

CONTEXT STATEMENT

Elliston RSL Memorial Children's Centre is a category 1 Centre which has a capacity of 12 children. It is part-time and remote. The Centre has been relocated to the Elliston Area School site, where we are awaiting a new classroom and outdoor area to be built. The preschool is currently residing in an updated Science Lab where it has been given temporary approval until November 2021.

Elliston is a small coastal town nearly 700kms from Adelaide on the west coast of Eyre Peninsula. It is 169kms from Pt Lincoln and 127kms from Streaky Bay. The District Council of Elliston includes the towns of Elliston, Lock, Pt Kenny, Venus Bay and Sheringa. Main industries are farming, fishing and tourism. Elliston has an area school, a hospital, post office, police station, a visitor centre and a service station plus various accommodation businesses. Elliston RSL Memorial Children's Centre is located in the centre of town, near the war memorial, in the RSL building that was handed over in 1970 to become the kindergarten. There is ample parking for visitors and staff at the front.

The population of Elliston is about 400 and relatively stable. The Elliston RSL Memorial Children's Centre services the needs of families with preschool children who live in the coastal section of the District Council of Elliston. The area includes communities at Bramfield, Mt Wedge, Sheringa and Colton and the surrounding farms. Children from outlying areas travel in by bus. There is one bus operating in 2021. The average numbers for the preschool into the future remain about the same, that is, between five - ten children.

600 hours of preschool is accessed across the year.

Term 1: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 8.45am to 3.15pm

Terms 2 - 4

Weeks 1,3, 5,7,9 being on Tuesday and Thursday 8.45am to 3.15pm.

Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 being on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8.45am to 3.15pm.

We have two locally instigated programs running at the preschool;

1. Elliston Explorers is a nature based program where we visit areas within the community in a total natural environment. With small numbers, this program is instrumental in creating and defining a collaborative and problem solving ethos for the group. This program is embedded in the Centre, with all families, commenting on its success.
2. AP Kids begins in Term 2. This program enables a seamless transition for the children of the next year to attend the Centre for three hours one day a week. They all attend on the same day (ie Thursday morning from 9am to 12noon).

Staffed with a Director/Teacher and an ECW. The tenure of the Director is for 3 years. The tenure of the new Director of Elliston Children's Centre is 27/01/2022 – 28/01/2025. The centre operates during DECD term school dates (South Australia). Elliston Children's Centre has four pupil free days per year.

The playgroup which is offered on a Friday is supported by parent volunteers who have a representative on Governing Council. Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) once a month. Family Day Care is very limited within the town and surrounding areas. Orientation and Transition programs are offered each year. Transition takes place throughout the year, with two visits between the R/1 class and the kindy children in T1, T2 and T3. In T4 kindy children attend school for increasing lengths of time for four weeks, working up to a full day.