

Appendix 1: Description of the schools included in the Impact Study

1. Australia:

New South Wales: The Impact Study included visits to two rural schools in the surroundings of Dubbo, in what is considered the Australian Outback:

Hermidale Primary School, Hermidale: Located in a very rural area in the Australian Outback (3 hours' drive from Dubbo), Hermidale Primary School is a very small public school composed of 11 students across grades 1 to 6. Due to the small size of the school, all grades are taught together in a single classroom and the Pillowcase session included all students. The main hazards are bushfires and droughts, including a severe drought still ongoing during the school visit in late October 2018. All 7 students present the day of the visit were included in the study on October 30th.



- **St Joseph's Catholic School, Nyngan:** Nyngan is a small town of 2,000 inhabitants located 2 hours north-west of Dubbo. It has a public primary school and a private (Catholic) primary school and the Pillowcase program was implemented in both schools for grades 3 & 4. In April 1990, unusually heavy rains caused major flooding in the town, despite a massive effort by local people to raise the levee walls using sandbags. With the town almost completely flooded, all the residents had to be evacuated by helicopter from the railway station, the highest point of the town, which was not flooded (source: [Wikipedia](#)). Thanks to the construction of a levee, it has not suffered from a major disaster since but, like Hermidale, remains exposed drought and bushfire risk.



Western Australia: The Impact Study included visits to schools in the vicinity of the city of Perth:

- **Helena College, Darlington Campus, Darlington:** Located on the hilly outskirts to the West of Perth, Darlington overlooks the city in a wooded environment. The area has been affected by bushfires in recent years and remains a constant risk due to the dry forest cover, though neither the school nor any of the families interviewed have been directly impacted. Helena College is a small private non-religious school serving a middle-income community with a high level of parent engagement. The Pillowcase sessions were provided in Years 3 and 4.
- **Upper Swan Primary School:** Located in the Swan River Valley, Upper Swan Primary School is surrounded by large farms in the Swan Valley Food and Wine Trail. This large public school has around 500 Kindergarten to Year 6 students, and prides itself with having grown from "servicing a small rural community to welcoming students from growing urban communities". The area is included in the



bushfire risk area, though it has had limited exposure to such a risk. The Pillowcase sessions were provided in Years 3 and 4.

- **Swan Valley Christian College:** Located 8 km further down the Swan River Valley along the same main road, Swan Valley Christian College is a large and well-funded private school with a very similar hazard profile to that of Upper Swan Primary School. According to its promotional [brochure](#), “Swan Christian is a Kindergarten to Year 12 co-educational school accommodating over 1500 students, (...) set in a semi-rural environment in the Swan Valley, 20 minutes from the Perth city centre.” The Pillowcase sessions were provided in Years 3 and 4 and the Impact Study was conducted in two Year 4 classrooms (for a total of 52 students).



South Australia: A single school was visited in South Australia, in a rural school located 40 minutes south of Adelaide:

- **Kangarilla Primary School, Kangarilla:** The small town of Kangarilla (pop. 1,000) is located in a rural setting of small farms 40 km south of Adelaide. The Kangarilla Primary School is a small public community school consisting of 3 classes “situated next to a flowing creek, with paddocks and cows located at the back of the luscious green oval.” The main emergency scenario that students relate to is the 2016 South Australia Power Outage that affected the whole state, with most households without electricity from 4 pm to 10 pm on 28 September 2016. The Pillowcase session was provided to the 12 students of Year 3/4.



2. Mexico:

Chihuahua State, northern Mexico: Chihuahua State is the largest state of Mexico (larger than the UK), with a mix of rugged mountaneous terrain, where indigenous groups still maintain traditional lifestyles, desert, forests, and large urban centers where most of the population lives. It is a dynamic industrial state very connected to trade with the USA. The schools were:

- **“Juan Rulfo” Primary School, Delicias:**

Delicias is a small industrial city and a major agricultural center of roughly 200,000 inhabitants. It is located one hour southeast of the state capital. It combines the second biggest dairy producing area in Mexico with large manufacturing (*maquiladoras*).



- **“Marie Curie” Primary School, Chihuahua, Chihuahua:**

The city of Chihuahua, capital of the state of the same name, has a population of roughly 900,000 inhabitants, with a literacy rate among the highest in the country at 99%. The predominant activity is industry. A ceremony was organized by the Red Cross after the Impact Study to show appreciation to the school for its involvement in the program.



- **“Constituyentes de 1857” Primary School, Cuauhtemoc, Chihuahua:**

The city of Cuauhtémoc had a population of roughly 120,000 people, including important Mennonite (of German descent) and Tarahumara (pre-hispanic) minorities. It is the state's main agriculture hub and most families live from employment in these large agricultural companies. This public school, as in common in Mexico, has morning shifts and afternoon shifts, which also matches the work shifts of the mothers in the packaging or agricultural jobs they hold.



Guanajuato State

The schools visited as part of the Impact Study are all part of the Leon Metropolitan Area (“Zona Metropolitana de León”), an area home to 1.8 M inhabitants composed of León, San Francisco del Rincón, Purísima del Rincón and Silao. All families can therefore be considered urban in their lifestyles, in a predominantly industrial part of the country.

- **“Ignacio Ramirez” Primary School, San Francisco del Rincón,**

Guanajuato: San Francisco del Rincón is a town of roughly 70,000 people, located a short 30 minutes out from the state capital León, with regular commutes of workers. It is therefore in many ways a suburb of León. The Pillowcase Project was conducted with 2 classrooms of 1st Graders and the Impact Study took place with two classrooms of 6- and 7-year-olds, the youngest such groups assessed.



- **“Licenciado Manuel Doblado” Primary School, Silao, Guanajuato:** Silao is an agricultural and industrial town of roughly 150,000 people located 30 km southeast of León and 25 km west of Guanajuato. It includes plants for General Motors, Volkswagen and Pirelli. Due to space and teacher funding constraints, this public school has both morning and afternoon sessions, with classrooms of 50 students or more.



The Pillowcase Project focused on the afternoon shifts of 3rd- and 4th-grade students. Due to inclement weather, only 33 students of the 104 in those Grades were present for the Impact Study, and almost half of those present had not participated in the course, which allowed for a control group exercise.

Oaxaca State:

Oaxaca is one of the poorest States in Mexico and is known for its indigenous peoples and cultures. The Pillowcase Project was implemented primarily in urban settings, with a mix of private and public schools, though the choice of schools is primarily due to the time pressure to deliver the program in June 2018, before the end of the school year. The main difference in context between Oaxaca and other States therefore is not related to urban or indigenous cultures, but rather the impact of the September 2017 earthquakes that significantly affected the State, with significant implications in the levels of knowledge and preparedness of both students and other household members. The schools visited are:

- **“27 de septiembre” Primary School, Santo Domingo, Oaxaca, Oaxaca:** The primary school “27 de septiembre” is the only public school among the 7 schools included in The Pillowcase Project in the city of Oaxaca, which was affected by the September 2017 earthquakes. The course was given to 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-grade students in June 2018, so the students were interviewed 6 months (and one grade higher) than when they took the course. Three classrooms were included: two 2nd-grade classrooms jointly; and the 3rd grade students.



- **“Obrero Mundial” Primary School, Espinal, Salina Cruz, Oaxaca:** Salina Cruz was among the most-affected towns in the September 2017 and the Primary School “Obrero Mundial” had to be torn down and rebuilt.



During the Impact Study visit in December 2018, the students were still housed in temporary structures (see insert), with the new classrooms about 60% completed.