KAURNA PLAINS
CHILDREN’S CENTRE

CONTEXT STATEMENT

May 2016
Introduction
Kaurna Plains Children’s Centre is an integrated early childhood service in which Early Childhood Educators, families and the local community work together to meet the needs of families and children.

General Information
Director Early Childhood Education and Care: Nieske Verwaal
Centre Number: 2621
Address: 69 Ridley Road, Elizabeth
Phone Number: 82093840
Fax Number: 82093849
DECD Partnership: Elizabeth
Local Government Authority: Playford Council
Geographical location: 27km from CBD
Email: dl.2621.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

Context: Kaurna plains Children’s Centre is situated in the Kaurna Plains school site, along with Kaurna Plains Child Care and Marni Waiendi. The school caters from reception to year 12. The site child care centre is a Multifunction Aboriginal Children’s Services (MACS) child care service. The children’s centre operates across two buildings. The preschool program operates in close proximity to the school and childcare. The childcare and preschool were once a combined program but since have become separate entities. The Family Centre is close by and offers programs for community development and family support with Marni Waiendi (Pathways Centre for Aboriginal Youth and adults and support further education, training and employment through Playford Council). Health Services are offered on site in the health clinic and provide a range of services including CAMHS, CYHS and Muna Paiendi.

Centre Programs: Family Centre programs offered within the family centre are responsive to community and families accessing the service. These can be once off sessions or weekly programs. A termly flyer is available with all activities and projects. This has included playgroup, cooking, sign and grow, sacred little ones, craft, oz harvest, finance counselling and training courses.

Preschool offers a culturally respectful curriculum for children three to five years old. It operates Monday to Thursday during school terms with full days. Universal access is offered the first 5 weeks of each term for children attending school the following year. Enrolments are 28 children daily. Children access full days. Early entry is available for Aboriginal children and children under the guardianship of the minister (from 3 years). A bus service is offered for families with limited transport.

We use the national Early Years Learning Framework as the basis for planning, monitoring and reporting on children’s learning. Our children’s learning program is child oriented and play based within a learning environment that integrates all aspects of children’s learning in a holistic
Play is the central mode of learning and the experiences provided and developed contribute to the achievement of successful learning outcomes for all children, particularly in the areas of literacy and numeracy and building a strong cultural identity.

**Staff Profile**
- Director Early Childhood Education and Care
- Teacher
- Literacy Teacher
- Universal Access Teacher
- Early Childhood Worker
- Preschool Support Worker
- Creche worker
- Trainee
- Administrator
- Community Development Coordinator
- Allied Health Occupational Therapist
- Allied Health Speech Pathologist
- Family Support Coordinator
- Bus Driver
- Access to DECD support services

**Facilities and Children's Learning Environment**
Buildings owned by DECD.

**Access:**
Bus service- bus owned by Children’s Centre

**Philosophy Statement**
At Kaurna Plains Children’s Centre we believe that children are unique and their rights as Aboriginal learners are at the core of everything we do. We respect children as confident, competent learners who are filled with endless potential and multiple ways of expressing their potential. Children’s learning emerges out of interactions and social relationships therefor partnerships with families and community are essential to build children’s strength, character and self esteem. Respectful, interactive relationships form the basis of a positive self image of the child. At Kaurna Plains we believe that learning is often the result of a curriculum that responds to the spontaneous, dynamic, changing environment where educators are co-learners and collaborators. Educators and children create learning partnerships in a play based environment designed to ensure children’s voices are heard. The environment reflects the linguistic and cultural diversity of the children and families accessing the centre.