



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 12th June, 2018

Centre number: 6642

Centre name: Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director
Kellie Bails
- Postal address
PO Box 2588 WHYALLA NORRIE SA 5608
- Location address
Hincks Avenue WHYALLA NORRIE SA 5608
- DECD Partnership
Port Augusta 2 Whyalla
- Geographical location – ie 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

	2012				2013		2014			2015				2016			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Attendances	25	22	18	17	35	33	36	34	39	38	42	48	45	47	51	52	46
Enrolments	35	28	23	20	36	40	51	49	53	53	56	62	72	58	65	70	75

- 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

- ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children – preschool program operates on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and Wednesday – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Majority of children access 15 hours per week either Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday or Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. A bus program operates on the Monday and Tuesday.

- ❖ Occasional Care – Funded program operates at:

- ❖ Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre – Tuesday and Thursday – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (over 2) and Wednesday – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (under 2)
- ❖ Davison Street Occasional Care – Tuesday – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (over 2) and Wednesday and Thursday – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (over 2 and under 2)

- ❖ Associated Programs

- ❖ Pre-entry – integrated with sessional preschool
- ❖ 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 3½ years of age on request if space is available
- ❖ Extended Care – before and after preschool care can be negotiated
- ❖ Playgroups
 - ❖ Come and Play Playgroup - a referral based playgroup that is specifically for children with disabilities and special needs at Davison Street – Monday – 9:30 – 11:30 am

- ❖ Baby Playgroup - a playgroup where parents and caregivers work together to provide their babies with opportunities to learn through play – Tuesday - 9:15am – 11:15am
- ❖ Learning Together Playgroup - a playgroup where children will interact with their peers to achieve age-appropriate milestones related to gross motor, fine motor and sensory experiences – Friday - 9:15am – 11:15am
- ❖ Parenting Programs – please check website for a list of programs that are offered at our Centre

- ❖ Lunch/Full Day Program – Full days are available on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – lunch is part of our daily program

- ❖ Bilingual Support – available for eligible children

- ❖ Preschool Support – supports children with developmental delay and/or disabilities and their families. Preschool Support aims to maximise the child’s learning by minimising the impact the child’s disability and/or developmental delay has on their development. The program supports the inclusion of children with disabilities and/or additional needs to attend their mainstream preschool.

2. Key Centre Policies

Our Philosophy Statement

Our place

Children and families are welcomed into a safe, supported environment at Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre and its services. A sense of belonging is created by nurturing respectful collaborative partnerships between children, families, community, staff and educators.

We acknowledge the strong connection that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the land and our local community and we strive to reflect and actively support this.

Our totem

The gecko is not only one of the most adaptable lizards; it’s also amazingly resilient. Should a gecko lose its tail in a fight or an attack, it can regrow it. Although it is only small, the gecko is a pretty cluey creature, incredibly strong and resourceful. People are drawn to geckoes, because they are, in reptile terms, pretty friendly.

These are among some of the qualities we want our children, families and community to have. We want them to be strong. We want them to be able to bounce back when they have to. We want them to be friendly – happy and well adjusted.

Our beliefs

Every child is a capable and competent learner from birth and a citizen in possession of rights

Families are children's first and most influential teachers

Families, children, community and staff thrive in environments that are welcoming and nurturing and where they are respected and encouraged to collaborate and contribute

Children's learning is supported by play and engagement in rich everyday experiences in our service and at home

Respectful and reciprocal relationships support everybody's wellbeing and learning

Our values

Collaborative

Understanding

Brave

Respectful

Nurturing

Our commitments

We will

Support each child to engage in a learning program that helps them develop socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually and creatively through structured experiences and play

Encourage every family to engage with programs and services that support them in their parenting roles

Strive to build and sustain strong and positive relationships between children, families and Centre staff

Listen actively and respectfully and seek to understand and respond to each family's unique perspectives and circumstances

Enact the commitments of the Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre

Reconciliation Action Plan

Uphold and promote the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Act at all times in ways that are open and transparent

Take an active role in caring for our environment to respect the land and contribute to a sustainable future

Our goals and aspirations

We seek to be collaborative, listening, responsive passionate educators. We will work towards this through critical reflection, professional development planning and working as an integrated team.

We want everyone to feel engaged, confident and to have a sense of belonging in our service. We will work towards this by seeking feedback, planning flexible and responsive provision of services programs and being aware of the individual needs and circumstances of families and children.

We strive to ensure that Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre is an environment that feels safe and welcoming to everyone who enters. We will do this by reflecting the cultures of the families and community, providing clean and aesthetic environments for families, children and staff to interact in and by celebrating nature in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

We aspire for staff, educators, families and children to work together as co-constructors of knowledge, collaboratively and respectfully to build joint understandings. We will do this by actively enabling everyone's voice to be heard through a range of processes and methods and through seeking to build competencies and confidence.

We will support each child to engage in a meaningful learning program that is play based, and encourages children to use their imagination, think about the possibilities and challenge themselves. We will do this through recognising and building on the strengths and knowledge's that children bring and using these as a basic for planning and teaching; by responding to the individual needs of the children; viewing them as capable and competent and encouraging them to be brave and work collaboratively.

3. Curriculum

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

- Core Values
 - Collaborative
 - Understanding
 - Brave
 - Respectful
 - Nurturing

- 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
 - Aboriginal Family Literacy Strategy
 - Reconciliation Action Plan
 - Vegetable, Her, Fruit Garden
 - Cooking Program
 - Recycling Program

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
 - 1.0 Director of Care (Band A-3)
 - 1.0 Family Services Coordinator
 - 1.0 Community Development Coordinator
 - 0.6 Allied Health Worker
 - 1.0 Learning Together @ Home Fieldworker
 - 2.4 Preschool Teacher
 - 1.0 Aboriginal Family Literacy Strategy Teacher
 - 67.50 hours Early Childhood Worker – Preschool Program
 - 0.5 Administration
 - 0.2 Finance Officer

5 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, Early Intervention and Cultural Consultancy.
- 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 and critical reflection.

- 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 Department for Education 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 Centre Profile

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, director's 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
- 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

- 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 Cheap as Chips, 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

There are a number of local doctors and dentists with specialists visiting regularly from Adelaide. Whyalla offers wide variety of sport and recreational activities for the community. There is a twin cinema and theatre complex, parks and a new Civic Library. University of South Australia (Whyalla Campus) and TAFE run many courses in the evening and on weekends.

- **Availability of staff housing**
Housing is available through REM and local estate agents. Housing costs are reviewed and long and short-term rentals are available.
- **Accessibility**
Whyalla is approximately a four-hour drive to Adelaide. The road is very good with many passing lanes. Stateline Bus Company frequently run buses to and from Adelaide at a reasonable cost. Rex and Qantas Link fly planes between Whyalla and Adelaide several times daily.
- **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 Country SA; Positive Parenting; University of SA and other organisations and agencies identified through discussions with the community and families.