



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2/6/16

Centre number: 6502

Centre name: Balharry Memorial Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Kara Lang
- Postal address: PO Box 101, Lucindale SA 5272
- Location address: 8-10 Centenary Avenue Lucindale SA 5272
- DECD Partnership: Tatiara-Wrattonbully
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 350kms
- Telephone number: 0887662139
- Fax number: 08 87662108
- Preschool website address: www.balharrykgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.6502.admin@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance: Enrolments 2016: 7 eligible children. Enrolments have varied over the last 5 years from over 16 to currently 7. Attendances are above state average.
- Co-located/stand-alone: Co-located with Balharry Rural Care
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
Children access 15 hours of preschool over a 5 day fortnight. Tuesday and Thursday each week and Wednesday fortnightly.

- ❖ Occasional Care – *unfunded (as available)*
- ❖ Associated Programs:
 - Pre-entry offered during Term 4
 - Early entry – offered to children with additional needs
 - Playgroup- Friday mornings 10-12. Run by parent committee.
 - Toy Library – Open during kindergarten hours and playgroup. Open to the community. Cost of \$5 per term per family
- ❖ Lunch/Full Day Program
- ❖ Preschool Support- for children with additional needs based on funding from DECD.
- ❖ Rural Bus Access – Children access the school bus and attend full days.
- ❖ Rural Care- Full day care, 8a.m. to 6p.m., in an additional building on site. Two ECW 2's are employed to staff the program and work shifts of 6 hours per day. Operates 50 weeks of the year, Monday to Friday. Families can apply for CCB. Numbers - 4 children under school age and up to 7 children, including OSHC.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities- Numeracy and Literacy; Family and community involvement; Active and engaging learning environment
- **Vision Statement** -“We will work as a team with families and the wider community to provide a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment and a quality learning curriculum in which every child and family is respected and valued.”
- Please refer to the centre philosophy

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
- Core Values: Professionalism, Sustainability, Respect, Honesty and Integrity

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects – Powerful learners project with the Lucindale Area School

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
 - Kindergarten – Director PSD 2 0.6 (with 15 hours preschool funding)additional 0.2 for Rural Care administration
 - Early Childhood Worker Level 1 0.6 (with 15 hours preschool funding)
 - Preschool support worker ECW 1(hours depend on children enrolled with additional needs)
 - Rural Care – ECW 2 two staff program working 27.5 hours per week
- Performance Management Program

Educators meet formally each term with informal discussions in between.
- Access to special support staff

DECD support staff provided through the Mount Gambier office

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The building is the original School, opened in 1927. Additions have been made to it. It is one main room of Mount Gambier stone with corrugated iron and Hardi-plank additions.

The very large outdoor area has been divided into two play areas. The outdoor area is a mix of natural and man made play spaces suitable for extending children’s learning.

Rural Care service operates in a separate transportable building on the kindergarten site.
- Capacity (per session)

22
- Centre Ownership

DECD owned
- Access for children and staff with disabilities

Kindergarten building has access available via a rear door. Bathroom facilities are not suitable.

Rural Care building has disabled access and bathroom facilities.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:
Mostly farming community and support services, school. English is the main language. Most families are Anglo-Australian.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
Good level of community and parent support.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
Lucindale Area School
- Other local care and educational facilities
Other private care providers, rural care
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Farm supplies, café, newsagency and deli, post office. Bank agencies – ANZ, Bank SA and CBA. Main shopping area is in Narcoorte (45km's)
- Other local facilities
Good sporting facilities, sporting clubs and a community fitness centre. Visiting doctor twice a week. Variety of social clubs. Community library at the school.
- Availability of staff housing
Teacher housing is available.
- Accessibility
No public transport. Nearest bus service is Naracoorte or Kingston SE. Good roads- a driver's licence and car is a necessity.
- Local Government
Naracoorte Lucindale Council 87601100. Welcoming network available for new residents. Mackillop –state electorate

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups
Lucindale is a small community doing big things! The Lions Club is very active and holds the SE Field Days every year which attracts up to 20,000 people to the region. There are several other community events through the year – Lucindale Show, Camp Draft, Country Music festival, Easter tennis tournament and the Xmas street party – held in the big shed at the field days site!
The community is very supportive of the school and kindergarten and welcomes new people to the area.