



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT 2022

Updated: 16/01/2022

Centre number: 1698

Centre name: Mt Gambier Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting

1. General information

- School Principal: Mardi McClintock
- Director: Pauline Bosco
- Postal address: Mulga Street, Mount Gambier
- Location address: Mulga Street, Mount Gambier
- DECD Partnership: Mount Gambier Portfolio 1
- Geographical location – Approx 7 km from the city centre
- Telephone number: 08 87234989
- Fax number: 08 87259567
- Preschool website address: www.mountgambiercc.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: pauline.bosco51@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance
2022 Enrolment Cap: 44 Current Enrolment: 40
- Co-located with the Mulga Street Primary School
- Preschool programs operating at the centre
 - ⌘ Sessional and full day Kindergarten for eligible children, Universal Access, Lunch Care

- ⌘ Occasional Care for one session for under 2's and five sessions for over 2's (funded)
- ⌘ Preschool Support for children with additional needs
- ⌘ Parenting programs include Circle of Security, I am woman program, Walk and Talk
- ⌘ Playgroups – we offer a free supported community playgroup on Friday morning integrated within the preschool program

2. Key Centre Policies

- Our Centre's key priority is to support children and families to achieve the best possible learning, health and wellbeing outcomes in a universal setting with targeted responses for children and families who may require additional support.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework underpins our sites philosophies and practice.

Core Values: The child is at the centre of everything we do. We believe genuine wellbeing and partnership with families occurs when a relationship is reciprocal and respectful. We understand that families are children's first and most influential educators and that wellbeing occurs in a safe and healthy environment. Our values reflect the guiding principles outlined in the National Quality Framework and National Quality Standards which are:

- The rights of the child are paramount
- Children are successful, competent and capable learners
- Equity, inclusion and diversity underpin the framework
- Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued
- The role of parents and families is respected and supported
- Best practice is expected in the provision of education and care services

Specific curriculum approaches:

Mount Gambier Children's Centre is a welcoming and inclusive centre offering integrated service provision for children and families including preschool, occasional care, playgroup, speech pathology, parenting programs and community development. We are co-located with Mulga Street Primary School and our support services extend out to the wider community, including the Melaleuca Hub.

We provide a nurturing space for children and families to learn, connect and thrive. Our nature inspired and flexible learning spaces stimulate curiosity, a sense of wonder, exploration, growth, creativity and critical thinking.

We value each child and family and work to compliment families in the care and education of their children as together we nurture the next generation of respectful, caring and capable leaders and community members. We are dedicated to listening to families and welcome families' active involvement in decision making and future directions of the Centre.

We acknowledge the strong connection that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the land and our local community and we strive to reflect and actively support this.

4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile**

Director, Education and Care (0.5 teaching & 0.5 leadership and administration), fulltime Preschool Teacher, a full time SSO, fulltime Community Development Co-ordinator and allied health support with a fly- in Speech Pathologist.

- **Performance Development Program**

All staff submit a performance development plan to the Director outlining their personal, career and learning priorities as well as site priorities with links to our Preschool Quality Improvement Plan. The Director submits their PDP to their line manager, who is the local Education Director.

- **Access to support services:** the Children's Centre has access to Department for Education Psychologists, Aboriginal Inclusion support, Behaviour Support and Speech Pathology as well as links with the Health Services which include Occupational Therapy, Health Screening and Dieticians.

5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds** – Mount Gambier Children's Centre's building and grounds were completed in 2009, and formal handover occurred in January 2010. The Children's Centre was developed from an existing building which originally housed the Mount Gambier Special School Primary Campus. The Mulga St Preschool relocated to the new site and opened its doors in Term 1, 2010. We provide a new look service that offers an extended range of high quality programs to meet the needs of local families. Our Centre has advantages in terms of transition between programs, access to educational and community services all in a familiar setting. The Centre was officially opened by then Minister of Education Mr Jay Weatherill on September 9th 2010
- The building has access for children and adults with disabilities.

6. Local Community

- **General characteristics:** Mount Gambier Children's Centre is located on the Mulga Street Primary School site. It is a growing residential area in the north-west of Mount Gambier, a city of 26000 people. Mount Gambier is a well organised and close knit community, with a variety of medical, commercial, recreational, cultural and sporting facilities and organisations available
- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool:** Decision making and planning also occurs through the Mulga Street School's Governing Council, which is an important element of the Children Centre's Community. The Governance supports the Preschool Education and Care through sub-committees drawn from the wider community. Parents are always encouraged to participate in their child's education; we welcome involvement in the daily curriculum, special events and excursions. Coffee and Chat mornings are held during the term as a relaxed forum for parents to catch up, connect, share ideas and have a say in programs, services and community development.
Mount Gambier Children's Centre works with a Hub and spoke approach to ensure all families have access to programs and services. We have an established hub at Melaleuca Park Kindergarten and were involved in supporting the development of the Mount Gambier North PS Hub.
- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:** Many of the children from the Children's Centre attend Mulga Street Primary School; the remaining children transition to the other local schools, both private and public including rural small schools.
- **Other local care and educational facilities:** The educational community is well established with excellent facilities for child care, pre-school, primary and secondary education. The local TAFE also offers a range of courses for both vocational and personal development. Schools are well serviced by other government agencies.
- **Availability of staff housing:** A range of affordable housing options are available including private and government rental or purchasing your own home or unit.
- **Other local facilities:** Mount Gambier is a large regional centre with good commercial, industrial and shopping facilities. Mount Gambier is a well-known tourist centre with the Blue Lake drawing large numbers of visitors throughout the summer months to view its unique hues. A number of medical clinics, a public and private hospital, cinemas, theatre and library are amongst the facilities available. Mount Gambier is only 25 minutes from the coastal town of Port MacDonnell, the southern most town in SA, which boasts excellent cray fishing and rugged coastlines
- **Accessibility:** Mount Gambier is easily accessible from major cities, with daily bus and air services available.
- **Community Groups:** Opportunities to become involved in community groups such as sport and music are many and varied in this beautiful city. Music has become such an integral part of the culture of the city, and each year visitors flock to the city to enjoy the various festivals including Generations in Jazz.

- **Local Government:** Mount Gambier's Council is called The City of Mount Gambier. The surrounding districts' council is the District Council of Grant which was created in 1996 following the amalgamation of the District Council of Mt Gambier and Port MacDonnell. The Mount Gambier Children's Centre has developed close links with the Mount Gambier City Council through a variety of projects including Perspectives of Children in the City and the development of John Powell Reserve Naturescape, 50 Things project (50+ things to do in Mount Gambier before 13 years old) and the Charter for Children.