PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6622

Centre name: Hawker Childhood Services Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director
  :Joy Hilder

- Postal address
  :Box 29, Hawker 5434

- Location address
  :Chase View Terrace, Hawker 5434

- DECD Region
  :Far North and Aboriginal Lands

- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
  :400km

- Telephone number
  :08 8648 4116

- Fax number
  :08 8648 4326

- Preschool website address:
  :http://www.flinderscc.sa.edu.au/
• Preschool e-mail address
  :kindy.director@hawkercsc.edu.au

• Enrolment/Attendance
  : Term 1 began with 8 children enrolled. Predicted enrolments stay between 8 and 10 for 2012. We usually have a high level of attendance.

• Co-located/stand-alone
  : The stand-alone site was undergoing review during 2002. In January 2003 the building was relocated to the Hawker Area School grounds and runs as a Kindergarten in its own right.

• Programs operating at the preschool
  : 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 years of 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 where funded or unfunded)
  : Unfunded. Offered as emergency & respite care on Tuesday and 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 time program provided to facilitate full days of preschool.

  ☒ Preschool Support
  : Preschool support/Early Intervention Special Education hours are provided on a needs basis, founded 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.
Crèche: is funded by a Commonwealth grant and operates under the Governing Council endorsement. It operates every Friday of the school term. The program and staffing is outsourced to RICE (Remote and Isolated Children’s Exercise).

2. **Key Centre Policies**
   - Site Learning Plan for 2012
     Using ICT for increased learner achievement and engagement in:-
     - Numeracy
     - Literacy
     - Science

3. **Curriculum**
   - Framework used:
     - 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
     - Director 0.9 and ECW1 .38
     - 2010 – Universal Access allots staffing at: - Director .5 and ECW .42
   - Performance Management Program
     - 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 procedure added and review again Term 4.
     - Training and Development is prioritised, organised and recorded.
     - Feedback verbal and written and used in program/centre.
• Access to special support staff
  : We liaise with Disability and Special education when needed. Visiting allied health professionals are accessed over the year to visit the Centre and offer information/advice, e.g. dietician, podiatrist health checks.

• Other
  : Relief staff are available but not always assured of attaining such.

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 (per session)
  : 20 Children

• Centre Ownership
  : Centre is DECD 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 (e.g. Hospital, School, and National Parks)

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
  - Strong loyalty and commitment for delivery of quality education.
  - Active fundraising and management commitment.

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

- Other local care and educational facilities,
  - Local hospital with doctor and allied health agencies, sports centre, swimming pool. Beautiful natural environment close to tourist destinations e.g. 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 and positive links with the school to maximise opportunities for the benefit of students and staff.