PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 09/2011

Centre number: 6660
Centre name: Quorn Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Belinda McInerney
- Postal address: 3 Second Street, Quorn, 5433
- Location address: As Above
- DECS Region: Far North and Aboriginal Lands
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 348kms
- Telephone number: 8648 6377
- Fax number: 8648 6713
- Preschool website address: http://www.quornkgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: kindy.director@quornkgn.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendances: 2011 Enrolment = 17 – 28 / Attendance = 14 - 23
- Co-located/stand-alone: Stand Alone

- Programs operating at the preschool
  - Pre Entry for children in the term they turn 4, integrated with preschool program. Early entry for Aboriginal children at 3 years of age.
  - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children:
    - 5 x 3 hour sessions per week for 4 year olds.
  - Occasional Care sessions are offered between 8:30am – 11:15am each Tuesday and Thursday which is funded with extra staffing
Lunch/Full Day Program: The kindergarten offers five sessions over two full days and a half day including a lunchtime care program.

Bilingual Support: N/A

Preschool Support: Support programs for special needs e.g. Speech, Disabilities and Behaviour as required

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose: 2011 Site Learning Plan
  Key Priorities
  - To improve children’s engagement and achievement in Literacy and Numeracy.
  - To maintain positive relationships amongst staff, children and families within the Centre.
  - To collect Data and use the information for future progress.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
  - A play based program using EYLF which promotes the children’s learning and development through play.
  - Explicit Teaching of Literacy and Numeracy concepts
- Core Values
  - To create an atmosphere of caring and learning for children 3-5 years of age.
- Specific curriculum approaches: We aim to:
  - value each child as an individual;
  - build on each child’s knowledge and experience;
  - challenge and extend each child’s experiences;
  - provide a safe, secure and caring environment promoting positive self-esteem and confidence in risk taking.
  - Assessment is through maintaining observation records, language and transition assessments and portfolios of the children’s work.
  - Through the newsletter parents/caregivers are offered the opportunity to request an interview with the staff at any time.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
  - Children with special needs are referred to the appropriate support services

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile: 1 Director 0.7 PSD1 / ECW 0.6 ECW1 / preschool support workers employed as needed
- Performance Management Program: All Staff follow a Performance Management Plan which allows for job roles, personal reflection, identifying their training and development requirements and maintaining a record of the
courses/conferences they have attended. The Director has a Performance Agreement with the Regional Director.

- Access to special support staff: Preschool Support Service from the Far North and Aboriginal Lands District Office on a referral basis. A speech pathologist visits the kindergarten to support children with speech difficulties. Aboriginal Language Cultural programs.

- Other
  A staff meeting is held once a week and minutes are recorded. At the meeting, the program for the next fortnight is discussed, OHS&W issues raised, child records maintained and relevant correspondence distributed.

**Governing Council and Parent Groups**

The centre management is supported by a Governing Council that is responsible for maintaining finances, making decisions about large purchases and fundraising. Council meetings are held once a month where a Director’s report and a Treasurer’s report are presented. The Kindergarten finances are audited at the end of each year and an inventory kept of the kindergarten assets.

The kindergarten maintenance follows the Asset Management Plan.

The Governing Council consists of a Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and a staff representative. A small number of parents also attend the meetings. The meetings are held at the end of the kindergarten sessions. A Director’s report presented at the meeting keeps the parents informed of the directions the kindergarten is taking and allows for their participation in decision making. This a copy of this report is given to the Quorn Area School.

5. **Centre Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds: The kindergarten building is part of the original primary school with three large rooms and an office. The building is of stone construction with high ceilings. Other sections of the building are used as a private teacher’s residence and on the other side an Outdoor Education Campsite managed by the Quorn Area School. The outdoor environment comprises of a large yard with beautiful surroundings. A large portion of the yard is covered by soft fall and also a large lawn area.

- Capacity 30 (per session)

- Centre Ownership: DECS and the premises are available for hire by the community.

- Access for children and staff with disabilities: Accessible by wheelchair
• Other

The kindergarten receives a literacy and numeracy grant. These funds are used to purchase new resources and allocate staff for literacy and numeracy planning and teaching. The Centre also receives an attendance grant. This money is used for home visits, excursions and providing various services to the site to support families.

A Newsletter for every family is published twice a term.

A whiteboard at the front of the kindergarten is updated regularly providing information about the week’s program, coming events and acknowledging contributions from the community. An article about kindergarten activities is published in the local newspaper (The Mercury).

The kindergarten has a representative on the Quorn Community Library Board.

The parents and community are very supportive of the kindergarten with members offering their time to share their skills with the children, including the kindergarten involvement in community activities and participating in fundraising activities.

The school and kindergarten also have a policy of sharing resources and supporting each other in providing quality education.

The Quorn Kindergarten opened in 1972 and is the sole kindergarten for the town and surrounding areas servicing a rural community.

The background of the children is diverse culturally, economically and socially with 60% of the children being rural and 40% of Aboriginal background.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

• General characteristics:

Quorn is a rural town within the Flinders Ranges District Council located 348kms from the GPO with a population of approximately 1,400 people.

Local employment includes farming, local government, education and health services, mineral processing and small business, with an increasing interest in tourism. Many people are employed by Australia National and ETSA in Port Augusta. An increasing percentage of the population commute to Port Augusta each day for employment.

At present, community members include a growing number of families new to the Quorn district and an increasing number of transient and mobile families. There is an Aboriginal population of approximately 25%, as well as many families who have lived in Quorn for some generations.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
  Playgroup run by parents
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
  The kindergarten feeds the Quorn Area School through a transition program run in the child’s fourth term at kindergarten.
- Other local care and educational facilities, *eg. child care, schools, OSHC:*
  Quorn Area School offers OSHC
  The Kindergarten works closely with Playgroup leaders which is offered on Friday Mornings between 9.00 -11.00am
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Local Shopping facilities available
- Other local facilities for example, medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational facilities: Wide opportunities exist to be involved in the community through service or sporting groups and organisations.
- Availability of staff housing: Limited
- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality: A Stateliner Bus service runs to Adelaide twice weekly.
- Local Government: Flinders Ranges District Council

7. **Further Comments**

   Not Applicable