



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: June 2023

Centre number: 6526

Centre name: Michelle de Garis Memorial Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director – *Chantelle Weckert*
- Postal address – *PO Box 379 Naracoorte SA 5271*
- Location address - *10 Price Avenue Naracoorte SA 5271*
- DECD Partnership - *Wrattonbully*
- Geographical location – *1.3km from GPO*
- Telephone number - *0887620186*
- Preschool website address - *www.michellekgn.sa.edu.au*
- Preschool e-mail address - *dl.6526.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au*
- Enrolment/Attendance
 - 2018 enrolment 44 children attendance rate 90.6%*
 - 2019 enrolment 52 children attendance rate 93%*
 - 2020 enrolment 50 children attendance rate 89.7%*
 - 2021 enrolment 40 children attendance rate 92%*
 - 2022 enrolment 45 children attendance rate 92%*

- Co-located/stand-alone
Stand-alone Preschool
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
 - Occasional Care (*Funded*)
 - Associated Programs (*Pre-Entry and Early Entry when capacity permits*)
 - Lunch/Full Day Program
 - Bilingual Support
 - Preschool Support

2. Key Centre Policies

- Statement of Purpose

Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten was opened in November 1961. It is a Department for Education, full time, stand-alone preschool that offers an integrated Occasional Care program and Preschool services. Michelle DeGaris is a highly multicultural site, embracing families from all over the world. Cultures and countries represented within our site include Indigenous Australia, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, India, Zimbabwe. Located at 10 Price Avenue, Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten services local and interstate families. The centre is operational Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm during Department for Education term times. Children access up to fifteen hours of preschool in the year prior to commencing school. Sessions offered are: Monday and Thursday - 8:45am to 3:30pm or Tuesday and Friday - 8:45am to 3:30pm and includes a lunch program. An alternate Wednesday morning session - 8:45am to 11:45am ensures children receive their allocation of Preschool hours. Children can access travel to preschool via a bus on Tuesdays and Fridays. An integrated Occasional Care program operates Monday and Thursday - 9:00am to 11:45am or 12:45pm to 3:30pm. Additional programs offered include Bi-Lingual support, Speech intervention programs provided by a Department Speech Pathologist, Inclusive Education Support funding for children with diverse needs, a Pre-Entry transition program for children moving into Preschool. Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten is a play-based service that weaves concepts of literacy, numeracy, social skills, fine and gross motor skills, investigation, exploration and hypothesising into the learning experiences. Educators use a blend of intentional teaching, child-led inquiry and playful learning to enhance and extend children's development and learning.

Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten utilises the Early Years Learning Framework to guide planning and programming outcomes for children and has a strong focus on developing children's social and emotional regulation through implementing the Kimochi Program

3. Curriculum

- Framework used - *Early Years Learning Framework, Indicators of Preschool Literacy and Numeracy, Dispositions for learning*
- Core Values – *Belonging, Respect, Inclusion, Curiosity and Kindness*
- Specific curriculum approaches – *Play based learning environments, inquiry learning projects based on children's wonderings and interests, Kimochi's Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program*

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
Director: *Chantelle Weckert (1.0) - Monday, Tuesday (admin fortnightly), Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (admin)*
Lead Teacher: *Tracy Ebert (1.0) - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (admin), Thursday, Friday*
Teacher: *Kim Bohmer (0.5) - Tuesday (fortnightly), Wednesday, Friday*
Occasional Care Coordinator: *Susan Sutherland - Monday, Wednesday afternoon (fortnightly), Thursday*
Early Childhood Educator: *Deb Krieger - Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday*
Early Childhood Educator: *Theresa De La Cruz - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday*
Preschool Support Educator: *Deb Henschke - Tuesday (4 hours)*
Preschool Support Educator: *Jessie Moffatt - Tuesday, Friday*
Bi-Lingual Support: *Masooma Akbari - Monday*
- Access to special support staff – *Children who require extra support during their preschool time may be supported by Department for Education Special Services staff including: Special Educator, Behaviour Coach, Speech Pathologist. Children who require 1:1 support for varying needs maybe eligible for Inclusive Education Support Funding to employ an Early Childhood Educator to work with that child between eight and fifteen hours.*

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds – *The kindergarten was opened in 1961. Refurbishments to the main building (children's toilets, adult bathroom and kitchen) occurred in 2017. Large outdoor area inclusive of two playground spaces, swings, sandpit, vegetable and herb garden.*
- Capacity (per session) – *30 children. There is an exemption for Terms 3, 4 2023 of 35 children due to the commencement of mid-year intake.*
- Centre Ownership – *Department for Education*
- Access for children and staff with disabilities – *Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten is wheelchair accessible. There is a disabled toilet with handrails.*

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool – *Families are welcomed and encouraged to join the Governing Council. The Governing Council is responsible for making decisions to ensure best outcomes for children and their families. Once or twice a year the kindergarten holds working bees and seeks the assistance of families to volunteer to help out.*
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool – *Naracoorte South Primary School, Naracoorte Primary School, Sunrise Christian School, Apsley Primary School, Frances Primary School.*
- Other local care and educational facilities - *Naracoorte North Kindergarten, Naracoorte Early Learning Centre, Naracoorte Child Day Care Centre.*