



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 03/15

Centre number: 6612

Centre name: Maitland Children's Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Louise Hanrahan
- Postal address: 15 Kilkerran Terrace, Maitland, 5573
- Location address: 15 Kilkerran Terrace, Maitland, 5573
- DECD Partnership: Southern Yorke
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 160kms
- Telephone number: (08) 88322266
- Fax number: (08) 88322208
- Preschool website address: www.maitlandkgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: louise.hanrahan334@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance: 2010 – 37/32; 2011 – 34/30; 2012 – 33/27; 2013 – 30/27; 2014 – 27/24
- Co-located/stand-alone: Standalone – in the process of moving on site at Maitland Area School
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - ⊞ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children: Fortnightly roster with children attending alternate Mondays and weekly Tuesday and Wednesdays for full days.

- ⊞ Associated Programs: Pre-entry – children have a few visits during Term4. Playgroup – run by parents Fridays 9:30am – 11:00am. Early Entry – when required by families. Rural Care Program – Monday to Friday 8:00am to 6:00pm.
- ⊞ Lunch/Full Day Program: Every Kindergarten session day; families provide lunch.
- ⊞ Bilingual Support: When required by families.
- ⊞ Preschool Support: When required by families and children.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose: Our Philosophy - WELLBEING – We believe children learn best in an environment where their wellbeing is nurtured. Children feel safe, secure, respected and supported. PLAY – Play is children’s work; it is fun, creative, hands on, risk taking and explorative. CHILDREN’S LEARNING – Children learn through a balance of free play and explicit teaching opportunities. Children need to have time to practice and master skills individually and in groups. RELATIONSHIPS – Developing positive and respectful relationships with children and families is fundamental for supporting children’s learning.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework - with individual observations and records of children. Individual programs for all children enrolled in Rural Care.
You Can Do It! Program used with the core teaching on Confidence, Persistence, Organisation, Getting Along and Resilience
Child Protection Curriculum – principles used
- Core Values: Wellbeing, Play, Children’s Learning, Relationships
- Specific curriculum approaches: Child focused interest based learning through a planned play curriculum; Opportunities for children to interact individually and in small groups; Development of children’s confidence, independence and self esteem; Emphasis on interaction and development of social skills

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects: Transition visits with Maitland Area School and Maitland Lutheran School; Planned visits with Pt Pearce Aboriginal School

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile: 0.8 Director; 0.6 Teacher; 0.6 ECW and 2 Rural Care Workers
The Director works 0.5 with the children and 0.1 admin for preschool and 0.2 admin for Rural Care.
The Teacher works 0.5 with the children and 0.1 admin/planning time
We have a Preschool Support Worker whose hours vary depending on children and funding.
2 Rural Care Workers with 28.5 hours a week with rotating shifts of 5.5 hours per day.
- Performance Management Program: Staff work together as a team supporting each other, utilising and providing opportunities to further develop individual skills and interests both personally and professionally, encouragement for participation in social activities. Formal evaluations of performance and achievements are held twice a year

- Access to special support staff: Regional Office provides access to Special Educator, Speech Pathologist, Disability Services, Hearing Impairment; Early Childhood Consultant, Social Worker and Psychologist

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds: unstructured play areas – lawn, paving, sand and garden
Centre is one main building with areas integrated to support Preschool and Rural Care staff and children working together, separate areas for change bench and Laundry, Sleep room, Kitchen and combined Office.
In process of Preschool Works to move to Maitland Area School
- Capacity (per session): 43
- Centre Ownership: Leased from District Council of Yorke Peninsula
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: Disability car space in back car park off road, Wheelchair paved pathway and ramp provides access to Centre. Full wheelchair access to toilet and change area
- Other: Adjacent to golf course and 15 minute walk to local feeder schools and local retail and business area.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: Maitland is located within a wide farming district servicing outlying towns including Port Victoria, Balgowan, Arthurton and Point Pearce Aboriginal community.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool: Our centre strongly encourages support from parents, community groups and local businesses who also actively participate in experiences to support the curriculum.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Maitland Area and Maitland Lutheran.
- Other local care and educational facilities, Rural Care Program is on site; Country Central Family Day Care Office is located on site, minimal number of Family Day Care Providers, Community Library and School Dental Clinic located in grounds of Maitland Area School, CHATT Centre in main town provides access to range of training courses, closest TAFE campus is Kadina 50kms away.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Central service town for Central Yorke Peninsula area, with population of approximately 1500 people. Local Foodland, Chemist, Newsagency. Other shops in surrounding areas
- Other local facilities: Medical Clinic, Child Youth Health, Local Hospital, Aged Care facility, Police Station. Range of sports facilities primarily football, netball, hockey, basketball, golf, bowls and tennis, close to coast for boating, fishing and other recreational activities. Music and Arts group with annual local production
- Availability of staff housing: Minimal rental accommodation, no caravan park or motel
- Accessibility: Bus service available 3 times a week to Adelaide, well serviced road with dual highway from Port Wakefield, local airstrip but no available air service
- Local Government: District Council of Yorke Peninsula, ph 88320000

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups: Managed by Governing Council with representation from the various programs offered at the Centre, regularly meet on a night that suits most members.
Parent Participation Group – organises and runs Centre fundraising activities
Cleaner – employed through Centre Agreement
Finance Officer & Groundsman – Contracted with Maitland Area School