Background:
McDonnell Creek SS is a two teacher school located 40 kilometres south of Cairns. The school has a current enrolment of 28 students organised into two classes: Prep - Year 2 and Years 3 - 7. The school celebrated its centenary in 2013.

Commendations:
- There has been progress made since the previous Teaching and Learning Audit in the domains: An Explicit Improvement Agenda and Targeted Use of Resources.
- The school has implemented an agenda to improve reading and spelling and staff members can describe the improvements they wish to see in student behaviours and outcomes.
- There is evidence of a school wide commitment to every student’s success and staff members tell stories of significant student improvement in reading and spelling.
- The school has provided opportunities for Year 7 students to transition into Junior Secondary.
- There is a documented school plan and timetable for the annual collection of student outcome data and the Principal has the responsibility for implementing the annual plan and analysing the full range of school data.
- The school shares all appropriate data on the school’s performance with the Parents and Citizens’ Association (P&C).
- Coaching processes are in place to assist newly appointed staff members.
- The professional learning plan is aligned with the explicit improvement agenda.

Affirmations:
- The school is implementing the Department’s Developing Performance Framework as the basis for professional discussions with staff members. Formal processes were implemented in 2013.
- The spelling program, Spelling Mastery, has been implemented from Years 3 - 7.
- The school has set up structured student work sample folios that accompany students through their years of schooling. These folios also show the targets expected for each year level and individual goals.
- The school has implemented an intervention program targeting all students from Prep - Year 2 to consolidate phonics, sight words and reading.

Recommendations:
- Further develop the whole school pedagogical framework to align with the school improvement plan, with a focus on numeracy.
- Provide regular written feedback to teachers and teacher aides based on the school pedagogical framework. Continually monitor and build capacity in the effective teaching of reading, writing, mathematics and science.
- Monitor the enacted curriculum through moderation of assessment, regular curriculum meetings, case study discussions and collaborative planning.
- Research highly effective ways to provide feedback to students, which guide the actions they need to take to make further improvements.
- Commence data analysis professional development for all staff members, to build capacity to be able to identify the individual learning gaps of students in reading, mathematics and science and use these for starting points for teaching. Ensure good central records are kept.