



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: July 2023

Centre number: 6502

Centre name: Balharry Memorial Children's Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Sile Legoe
- Postal address: PO Box 101 Lucindale SA 5272
- Location address: 8-10 Centenary Avenue SA 5272
- DECD Partnership: Wrattenbully
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km) 350km
- Telephone number: 08 87662139
- Fax number: 08 87662108
- Preschool website address: <https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/balharry-memorial-kindergarten>
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.6502.admin@schools.sa.edu.au
- Co-located/stand-alone: Co-located with Rural Care
- Programs operating at the preschool:
Your child can attend preschool for up to 15 hours per week.
 - Group 1 Monday and Tuesday 8:30am-3pm and Odd Wednesday 8:30-12:30pm
 - Group 2 Thursday and Friday 8:30am-3pm and Even Wednesday 8:30-12:30pm



- ⌘ Rural Care (unfunded, when available)
- ⌘ Associated Programs
 - Transition Program will run in Term 2 and Term 4 now as we have mid year enrolments.
 - Early entry – offered to children with additional needs when spaces are available
- ⌘ Lunch/Full Day Program
- ⌘ Preschool Support – for children with additional needs as per funding from the Department of Education.
- ⌘ Rural Bus Access – children are able to access the school bus to attend kindergarten.
- ⌘ Rural Care – Full day care from 8am-6pm available from a separate building on the same site as the kindergarten. Operates for 50 weeks per year, Monday to Friday. Families may be eligible for Child Care Rebates. Staffed at a ratio of 1:4 children under school age and up to 7 children over school age including OSHC.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities: Numeracy and literacy, Family and community involvement, to create an active and engaging learning environment.
- Please refer to the centre philosophy

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
- Core Values: Professionalism, Sustainability, Respect, Honesty and Integrity



4. Centre Based Staff

- Performance Management Program
- Access to special support staff as determined by Department of Education. Support Services come from Mount Gambier

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds: The kindergarten building was the original Lucindale School which opened in 1927. Additions have been made since this time. Build from Mount Gambier stone with an iron room and hardi plank additions. Large outdoor area provides a mix of natural and person-made spaces to allow flexibility and to extend children's learning.
- Capacity (per session): 22
- Centre Ownership: Department of Education
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: Disabled access through side door. Bathroom facilities are not suitable. Rural Care offers disabled access and suitable bathroom facilities.



6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: Predominantly a farming community. Most families are from an anglo-saxon background. English is the main language spoken.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool: The kindergarten is well supported by families and the wider community in the Lucindale area.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Most attend Lucindale Area School
- Other local care and educational facilities: Lucindale Area School (F-Year 12), Family Day Care provider, other child care services at Naracoorte (25 minutes away)
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Farm supply stores, café/deli, post office, bank agencies. Larger shopping facilities located in Naracoorte – 45km.
- Other local facilities: Good sporting facilities, doctor (Tuesdays), community library located at the school
- Availability of staff housing: Available
- Accessibility: No public transport – drivers licence and vehicle is a necessity. Other modes of transport can be accessed at neighbouring towns.
- Local Government: Naracoorte/Lucindale Council, State Electorate of McKillop.
New residents are welcomed into the community.

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups: Lucindale is a small community with a big outlook! The Lions Club runs a highly successful annual Field Day which attracts around 20 000 people. Other large community events include the Lucindale Show, Camp Draft, Country Music Festival, Easter Tennis Tournament and a Christmas Street Party.