



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: April 2023

Centre number: 6649

Centre name: Peterborough Community Preschool and
Rural Care Services

1. General information

- **Preschool Director:** Georjette Mercer
- **Postal and location address:** 76-80 Victoria Street, Peterborough, 5422
- **DECD Partnership:** Flinders
- **Geographical location** (i.e. road distance from GPO): 250 kms
- **Telephone number:** (08) 8651 2550
- **Preschool website address:**
<https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/peterborough-community-preschool>
- **Preschool email address:** dl.6649.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- **Enrolment/Attendance:** fluctuates between 11-22 preschool children
- **Co-located/stand-alone:** Stand-alone preschool, located on the grounds of Peterborough Primary School.
- **Programs operating at the preschool:**

- **Sessional Kindergarten:** This part-time site provides sessional kindergarten for eligible children. Kindergarten operates for 15 hours per week, from 9am-3pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and even week Tuesdays. Children accessing the 12 hour per week programme attend kindergarten on Mondays and Wednesdays only.
- **Rural Care:** Rural Care is a long daycare programme operating from 8am-6pm Monday to Friday, with before and after kindy/school care available. Rural Care operates as a single worker programme on Tuesdays and a double worker programme on all other days.
- **Preschool Support:** may be accessed if required.

2. Key Centre Policies

- **Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose (Philosophy Statement):**
At our centre, we:
 - Provide a fun, friendly, caring, safe place.
 - Work together on learning for children, staff, families and the community.
 - Provide a play-based programme using the Early Years Learning Framework.
 - Encourage family and community involvement to provide a quality centre by working as a team.
 - Provide an inclusive and engaging environment.

3. Curriculum

- **Framework used:**
 - *Belonging, Being & Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia* is used throughout the process of observing, analysing, planning, implementing and evaluating children's learning.
 - Children's learning is also assessed with reference to the *Preschool Indicators of Literacy and Numeracy*.
- **Core Values**
 - Providing all children with the opportunity to build relationships with peers, educators and the wider community
 - Supporting children to develop social skills, communication skills, and emotional regulation skills
 - Supporting children to develop foundational skills in literacy and numeracy

- Providing opportunities for intentional and purposeful play-based learning

4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile:**
Director 0.8, Teacher 0.6, 5 Early Childhood Workers (ECWs) working throughout the week in rural care programme. 2 ECWs are permanent at 27.5 hours per week, with the other 3 ECWs working between 5.5 and 22 hours per week.
- **Performance Management Program:**
All staff have performance goals identified via Performance and Development Plans (PDPs), with formal performance meetings occurring at a minimum of twice per year.
- **Access to special support staff**
Access to special support staff is negotiated depending on the needs of the children. The preschool is able to access specialists via DfE Student Support Services. The rural care service accesses support via Gowrie SA. Child and Family Health Service (CAFHS) visits twice a year to provide our preschool children with four-year-old health checks.

5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**
 - The site includes a heritage-listed stone building, originally part of the Peterborough Primary school, which was refurbished in 2006 and purpose-built as a preschool.
 - Inside, there are two large activity areas (one carpeted, one linoleum); a kitchen area where both adults and children can participate in cooking; a joint laundry and children's bathroom; a separate staff toilet with disability access; sleep room for rural care children; rural care office; staffroom/meeting area; and director's office. There is a large amount of storage for resources throughout the centre.
 - Outside, there is a large, paved verandah area which includes sinks and a large sandpit. Artificial turf provides a surface for ball games; there is a bike track and raised-bed garden area; a mud patch with cubbyhouse; a rubber-surfaced area under a shadesail; a built-in playground and swing frame, plus some dynamic play equipment, with bark chips/softfall and a large shade sail. Outdoors, there is some storage under the verandah, as well as a large equipment shed and a small gardener shed.

- **Capacity (per session)**

The centre has a total physical capacity of 26 children. Rural Care hosts a minimum of 4 children on kindy days, with the preschool having a maximum capacity of 22 children per session. Currently, with a low number of preschool enrolments, rural care offers a double-worker programme (which provides long daycare for approx. 9 children) on both kindy days and non-kindy days.

- **Centre Ownership:** Department for Education

- **Access for children and staff with disabilities:** Yes

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- **General characteristics:**

Peterborough has a population of approximately 1400 people, with 7.2% identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The community is transient, which is reflected in our fluctuating preschool enrolment numbers. There is a high level of unemployed people, welfare recipients, and pensioners within the community. The top industries of employment according to the 2016 census were working in supermarkets/grocery stores; meat processing; local government administration; education; and hospitals. 84% of the community speak only English at home.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool:**

Parent and community involvement in the preschool is limited. Approximately 30-50% of parents choose to participate in end-of-term celebrations or family events like Harmony Day, Mother's Day or Father's Day. Governing Council membership remains low, with scheduled meetings often not achieving quorum.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:**

Children graduate from preschool to attend Peterborough Primary School or St Joseph's Catholic School.

- **Other local care and educational facilities:**

- Peterborough Primary School
- St. Joseph's Catholic School, Peterborough
- Peterborough High School

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

There are limited facilities for shopping in Peterborough, including a Foodland, pharmacy, newsagent, hardware store, post office and second-hand shop. Port Pirie is the nearest regional centre, approximately 120kms away.

- **Other local facilities:**

- Medical facilities include Peterborough Soldiers Memorial Hospital with an aged care facility, Nalya Lodge, onsite. Peterborough Medical Centre has GP services provided by Goyder's Line Medical. Remarkable Dentistry provides the service of a visiting dentist.
- Recreational facilities include three parks, the Greg Duggan Nature Reserve, the Peterborough Swimming Pool, and the Steamtown Heritage Rail Centre.
- Regular community events include the Peterborough Rodeo, Peterborough Art and Cultural Festival. There is also a community newsletter, *The Informer*, which is dropped into all letterboxes on a monthly basis.
- Community organisations and clubs include the Rotary Club and Lion's Club. Uniting Country SA supports the Peterborough Community Hub, which provides support services to families and those in need. The community library, located on the grounds of Peterborough High School, provides the community with access to Libraries SA's OneCard programme.
- Restaurant, café and takeaway providers include the Tinsmith's Cottage Café, Crossroads Coffeehouse, Hart's Takeaway, The Peterborough Hotel, The Railway Hotel, and the Roundhouse.
- There are several sports available in Peterborough for both children and adults, including bowls, golf, tennis and aqua aerobics. There are several inter-town sports teams, including basketball and football. Nearby towns offer a variety of sports, including netball, darts, futsal, gymnastics, little athletics, dance and swimming.

- **Availability of staff housing:** Some availability of staff housing.

- **Accessibility:**

It is approximately 1.25 hours drive to Port Pirie, 1.5 hours drive to Port Augusta, and 3 hours drive to Adelaide. There is a local bus service to Port Pirie twice a week, and a bus service to Port Augusta once a week.

- **Local Government:**

The town is governed by the Peterborough District Council and Mayor Ruth Whittle. The council can be contacted by phone on 8651 3566.

7. Further Comments

- **Partnership arrangements with other groups:**
 - Community links are maintained with Peterborough Primary School via regular visits to their school library and with their early years class.
 - Connection is maintained with Peterborough High School through the preschool and rural care acting as host site for school-based trainees completing their Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care.