PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6661

Centre name: Burra Early Learning Centre

1. General information

- Centre name
  Burra Early Learning Centre
- Centre number
  6661
- Preschool Director
  Sarah Stoddart
- Postal address
  8 Bridge Terrace, Burra, 5417
- Location address
  8 Bridge Terrace, Burra, 5417
- Telephone number
  8892 2373
- Fax number
  8892 2119
- E-mail address
  kindy.director@burrapre.sa.edu.au
- DECS District
  Yorke & Mid North Region
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
  160kms
- Enrolment/Attendance
  21/19
- Stand-alone Preschool
- Programs operating
  - Pre Entry – offered Thursdays 9am – 12noon
  - Funded Occasional Care –
    Tuesdays 9am – 11:45am and 12:15 pm - 3pm
  - Preschool for eligible children
    Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am – 3pm (odd weeks)
    Tuesday & Thursday 9am – 3pm (even weeks)
  - Extended Care
    Bus children receive extended care before and after Preschool.
Preschool Support is provided by the Yorke & Mid North Early Childhood Support Services and the Lower North Community Health Services staff (Growing Healthy Kids Team).

DECS’ Early Assistance Grant allows for additional staffing.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities
  The centre’s priorities are outlined in the Burra Early Learning Centre’s Site Improvement Plan.

  **Focus on Learning:** Oral language and TROLL.

  **Target Resources:** Multiliteracies & Healthy Eating.

  **Set Direction:** Partnerships with families, Junior Primary staff & wider community.

3. Curriculum

- The National Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF)
  The framework forms the foundation for ensuring that children in all early childhood education and care settings experience quality teaching and learning. It has a specific emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development.

  The centre’s inclusive curriculum takes into account gender, class, cultural backgrounds and a range of intellectual and physical abilities. This curriculum is all encompassing for families, valuing families' experiences, cultural beliefs, skills, knowledge and circumstances. It involves children making decisions about their learning, whilst providing a positive, safe, caring and healthy environment. Language is used that the community understands.

- Special needs
  Planning focuses on the children’s positive strengths and abilities. The Yorke & Mid North Early Childhood Support team and the Lower North Community Health Services support team provide information and strategies for individual planning for children with disabilities, giftedness, developmental delay, and behaviour or family difficulties.

- Core Values
  The core values of the Burra Early Learning Centre is to provide and develop high quality educational opportunities for learning life skills through play for 2-5 year old children in a safe, caring, stimulating and interactive environment.

- Specific curriculum approaches
  Support from the Lower North Community Health Services support team and DECS’ Yorke & Mid North Childhood Support team is received and valued by the staff team.
Parents are encouraged to meet & work in partnership with the staff & the support team so that the best possible outcomes can be achieved for each individual child.

Four-year-old Health Checks are conducted at the centre by a CAYH nurse. Parents are encouraged to attend these appointments.

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
  Transition programs with the local community school and the nearby feeder schools have been implemented.
  There is a strong commitment to work collaboratively with the Junior School Co-ordinator & Junior Primary Staff at the Burra Community School and staff teams from neighbouring schools to establish satisfactory transition programmes for all children as they move from the preschool to school.

  Play Group held weekly, on Friday mornings, at the centre. This session helps the transition from home to our centre for younger children & their families prior to their preschool education commencing.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
  1 Director - PSD1 (0.5) plus a (0.1) Funded Occasional Care Director
  Teacher (0.1)
  Teacher (0.6)
  Preschool Support Worker (hours depend on support received for identified children each term)
  ECW2 - Funded Occasional Care Provider (0.2)

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  The centre is situated in a large park like setting opposite the Burra Caravan Park, which is adjacent to the Burra Creek. The centre was established in 1981 and is well maintained and equipped with permanent outdoor play equipment and surrounded by a high security fence. The building is prefabricated, with large verandah areas, which have plastic awnings fitted. There are two large storage sheds adjacent to the building.

  - Capacity (per session)
    30 children.
  - Centre Ownership
    DECS.
  - Access for children and staff with disabilities
    Two ramps have been installed near the front entrance, which has double doors.
  - Other

    **Access to Bus Transport:** Three buses transport children into the nearby Burra Community School. Staff members meet the bus each morning, at
the centre’s entrance gate. The bus remains at the side of the centre during the day. At the end of the day a staff member accompanies the children to the bus, which delivers the children to the school's car park to their respective buses.

**OHS&W:** The Business Manager Program is used to manage tasks and maintain records.

### 6. Local Community

- **Burra** is a famous old copper mining town situated in the Mid-North. Sheep and cereal farms surround the township, with station country to the east of the township and the beautiful Clare Valley to the southwest. Small business, farming enterprises and local government provide the main source of work. There is some seasonal work available in the wool industry and in the nearby Clare Valley vineyards. Nearly all families are of Anglo Saxon origin.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool**
  
  Parental involvement is quite good with parents contributing support in many ways e.g. Contributions, Governing Council, curriculum, asset management and fundraising.
  
  The Preschool has established strong links with community groups and local businesses that actively support fundraising and participate in experiences which support the learning program for children.

- **Schools to which children generally transition are -**
  
  Burra CS, Booborowie PS, Farrell Flat PS & St. Joseph’s Catholic school in Clare.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**
  
  There is one private day care provider in Burra.
  
  The Lower North Community Health support families e.g. CYHS, Paediatric Occupational Therapy, Paediatric Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy. Children younger than 3 years old are eligible for speech support through the LNCHS.
  
  The Burra Community School is situated near the Preschool and caters for R-12 classes. The Community Library is situated within the school.
  
  Goyder House, which is situated near the local hospital, offers boarding facilities for isolated children.

- **Commercial/Industrial and Shopping facilities**
  
  Shopping facilities are adequate with a supermarket, hairdresser, pharmacy, gift shops, newsagent, antique shops, cafes, roadhouses, stock firms and a hardware store.
  
  There are also two garages and a tyre shop to cater for locals and visitors.

- **Other local facilities**
  
  The Broadcaster (local newspaper)
  
  The Burra Visitor Centre
  
  Caravan Park and Paxton Square Cottages, Hotel, Motel and Bed and Breakfast accommodation is also available.
A well equipped picnic area, which has playground equipment, is situated near the Burra Creek.
An Op Shop, is situated in the Uniting Church Hall
Local hospital and a local SA Ambulance Service.
Police Officers servicing the district.
Sporting clubs including tennis, football, netball, basketball, hockey, golf, lawn bowls and table tennis.
Community groups include volunteer Ambulance officers, Red Cross, Guides, Quilting, Probus, CFS, SES, Day Care, Gardening Group & Dog Obedience Club.
Churches: Anglican, Uniting, Lutheran and Catholic.

- Availability of staff housing
  None available
- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres
  Adelaide is 2 hours by car. Bus companies provide transport to and from the city, several times a week.
- Local Government body
  Regional Council of Goyder has offices at 1 Market Square, Tel: 8892 2100 Fax: 8892 2467.

7. **Further Comments**

- Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups
  Volunteers from the numerous service clubs are generous with their time. They are willing to spend time with the children whenever they are invited.