PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 3616

Centre name: CHRISTIE DOWNS KINDERGARTEN

1. General information

- Centre name
  Christie Downs Kindergarten :Porlis Pulgi (Nj Children's Place)
- Centre number
  : 3616
- Pre-school Director
  : Margie Goodwin
- Postal address
  : 14 Charles Street, Christie Downs, S. A. 5164.
- Location address
  : As Above
- Courier number
  : South West
  Telephone number
  : (08) 8382 4748
- Fax number
  : (08) 8326 8253
- DECS District
  : Southern Region
- Road distance from GPO (km)
  : 30 kms
- Assistant Director (if applicable)
  : Jenny Sommers
- Staffing Numbers
  : 9

- Programs operating at the centre, with a brief description of each:
  - Pre Entry
    : Monday and Tuesday afternoons as an integrated session or a flexible option is offered.
Occasional Care

Three sessions of occasional care is offered to children over two years of age. Unfunded occasional care is available to families in crisis and requiring emergency care.

Long Day care (e.g. time operating, licensed places, employment details and accreditation)

: N/A

Other Services available

Early Entry is available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) children from the age of three years as part of DECD early intervention initiatives. The centre offers five half days or a rotating fortnightly roster of two full days one week and three full days the following week. Children with developmental delays can access an extra kindergarten session as well as their pre-entry session.

A transport program is available for Aboriginal children and in exceptional circumstances non-Aboriginal children who are experiencing difficulties accessing our programs.

The Nutrition/ Lunch care program is offered for children who attend all day as part of their session allocation or emergency care. A light breakfast and sandwiches for lunch at no extra cost. Staff

Extra sessions of occasional care are available for parents who are attending the programs available through the Noarlunga TAFE.

Emergency care is available for children from families in crisis or experiencing difficulties this supports our pastoral care focus.

A transition program to our local feeder schools is available for children turning five and attending in the following term. At present we are in the process of establishing a generic transition program to cater for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children who will be attending any one of the schools in the wider community.

Teacher placement from the University campus of Magill assists student teachers with the experience of the social and cultural complexities our centre has to offer.

Student placement from the local high schools and TAFE assist with supporting the community links and provides the opportunity for students to gain skills and knowledge around childcare, education and cultural awareness.

Support services from DECS include support staff hours, speech pathologist, special educator and psychologist.

The Child and Youth Health screenings are held for children from 4 years 3 months.

An Aboriginal Cultural Consultant from SA health is available for home visits and health checks of all Aboriginal children.
Other support agencies involved at our centre include information, education and cultural awareness to encourage and empower the community.

- ATSI Unit Noarlunga Health Village
- Southern Weavers/Aboriginal Elders Group
- Novita Children’s Services
- Intellectual Disability Services Council
- Family and Youth Services
- Neporendi
- Nunku Warrin Yunti
- Aboriginal Education Employment & Training Unit
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
- Aboriginal Employment and Education Development Branch
- Southern Women’s Shelter
- Karpa Ngarrattendi at the Flinders and Noarlunga Hospitals
- Christies Beach Police
- Southern Women’s Health Centre
- Wesley United communities for children
- Southern Domestic Unit
- Coolock House for homeless young mothers

- Enrolment/Attendance trends
  - Enrolments and attendance reflects the cultural and socio economic diversity and complexity of our community. The local community is housed in a predominately SA Housing Trust area and is well established and has an aging population of families. Rental accommodation and the nearby women’s shelter reflect families in transit and crisis situation. Flexibility around enrolments and session times is vital, as is the awareness of cultural practices that will impact upon the amount of time each child spends at our centre. Transient children may access our services on three or four different occasions throughout their kindergarten years. Attendance trends are influenced by a variety of reasons mainly cultural expectations, family commitments and sorry business. Attendances are also influenced by the social impact on families such as poverty, discrimination, family violence and the criminal justice system.

