



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 1st April, 2014

Centre number: 6642

Centre name: Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre

1. General information

- **Director of Care**
Kellie Bails
- **Postal address**
PO Box 2588 WHYALLA NORRIE SA 5608
- **Location address**
Hincks Avenue WHYALLA NORRIE SA 5608
- **DECD Region**
Whyalla Partnership
- **Geographical location – i.e. road distance from GPO (km)**
382 kms from Adelaide GPO
4.5 kms from Whyalla GPO
- **Telephone number**
08 8645 5240
- **Fax number**
08 8644 1669
- **Preschool website address**
www.gabmididimanooafc.sa.edu.au
- **Preschool e-mail address**
dl.6642.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

- **Enrolment/Attendance**

Enrolments				
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2011	37	38	43	45
2012	35	28	23	20
2013	36	40		

Attendance				
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2011	86.5	84.2	76.7	84.4
2012	71.4	78.6	78.3	85
2013	97.2	82.5		

- **Co-located/stand-alone**

Stand-alone Children and Family Centre, co-located with Hincks Avenue Primary School. An Integrated Service in which early childhood professionals, other professionals, families and the local community work together to meet the needs of children and families.

- **Programs operating at the preschool:**

- Pre Entry – integrated with sessional preschool

- Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children – Preschool program operates on Tuesday and Thursday – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and Wednesday – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Majority of children access 15 hours per week, 2 full days and one half day

- Occasional Care – Funded program operates at:
 - Davison Street Occasional Care: Tue – 9:00 am -12:00 pm (over 2), Wed – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (over and under 2) and Thur – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (over and under 2)
 - Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre: Tue – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (over 2), Wed – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (under 2) and Thur – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (over 2)

- Extended Care – Before and After preschool care can be negotiated

- Bilingual Support – Available for eligible children

- Preschool Support – Additional support is available for children with identified needs in areas of development such as speech and language, physical skills and social skills
- Early Entry: Aboriginal children and children who are under the Guardianship of the Minister can start preschool at 3 years of age and children with Additional Needs may start at 3 ½ years of age on request if space is available

2. Key Centre Policies

- **Vision:**

Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre has a strong focus in supporting Aboriginal families with young children to provide the best possible start in life. It supports children and families to achieve the best possible learning, health and wellbeing outcomes in a universal setting with targeted responses for families who require additional support.

- **Values:**

Respect, Trust, Communication, Honesty and Nurture.

- **Aims:**

1. Children have optimal health, learning and development.
2. Parents provide strong foundations for their children's healthy development and wellbeing.
3. Communities are child and family friendly.
4. Aboriginal children are safe, healthy, culturally strong and confident.

- **Philosophy Statement:**

Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre in collaboration with its partners will actively support families to recognise and grow aspirations for themselves and their children as they move into the world on their own.

We believe:

- That powerful learning happens in the everyday
- That a successful person is one who finds something they love to do, is generous, empathetic and compassionate, committed to repairing the world, shows grit and the ability to collaborate, creativity and can take constructive criticism.
- That we must welcome all differences that come from the uniqueness of each child and their family
- That all families have different strengths and knowledge

- That it is important to support our families and their children to have a voice

We will:

- Provide an enriched learning and play environment, where children and their families can freely chose activities and their thinking is not dominated by the educator
- Guide, inform, model and instruct our children and families
- Build on the strengths of our children and their families
- Actively listen to our families and children and value their voice

3. Curriculum

- **Frameworks used**
 - Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being and Becoming
 - Respect, Reflect, Relate Document
 - The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum
 - The Learning Together Approach

- **Core Values**
 - Respect
 - Trust
 - Communication
 - Honesty
 - Nurture

- **Specific curriculum approaches**
 - We believe that the dispositions of being curious, resourceful, communicative, cooperative, purposeful and persistent and confident are important for effective learning. Children develop their dispositions from everyday interactions and experiences. At Gabmididi Manoo we believe we have an important role in fostering these dispositions. We help children develop these dispositions by:
 - Being close to the children and showing them that we are interested in them and what they are doing
 - Watching and listening to the children to try to work out their own solutions before providing help
 - Being aware that the children learn from our actions and responses
 - Playing and learning with the children
 - Providing opportunities for the children to make decisions
 - Listening to and respecting the children's ideas and preferences
 - Talking to the children about things that we are both interested in

- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects**
 - Breakfast Program: Each preschool session the children are provided with a healthy breakfast. This program is focused around the OPAL healthy breakfast theme which focuses on encouraging children, young people and families to start the day with a healthy brekky. A healthy breakfast helps kids' learning and concentration during the day and gets children into good habits for life long benefits.
 - Floor books: Using big books to consult children in the planning process. They encourage thinking skills through talking together in a

group so that children are consulted and influence the learning taking place.

- **Snack Time:** The centre has a healthy eating focus with a shared fruit/vegetable snack time twice on our full days and once on our half day. At this time the staff encourages the children to try different fruits and vegetables. The centre provides some of the fruits and vegetables for these sessions.

