Background:
Mount Whitestone SS is located in the Lockyer Valley, approximately 110 kilometres west of Brisbane in the Darling Downs South West education region. The school has a current enrolment of 21 students from Prep – Year 7. The Principal, Mark Pennycuick, was appointed in 2014.

Commendations:
- Since the previous Teaching and Learning Audit in 2010, the school has improved in the domain of Systematic Curriculum Delivery.
- The school and the Parents & Citizens Association (P&C) have developed complimentary, detailed school improvement plans that are strategic, clearly defined and aligned.
- Parents speak very highly of the school in regards to meeting the needs of the community. Parents stated that all families in the school volunteer at different times of the year within a variety of activities.
- An active playgroup is based at the school. The P&C provides financial support and the school supplies educational expertise to assist children in the transition from home to the preparatory year of schooling.
- The school has won a number of educational and community awards, participates in local community events, is positively portrayed in the local media and has had over 180 local sponsors for various initiatives such as the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden project.
- Effective use of resources ensures that there is a ratio of approximately one educator to every five students. Before school tuition for reading, spelling and sight word activities is available for students.

Affirmations:
- The school newsletter regularly provides parents with information to assist with their child’s learning at home to compliment the work already being undertaken at school.
- The school has a matrix for the awarding of behaviour marks on the end of semester report cards to ensure consistency and accountability across the school.
- Brisbane School of Distance Education (BSDE) materials are used extensively in the design and implementation of the school’s curriculum program. Assessment items as stated in the Curriculum into the Classroom (C2C) materials are implemented with fidelity.

Recommendations:
- All staff members are to complete a Developing Performance Plan that aligns with the school’s Explicit Improvement Agenda and school priorities in collaboration with the Principal. Professional development activities may include visits to cluster schools for observations, mentoring, coaching and feedback sessions regarding performance.
- Create school procedures for students to have and be able to articulate, a goal, a target, strategies to achieve the target and feedback about their performance. Align these activities to the school’s priority learning area of reading.
- Develop a clearly documented School Reading Program which is usable and aligned to the pedagogical framework.
- Continue to implement the whole of school approach to teaching and learning with a view to align the school’s pedagogical framework to reflect the implementation of explicit Instruction.
- Review the school’s spelling program for consistency of practice and purpose across all year levels.
- Commence a process for the recording of academic school data into OneSchool.