- Special Arrangements
  - Aboriginal Focus Kindergarten
- Year of opening
  - 1976
- Public transport access
  - Close proximity to bus route and train station.
2. **Children**

- **General characteristics**
  The majority of our children are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent and there are a high number of three year old children. Children come from a variety of family situations from two parent, sole parent, extended families, blended families and children in the care of relatives or foster care.
  The majority of children are from low socio economic backgrounds that reflect high unemployment level. A number of children at our centre are receiving support or are awaiting support from DECS and other agencies such as IDSC and CAYHS.
  Many of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children display well developed gross motor skills and our three year olds enrolments have good living skills. Most of our children need extra support with early literacy/numeracy intervention. There are also children with challenging behaviours who require extra support and care through the programs offered at our centre.

(Pastoral) Care Programs
- N/A

- **Special Needs support**
  As above, with the emphasis on community support, cultural awareness and education with a holistic approach.

- **Child Behaviour Management**
  As per centre policy with the emphasis on Aboriginal child rearing practices

- **Special Programs**
  - Transport
  - Aboriginal 3 year old family literacy program
  - Breakfast and lunch
  - Health/nutrition (Noarlunga Health Village, Southern Women’s and Neporendi)
  - Early Entry for Aboriginal children
  - Occasional care
  - Extended care
  - Aboriginal cultures and languages program

3. **Key Centre Policies**

- **Quality Assurance Processes**
  - Occupational Health and Safety Level 1
  - Annual Report
  - Parent Survey
  - Management Committee
  - Staff Training and Development
  - Staff performance reviews
• Statement of Purpose - Priorities
  Implementation of the National Early Years Learning Framework
  Reconciliation Statement
  Aboriginal Education Plan
  Parental involvement in management committee
  Improved literacy and numeracy
  Aboriginal language program
  Outdoor learning environment

• Recent key outcomes
  Aboriginal staff members are engaged in a 12 month traineeship for ECW1 and the Aboriginal Teacher Training Program through Magill. Increased involvement of parents with an emphasis on decision making
  Accessing NQS and site related training with an Aboriginal facilitator at the Gowrie Centre
  Continuation of the Aboriginal Family literacy teacher position
  Staff have completed the Professional Development Training in relation to the National Quality Standards

• Accreditation/Philosophy (where applicable)
  : As per DECS guidelines with an emphasis on the Reconciliation Statement and the Aboriginal Education Plan

4. Curriculum

The National Early Years Learning Framework
  Emphasis on embedding Aboriginal perspectives across the learning framework
  The Aboriginal Education Plan
  The National Quality Standards
  Respect, Reflect and Relate

• Special Needs
  Hearing impairment sound field system
  Transition program
  Aboriginal three year old early entry program

• Special curriculum features (include programs for specific groups, e.g., Additional needs, new arrivals; social justice strategies)
  As Above

• EC Pedagogy
  : Culturally appropriate, child centred with a holistic approach
Assessment procedures and reporting
: As per the Assessment and Reporting Policy
Developing, monitoring and tracking children’s learning
Developing a transition policy for Aboriginal and transient children

Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
: Involvement in curriculum documentation with an Aboriginal perspective
As Above

5. Co-Curricular Activities

General
: Involvement in cultural celebrations such as NAIDOC Week, Youth Cultural Week, Sorry Day & Reconciliation Week in respect of our elders past and present and the struggles they endured. In Eden Hills at the site of Colebrook Home and the statue of the grieving mother we recognize the stolen generation.
Excursions and Incursions related to our program and Aboriginal cultures and languages such as incorporating Kondili the whale and Bashem Beach and Warraparinga the Kaurna Cultural Heritage Centre
The Aboriginal Elders Village where our Elders reside and our children can visit and learn from this experience.
Specific excursions that relate to the program in terms of raising the children’s awareness of the wider community and what is on offer for their families to access and become involved
The Christies Beach Christmas pageant supports our inclusion policy of the Aboriginal children and their families being at the front and centre of the wider community
The Annual Kindy Art Project which inspires the parents and the budding artist at our centre and instils a sense of pride and belonging.

