities we provide for the children.

With everything that we do, we try to ensure the unique needs of our children are being met. School of the Air and isolated children have been identified as having poor gross motor skills, and lower literacy and communication levels than their city counterparts. In fact many of our pre-schoolers have significant speech problems and very poor social skills as a result of lack of opportunity to engage and play with others.

Your generous donation of the RFDS model plane is another step in helping us achieve positive outcomes for our children. We unveiled the plane in front of 40 adults and 34 children who attended our grandparents day. The children interacted together and took turns at sitting in the different seats. This promoted interactive communication between them, creativity and play which is a big step for our children who often do not get to see other people or children.

The plane is a welcome addition to our sandpit and it is wonderful to witness the children enjoying something together. This is providing something for these children which we would never have been able to. The only problem is having to create exciting new emergencies for the Flying Doctors Plane to visit.

We cannot thank Proludic enough for their generous donation of such a valuable piece of play equipment, if only you could hear the laughter and chatter that goes on in the seat of the plane.

Kind Regards,

Nerida Healy
President
Pooncarie Outreach Children's Service