4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile**

1.0 Director of Care (PSD4)

1.0 Family Services Coordinator

1.0 Community Development Coordinator

0.6 Learning Together Outreach Teacher

0.8 Learning Together @ Home Fieldworker

0.7 Preschool Teacher and Aboriginal Family Literacy Strategy Teacher

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0.2 Preschool Teacher

0.6 Early Childhood Worker – Preschool Program

0.5 Administration

0.2 Finance Officer

4 x Early Childhood Workers who have variable fractions of time. These staff members are employed across a number of programmes such as Occasional Care, Preschool Support and Early Intervention.

- **Performance Management Program**

Performance Management is undertaken with all staff by the Director on a formal and informal basis as part of the site commitment to improving the quality of the service and programs offered. We meet weekly for staff meetings.

- **Access to special support staff**

Children are able to access specialist support services as part of the Preschool Support Program.

Speech and Language screenings are completed for all children in their first term as part of the Early Intervention Program. Children who require additional support are referred to the DECD Support Services for assessment.

Support is also available through Whyalla Health Service for services such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Services for children 0-4 years.

- **Other**
Refer to Partner Agencies

5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**
The building is a stand-alone Centre that was completed in early 2013. The building was funded through the National Partnership.

The building includes a community room with crèche facilities and an industrial kitchen and kitchenette, two consulting rooms, staff room for all staff, a laundry, community toilets, an office space for the community team, directors office, preschool room with a storeroom, kitchen, teacher preparation area, wet space and an occasional area with a wet area and sleep space.

The break out space in the preschool has an interactive whiteboard installed.

The community room has table and chairs to comfortably seat 65 people.

The grounds have a strong focus on the natural outdoor learning environment. Edible gardens are being established in the preschool area. The preschool area has a large sand pit and bark chip area for climbing. It also has swings, a running creek, a large lawn area, slippery dip and a digging patch.

- **Capacity (per session)**
57 children
- **Centre Ownership**
Department for Education and Child Development
- **Access for children and staff with disabilities**
The Centre is fully accessible for children and adults with disabilities.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- **General characteristics**

Whyalla is one of the largest provincial cities in South Australia with a population of about 23,000. The steel industry employs a high proportion of the population either directly or through a range of support industries and contractors. A wide range of trade and engineering related employment opportunities exist at different times. However, unemployment rates overall are quite high. The University of South Australia operates a most successful Campus in Whyalla as does TAFE.

Whyalla is promoting itself as an ECO City and environmental concerns are paramount.

Whyalla has a significant aboriginal population and a commitment to Reconciliation.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool**

Parents are encouraged to volunteer their time at the centre. Parents have an active Parent Engagement Group that meets weekly. Parents are members of the Governing Council and this group meets twice a term.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool**

Children transfer to all schools within Whyalla – Hincks Avenue Primary School, Fisk Street Primary School, Nicolson Avenue Primary School, Memorial Oval Primary School, Whyalla Stuart Campus R-7, Whyalla Town Primary School, Long Street Primary School and Whyalla Special Education Centre or one of the three private schools.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

Whyalla has 3 Child Care Centre's (one of these is a Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services Centre), 6 Pre-schools (some offering Occasional Care sessions), 6 Public Primary Schools, 3 Private Primary Schools, 3 Secondary Schools (two years 8 – 10 & one year's 11 – 12), 1 Private Secondary School, Spencer Institute of TAFE and University of South Australia – Whyalla Campus. Some of the primary schools have an Out of Schools Hour care program. Family Day Care also operates throughout Whyalla.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

The industrial area of the City is along the two major highways, the north from Pt. Augusta and the south from Pt. Lincoln. Whyalla has a large shopping complex with national chain stores e.g. Target, Rockman's, Miller's, Hourglass Jewellers, Crazy Clarks, Coles, Woolworth's as well as speciality shops on the western side of the city. The City Plaza or 'Main Street' offers a wide variety of

stores including furniture and decorating shops and is on the eastern side of Whyalla. There are several smaller shopping sites around town.

- **Other local facilities**

A range of medical, sporting, social, cultural and recreational facilities are located in Whyalla.

- **Availability of staff housing**

Government Housing is available for rental in Whyalla.

- **Accessibility**

Accessibility to Adelaide and other major centres is possible by a bus service (Premier Stateliner) and by road in private vehicle. One airline (Rex Airlines) operates between Adelaide and Whyalla with approximately 40 minutes flying time.

- **Local Government**

The Local Government is the 'City of Whyalla'. Further information is available on their website: www.whyalla.sa.gov.au

7. Further Comments

- **Partnership arrangements with other groups**

Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre offers programs and services for families in partnership with: Child and Family Health Service; Health SA; Families SA; CentaCare Catholic Services; Uniting Care Wesley; Positive Parenting; University of SA; OPAL and other organisations and agencies identified through discussions with the community and families.