



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 27 June 2016

Centre number: 6620

Centre name: Gladstone Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director
Rebecca Crawford
- Postal address
PO Box 69, Gladstone, SA, 5473
- Location address
James St, Gladstone, SA, 5473
- DECS Region
Upper Mid North
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
210kms
- Telephone number
08 86622112
- Fax number
08 86622518
- Preschool website address:
www.gladstonekgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address
dl.6620.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance
Enrolment of 10 with attendance of 9
- Co-located/stand-alone
Stand alone
In 2017 the Preschool will become a School Based Preschool through an Amalgamation with Gladstone Primary School and Georgetown Primary School.
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - ❖ Pre Entry

Pre Entry sessions are integrated into the Kindergarten sessions in Term 3 & 4, due to Same First Day policy, when numbers permit. The number of sessions available depends on the need of the transitioning children.

- ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children under the Universal Access to Kindergarten
(children have access to 30 hours of preschool over 2 weeks) Monday odd weeks 8:45am – 12:45pm; Tuesday and Wednesday 8:45am to 3:15pm every week.
- ❖ Occasional Care
Funded Occasional Care programs runs over 4 sessions.
Tuesday 8:45am -11:45 - Over 2's
Wednesday 8:45am – 11:45am – Over 2's & Under 2's
Wednesday 12:15pm – 3:15pm – Over 2's
- ❖ Lunch/Full Day Program
Lunch care is provided as part of the Universal Access program
- ❖ Bilingual Support
Available on a needs basis
- ❖ Preschool Support
Available on a needs basis through Support Services

2. Key Centre Policies

- **Philosophy Statement**

At Gladstone Kindergarten quality relationships with every child, family & our community are essential to children's learning. Children are competent & capable learners. We provide a challenging, nurturing, play-based learning environment where every child has the right & opportunity to achieve their potential.

- **Quality Improvement Plan – See QIP for more details.**

Two Quality Areas have been identified through Centre Review processes as priorities to work on.

Educational Program and Practice

1.1—An approved learning framework informs the development of a curriculum that enhances each child's learning and development.

1.2 - Educators and co-ordinators are focused, active and reflective in designing and delivering the program for each child.

Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities

6.3 - The service collaborates with other organisations and service providers to enhance children's learning and wellbeing.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used:
Early Years Learning Framework, Belonging, Being and Becoming
- Core Values
Children's learning outcomes are the priority within the Centre. We believe positive partnerships with families and the Centre is integral to each child's development and we value children driving the curriculum.
- Specific curriculum approaches
We provide a safe, caring, but challenging learning environment, meeting the needs of children, families and the local community. Underpinned by child development theories and Departmental Guidelines, the philosophy of Learning through Play is a basis for our approach. We promote a supportive learning environment where children are able to develop a positive self concept, independence and care for themselves and others. Children are encouraged to explore their cognitive development, an awareness of their environment, diversity, and cultural understanding.
We place a strong emphasis on Parental involvement in the curriculum and the sharing of skills within the community to enhance the program.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
Regular visits to and from our local feeder schools to support our transition in line with the Partnership Transition Plan.

Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
- Director (0.6+ 0.1 Universal Access), ECW (0.5), OC ECW2 (12.5 hrs), OC ECW (4 hrs)
- Performance Management Program
DECS Performance Management Policy is the framework for termly meetings and written feedback twice per year.
Informal feedback is given regularly
- Access to special support staff
Referrals are made through DECD Regional Office as needed

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
The current building is one of the original stone buildings of the old high school complex, set away from the main part of the town. The kitchen has been upgraded together with the fence in 2001. The toilet facilities were upgraded in 2003. Outdoor facilities have also been upgraded including a purpose built

recycled plastic platform. The 2013-2014 Maintenance Funding program was used to repair the Verandah & it's flooring.

- Capacity (per session)
28
- Centre Ownership
The Minister for Education
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
A ramp at the side of the building provides access for those with a disability and the toilet area upgrade also provides appropriate facilities for children and staff with disabilities.
- In 2017 the Preschool will reside at the current location until the new purpose built facility is complete in Term 2 or 3 of 2017.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:
The usual language spoken at home is English. There is a major Viteera site with employment opportunities. Gladstone is a centre for the outlying farming community and is developing Tourism ventures.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
The preschool is supported by an energetic Governing Council and parent body. Families are encouraged to participate in program as they are able to and we often visit business and locations in the local community to support our curriculum. We have strong transition links with our local feeder schools and arrange termly visits.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
Gladstone Primary School (Amalgamated with Georgetown Primary School) and St Josephs Parish School, Gladstone.
- Other local care and educational facilities,
1 Family Day Care providers operate in Gladstone. Funded Occasional Care operates at the Kindy and Gladstone High School is located on the Main Rd. The Flinders Mobile Library is based in Gladstone and is available for borrowing fortnightly.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Gladstone has an Australia Post Post Office, IGA, Chemist, Second hand Shop, Tourist Information and Craft shop, 1 service Garages, 2 petrol outlets, Real estate/Rural merchandise outlet, Hairdresser, café, and Roadhouse. Port Pirie is 40km away and is a major regional centre providing most other facilities.
- Other local facilities
Gladstone Health Centre provides 2 Doctors and Laura Hospital is 11km away, Crystal Brook Hospital and Medical Centre also provide local medical

services. The town has Football, Netball, Tennis, Cricket, Bowls, Golf, Swimming Clubs and facilities, joining with nearby towns.

There are Catholic, Uniting and Anglican Church facilities at Gladstone while a Lutheran parish is based at Laura

- Availability of staff housing

Gladstone provides both government housing and private rental. It is located within easy commuting distance from other nearby towns.

- Accessibility

Gladstone is 2 hours from Adelaide via 3 alternate routes on good quality roads. Other regional Centres include Pt Pirie, Jamestown and Clare which are easily accessible. The Stateliner bus service runs through Gladstone and Pt Pirie.

- Local Government

The Northern Area's Council is based in Jamestown and operates an office and depot in Gladstone. Gladstone Office 08 86622018

7. Further Comments

- Gladstone Kindergarten is part of the Upper Mid North Partnership together with DECD sites from Georgetown, Gladstone, Laura, Crystal Brook, Wirrabarra, Jamestown, Booborowie and Burra.