



# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 17/05/2012

Centre number: 6660

Centre name: Quorn Kindergarten

## 1. General information

- **Preschool Director**  
Nicole Downing
- **Postal address**  
3 Second Street, Quorn, SA, 5433
- **Location address**  
'As Above'
- **DECD Region**  
Far North and Aboriginal Lands
- **Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)**  
348 kms
- **Telephone number**  
(08) 8648 6377
- **Fax number**  
(08) 8648 6713
- **Preschool website address:**  
[www.quornkgn.sa.edu.au](http://www.quornkgn.sa.edu.au)
- **Preschool e-mail address**  
[kindy.director@quornkgn.sa.edu.au](mailto:kindy.director@quornkgn.sa.edu.au)
- **Enrolment/Attendance**

	2009				2010				2011				2012	
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2
Enrolments	21	28	20	21	21	23	25	24	28	19	17	14	20	23
Attendances	19	22	16	14	16	18	19	18	23	17	14	11	18	19

- **Co-located/stand-alone**  
*Stand-alone*
- **Programs operating at the preschool**
  - ⊞ **Pre Entry**  
Pre Entry of 1 x 3 hour session per week, the term before they are eligible to attend the full pre-school program.
  - ⊞ **Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children**  
5 x 3 hour sessions per week for 4 year olds.  
4 x 3 hour sessions per week for 3 year old ATSI children
  - ⊞ **Occasional Care**  
Occasional care sessions are offered between 8:30am – 11:15am each Tuesday and Thursday morning. Funded, with ECW2 running the program.
  - ⊞ **Lunch/Full Day Program**  
The kindergarten offers five sessions over two full days and a half day including a lunchtime care program with no additional cost.
  - ⊞ **Preschool Support**  
Support programs for children with additional needs (speech/language/behaviour/physical needs, etc)
  - ❖ **Playgroup**  
One (1) session per week held on Friday mornings between 10am and Noon. Playgroup is run by a group of Volunteer Parents based on an annual roster. Playgroup is usually run on site, although there is an occasional excursion per term to one of the local attractions/playgrounds, etc.
  - ❖ **Home Visits**  
Our centre has two (2) ECWs that visit the Families of ATSI children enrolled in our Preschool Programme to encourage attendance and offer support to Families where needed. We also offer additional assistance in helping Families access support networks and programs.

## 2. Key Centre Policies

- **Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose**
  - ❖ To provide a quality teaching and learning environment where the programme is centred on the individual needs of each child.
  - ❖ To continue to develop positive partnerships with Families and the Community.
  - ❖ To work as a collaborative team, with the wellbeing of the team members, children and Families being priority.
  - ❖ To provide the best possible facilities for our Staff, Children, Families and the wider Community.

## 3. Curriculum

- **Framework used:**

Early Years Learning Framework
- **Specific curriculum approaches**
  - ❖ **Play based learning**

Our centre provides a play based learning curriculum that offers opportunities for children to learn through exploration and imaginative play. Play based learning promotes curiosity, communications skills, creativity, independence and self-esteem, respect for others / social skills, and responsibility for ones actions.
  - ❖ The programme offers opportunities for self-exploration, guided teaching (eg. Capturing ‘teachable moments’) and explicit teaching.
- **Joint programmes**
  - ❖ **Transition Programme**

The transition programme runs over 10 weeks. Starting with an initial meeting between Reception Teacher and Director, leading on to two (2) visits (1 x Kindy to Class/School and 1 x Class to Kindy). The next seven (7) weeks of the programme consists of visits by the parents and children to their intended class; with visit times increasing from an hour to full day visits.
  - ❖ **Child and Youth Health / Pika Wiya**

Health screenings (inc. Hearing/Sight tests) are offered each term to Families with children aged 4yrs 7 months; usually aimed at children transitioning to school in the following term. Appointments are organised by Preschool staff in conjunction with the Nurse and Parents. Parents receive feedback and notes based on their child’s screening.

## 4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile**

- ❖ 0.7 Director PSD1 – contracted until the end of Term 2, 2012
- ❖ 0.6 ECW1 – Permanent Employee
- ❖ 0.1 ECW1 – Finance Officer
- ❖ 0.2 ECW2 – Occasional Care Co-Ordinator
- ❖ Additional ECWs employed under contracts term by term depending on funding received under Preschool Support Program.

- **Performance Management Program**

Performance reviews are conducted minimum of twice per year; depending on goals set by Staff / Director. Performance management at our centre allows for personal reflection on roles/responsibilities, T&D needs, and personal goals. The Preschool Director has Performance Management meetings with the Regional Director, or Assistant Regional Director.