Special
: N/A

6. Staff

Staff Profile (Status, classification/award, employment details)

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<th>Classification/award</th>
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Leadership Structure

Staff support systems (e.g. co-operative work groups)
  Staff meetings
  Mentoring program for Aboriginal leaders
  Training of Aboriginal ECWs for relief list
  Attend hub group meetings within the district and Aboriginal staff teams
  Advisory role on Aboriginal issues when invited
  Training and Development with other Aboriginal centres

- Performance management program
  : As per DETE requirements or prearranged with the District Director
- Staff Policies
  : Currently being developed with OHS guidelines
- Access to special support staff
  : As per DECS requirements
- Other
  : N/A

7. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  : A single brick veneer building. There is one main activity area. Two sheds
    one separate free standing and one incorporated into the building. The
    property is fenced on three sides with galvanised iron, and pool fencing at
    the front of the building. The large outdoor area has a cubby house,
    sandpit, swings, platform structure with an attached slippery dip,
    amphitheatre, dry creek bed with a swing bridge, vegetable garden and
    climbing equipment. An additional feature is the digging patch with moss
    rocks surrounds and tree logs and a Wadhli (Aboriginal building structure)
    for the children to enjoy. Land and earth and how the children connect is
    evident when the seasons change and the digging patch becomes a mud
    patch and this is where the children can use symbolic play to develop
    their sense of fun and discovery.

- Capacity
  : Approximately 33 children per session

- Centre Ownership
  : Leased property from the City of Onkaparinga

- Specialist Facilities
Access for children and staff with disabilities
We have a wheelchair access path through the outdoor learning environment.

Access to bus transport (e.g. Centre bus, community bus)
: Centre bus, 21 seater Toyota coaster
  Close proximity to the Christies Downs train station and STA bus route.

Other
: N/A

8. Centre Operations

Constitution
: Yes.

Decision making structures (e.g. Management structure, Organisational chart, sub committees)
: Management Committee

Regular Publications
First Day of Kindy
Birthday celebrations
Learning stories
Weekly wraps
Monthly newsletters
Annual parent surveys
Regular notices

Other communication processes
Staff on bus acts as a liaison between the parents and the centre.
Parent interviews
Informal meetings at community events
Regular community get togethers

Centre financial position
: As per DECS audit requirements
Low socio-economic area and low rate of fee payment
The human resources allocation to our site does not reflect the number of staff we have on contract. This needs to be reviewed and adjusted accordingly to encourage community members to apply for work within DECD.

Computer packages used (MYOB, Quickens, Kids biz)
: Macintosh Computer with Kids time package
• Special funding
  : Commonwealth funding for various programs

• Other Parent groups
  : N/A

9. Local Community

• General characteristics: (e.g. work, languages, culture)
  : The kindergarten services a high proportion of low socio-economic groups:
    Single parents, transient population, unemployed, Aboriginal, Housing
    Trust tenants and Southern Women’s Shelter clients.
    Our children come from a variety of cultural backgrounds including,
    Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, non-Aboriginal and refugees from
    Africa

• Feeder schools/preschools/care/OSHC
  : Our centre is in close proximity to Christies Downs Primary School
    The majority of our children will attend one of the many feeder schools in
    the district.
    Christies North Kindergarten is the closest centre to ours.
    Christies Beach Primary School is the closest OSHC and Vacation Care
    Centre for the community.

• Parent and community involvement
  Management Committee
  Elders/Weavers committee
  Garden committee
  Mosaics project committee
  High school and TAFE students
  See above for networks

• Other local care and educational facilities/Development Profiles
  : The Noarlunga Centre campus houses two childcare facilities and the
    TAFE College

• Other local facilities
  : We are within close proximity to other kindergartens, primary schools and
    the local high school.

• Availability of staff housing
  : N/A

• Accessibility (e.g. public transport – air)
  : Easy access to local bus and train route.
10. Further Comments

- Establishment of new service(s)/program(s)
  : Our centre has been involved in a joint funding submission which will focus on Indigenous children’s health.

- Partnership/co-operation/arrangements with other groups
  : Our centre networks with other Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal organisations, Government and non-Government. These links are important for us to access resources including funding, personnel, materials, and is a source for information sharing. The various Lion’s Club are very supportive of our centre and have donated funds to purchase a fridge and freezer and supply us with clothes and bedding for the community. Baker’s Delight is another organisation who is affiliated with our centre and we receive bread and roll donations on a weekly basis.