PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6622

Centre name: Hawker Childhood Services Centre

1. General information

- Centre name: Hawker Childhood Services Centre
- Centre number: 6622
- Preschool Director: Joy Hilder
- Postal address: Box 29 Hawker, 5434
- Location address: Chase View Terrace, Hawker
- Telephone number: 8648 4116
- Fax number: 8648 4326
- E-mail address: kindy.director@hawercsc.sa.edu.au
- DECS District: Far North and Aboriginal Lands
- Geographical location Road distance from GPO (km): 400kms
- Enrolment/Attendance
  Term 1 began with 12 children enrolled. Predicted enrolments stay between 10 and 12 for 2010 and similar for 2011. We usually have a high level of attendance.
- Co-located
  The stand-alone site was under going review during 2002.
  In Jan 2003 the building was relocated to the Hawker Area School grounds and runs as a Kindergarten in its own right.
• Programs operating
  : The Centre operates under the Rural Policy Framework and has been in round 1 of Universal Access in term 1, 2010. This entitles Aboriginal children and those living in a rural location being more than 10kms from town to be enrolled from age 3. Town children begin at 3.6 yrs age.
  ☐ Pre Entry
    : Thursday am – term prior to eligible for Preschool and is integrated with kindy session.
  ☐ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
    : Under the Rural Policy and Universal Access children receive their preschool entitlement over 6 terms. 4 preschool sessions operate per week. Tuesday and Thursday accommodate a full day (2 sessions). Currently 2 children access the school bus to attend preschool.
  ☐ Occasional Care (indicate whether funded or unfunded)
    : Unfunded. Offered as emergency & respite care on Tues & Thursday am (essential bookings made with director).
  ☐ Extended Care
    : Bus children are cared for prior to and after the kindy session as needed.
  ☐ Lunch/Full Day Program
    : Lunch program provided to facilitate full days of preschool.
  ☐ Preschool Support
    : Preschool support/Early Intervention Special Education hours are provided on a needs basis, funded through the Preschool support Program and Global budget.
    Toy Library: The Management Committee fundraise to maintain an excellent stock of toys for learning. This is run and maintained by the Committee. Families borrow equipment for a small fee.
    Creche: is funded by a Commonwealth grant and operates under the Governing Council endorsement. It operates every Friday of the year excepting public holidays and the Christmas holiday break. The program and staffing is outsourced to Outback Childcare of South Australia.

2. Key Centre Policies
• Site Learning Plan for 2008-10
  Increased learner achievement and engagement in:-
  Numeracy
  Literacy
  Science
  Confident social interactions with peers & adults
3. **Curriculum**

- Framework used: SACSA and beginning to use the national Early Years Learning Framework.
- Core Values
  - Staff and parents work together in a trusting relationship to facilitate a safe, challenging and welcoming learning environment which is play based.
  - We respect individuality and difference in people, learning styles and achievements, and seek to ensure fairness and equity in participation and access to resources.
  - Our practices hold the belief that children learn best when they are engaged in purposeful and explorative play.

4. **Centre Based Staff**

- Staff Profile-
  - (2009) Director .4 and ECW1 .38.
  - 2010-Universal Acess alots staffing at :- Director .5 and ECW .42
- Performance Management Programs
  - Director-Performance Management Plan – with Regional Director
  - Staff – Performance Management Plans negotiated week 2, term 1. After reviewed and acknowledgment (end of term 2), new priority added and review again term 4.
  - Training and Development is prioritised, organised and recorded.
  - Feedback verbal & written & used in program/centre.
- Access to special support staff
  - We liaise with Disability & Special education when needed. Visiting allied health professionals are accessed over the year to visit the Centre and offer information/advice, eg dietician, podiatrist health checks.
- Other
  - Relief staff are available but not always assured of securing relief.

5. **Centre Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds
  - Well-maintained and tidy Centre. Building is transportable and purpose-built. Attractive outdoor area offering swings, sand-pit, slippery-dip, cubby as fixtures. One play area has shade whilst yard is also shaded by trees.
  - Undercover verandah available refreshed with fake lawn.
- Capacity
  - 20 children.
• Centre Ownership
  :Centre is DECS owned.

• Access for children and staff with disabilities
  :Access ramps for wheelchairs and prams.
  No toilet facilities exist for disabled.

• Other
  :Centre has a contract cleaner.

6. **Local Community (intended for country preschools)**

• General characteristics:
  :Many people are self employed in pastoral, tourism and services industries.
  Some government agencies provide employment (eg Hospital, School, National parks).

• Parent and community involvement in the preschool
  :Strong loyalty & commitment for delivery of quality education.
  Active fund-raising & management commitment.

• Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
  :Only one school, Hawker Area School.

• Other local facilities
  :Local hospital with doctor and allied health agencies, sports centre, swimming pool. Beautiful natural environment close to tourist destinations eg Wilpena Pound

• Availability of staff housing
  Available

7. **Further Comments**

  : During 2002 the Centre was reviewed due to low numbers in the prior 2 years.
  A Steering Committee had recommended the moving of the purpose-built building onto the school site and this occurred in 2003.
  We continue developing mutual & positive links with the school to maximise opportunities for the benefit of students and staff.