- **Special Support Staff**

- ❖ Disabilities Co-Ordinator – works in partnership with centre Staff and Families to support the inclusion of children with additional needs.
- ❖ Hearing Specialist – provides a consultancy services to Staff and Families for inclusion of children with a hearing impairment.
- ❖ Speech Pathologist – conducts assessments, and provides specialised programmes, to help meet the needs of children with communication difficulties.
- ❖ Early Childhood Psychologist Services – provides an educational psychology service to support staff in meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of children.
- ❖ Interagency Student Behaviour Management Services – provides support to Staff / Families in working with children with challenging behaviours.

- **Staff Meetings**

- ❖ Staff meetings are held every Wednesday afternoon between 12:30pm and 1:30pm. Staff discuss issues raised during the week, reflection on successes and areas for improvement, organisation of T&D, as well as group planning for the week/fortnight to come.

- **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 per month where a Director's report and a Treasurer's report are presented. The Director's report keeps parents informed of the directions the Kindergarten is taking and allows for their participation in decision making. A copy of the Director's report is given to the Quorn Area

School to be presented at their monthly meetings – or the Director presents this when attending the meeting, if able to do so.

- ❖ 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 on the first Wednesday of each month between 12:45pm and 2:15pm.
- **Other**
  - ❖ The Kindergarten finances are audited after each calendar year and an inventory kept of the kindergarten assets.

## 5. Centre Facilities

- ***Buildings and grounds***

The Kindergarten program is based in the old school building built in the late 1800s/early 1900s; the Kindy area consists of three (3) large rooms and an office space. The building has been constructed out of stone and features high cathedral ceilings. Other sections of the building are used as a private teacher residence and an Outdoor Education Centre for Quorn Area School.

The outdoor environment comprises of a large yard; featuring an undercover area, paved bike track, sandpit, cubby house, playground, fire pit and multiple garden areas. The outdoor play areas are covered with soft fall for the playground and grass for all other areas.

The wet areas/kitchen facilities are currently being reviewed, with possible remodelling happening in the next few years.

- ***Capacity (per session)***

Capacity for our sessions is limited to 30 children.

- ***Centre Ownership***

DECD is responsible for the ownership of the building. The building and outdoor space is also available for hire, catering for functions such as children's parties.

- ***Access for children and staff with disabilities***

The centre is wheelchair friendly, featuring ramps and wide doorways.

- ***Other***

The Kindergarten receives a Literacy/Numeracy grant; these funds are used to purchase new equipment and employ staff to specifically present Literacy/Numeracy lessons/activities. Our service also receives an attendance grant which is used to fund the home visit program, provide excursions around the local community and provide various support services to Families.

A newsletter is published once per fortnight; covering details of upcoming events, programming for the fortnight, good news spots and other general information Families may need or find of interest.

A whiteboard next to the front door is updated regularly providing information about the week's program, coming events and acknowledging contributions from the community or sharing special news. An article based on Kindy events is published in the local newspaper (*The Mercury*).

The Kindy has a representative on both the Quorn Area School's Governing Council and 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 events.

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 ATSI 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 individuals.

Local employment includes farming, local government, education and health services, mineral processing and small business/retail, with an increasing interest in tourism. Many of our citizens are employed by the mining sector, various locomotive companies and ETSA. An increasing percentage of our population travel to Port Augusta daily for employment.

At present, community members include a growing numbers of families new to the Quorn district and an increasing number of transient and mobile families. There is an ATSI population of approximately 25%, as well as many families who have lived in Quorn for some generations.

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

Parents and Community members are involved in our preschool in various ways, ranging from helping with daily routines to organising and running fundraising events.

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

Children from Quorn Kindergarten usually transfer to either Quorn Area School or Caritas College in Port Augusta.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

Quorn Area School, Occasional Care (offered on site here at Quorn Kindy), Playgroup (also on site) and Outside of School Hours Care (located at Quorn Area School). There are also a rare number of locals that offer Family Day

Care. For further details of Playgroup and Occasional Care, please see section 1: General Information.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

IGA is our local supermarket opening between 9-6 on weekdays and 9-2 on weekends and public holidays. There are also a number of pubs/cafes in town, as well as a butcher, two (2) service stations, and a number of other shops (chemists, book stores, etc).

- **Other local facilities**

There is a hospital in Quorn, located down the road from the school. A medical centre for daily appointments runs out of the hospital and two chemists are open in town. There are local sporting teams (esp. Cricket, Football, Netball and Horse Riding). Quorn also boasts Art Galleries, Girl Guides and RSL.

- **Availability of staff housing**

Rentals of any kind are limited, although the number of houses for sale is high.

- **Accessibility**

Stateliner Bus Services run between Port Augusta and Adelaide twice per day (residents need to make own way to Port Augusta) and this can cost between \$100 - \$200 return. Flights between Port Augusta and Adelaide also run twice per day costing between \$200 - \$500 return.

- **Local Government**

Flinders Rangers Council  
1 Seventh Street  
Quorn, SA, 5433  
(08) 8648 6031

## 7. Further Comments

*Not Applicable*