

## Context Statement

Andrews Farm Community Preschool is a stand-alone Department for Education (DfE) Preschool. We are a category 2 preschool with a capacity of 88 children located in the City of Playford north of Elizabeth, south of Gawler. Rapid growth has seen many families with young children moving into the newly built houses. The highest percentage of people are in the younger age groups (0 to 5 years) reflecting the demand for services such as preschool. Geographical boundaries are in place for enrolment purposes.

The larger, separate dwellings are mostly fully owned or being purchased and 35% rented. The majority of our families have at least one parent employed full time, many working part time. The preschool, St. Columba a private R- 12 College, several shops next to the school's form Andrews Farm. The preschool is very much part of the community and often the first point of call for families.

We are part of the Peachey Partnership, local schools and preschools working together to provide improved outcomes for children.

Andrews Farm Community consist of approximately 81% of families where English is often the only language. Khmer, Swahili, Italian, Karundi and a larger number of Sudanese families make up the population. We accessed Dinka, Swahili, Karundi, Hazaraghi bi-lingual support for families. Our team of 14 includes teachers, ECW's, speech, bi-lingual and support staff working with culturally and linguistically diverse children and children who require additional support. The DfE speech therapist, Psychologist, Behaviour coach and Special Educator support the programme. We employ a .2 speech therapist to work with children and families. Child Youth Health nurses visited providing vision / hearing checks for children prior to commencing school. Service in 2020 was limited due to COVID restrictions.

Children in their preschool year can access up to 15 hours of preschool per week. There is a comprehensive enrolment process offering full and half days and a combination of both.

### Highlights:

- Weekly borrowing of animals, resource kits from Nature Centre at Urrbrae
- Patch bus /Theatre excursions
- Gardening: vegetables, flowers, herbs, mulching
- Working through COVID regulations provided a number of challenges where changes were required. This led to new ideas, routines some of which we have continued to practice. The Department for Education and our local Education team provided support and direction. The educators were well informed and equipped with information. Families were supportive of how we worked through the challenges through the year.