

## **GAWLER EAST PRESCHOOL**

### **SITE CONTEXT STATEMENT**

Gawler East Preschool is a Department for Education preschool and operates within the school year as determined by the Department.

It is "closed" only on Pupil Free Days (four times per year), public holidays and school holidays. On occasions additional closure days are approved by the Department.

Gawler East Preschool is a Stand-alone preschool located adjacent to the Gawler East Primary School and Gawler Community Child Care Centre. A strong relationship exists between the school and the preschool, and currently nearly 50% of enrolments proceed to Gawler East Primary. This figure is increasing.

A small safe accessible parking area is available via the driveway off Hurst Road. This is a jointly shared driveway that also allows access to the Gawler Community Child Care Centre.

The preschool is a member of the Greater Gawler Partnership which consists of DECD schools and preschools and staff work most collaboratively with the other Greater Gawler preschool staff.

Gawler East Preschool has in recent years averaged enrolments in the mid to high 70's, however in 2018 enrolments have increased into the high 90s, with a capacity to take up to 106 with additional staff. We have achieved bench mark attendance rate of an average of around 92%, based on current data collection methods. We are hoping to improve this percentage with a slight change to hours in 2018 (responding to our families' needs).

Gawler East Preschool offers a quality Preschool program to eligible children under the "Same First Day" initiative, which currently (through the Universal Access Program) provides 15 hours per week via a 30-hour fortnight. Fewer hours are available to those eligible to start earlier, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Support programs are available to those who meet DECD criteria - including for Special Needs, Speech Pathology and Bi-lingual/New Arrivals support.

Gawler East is in a residential area, located 2km from the commercial centre of Gawler. It is in "close" proximity to more rural living, servicing areas such as Kalbeeba, Cockatoo Valley and Sandy Creek. The new housing development of Springbank is also in close proximity.

Gawler East Preschool underwent the rigorous NQS assessment in 2016 and was accredited with EXCEEDING all 7 Quality Areas - giving it an overall rating of EXCEEDING. It is an achievement we aspire to continue, maintain and improve.