



# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2015

**Centre number:** 6665

**Centre name:** Clare Valley Children's Centre for Early  
Childhood Development and Parenting

## 1. General information

- Preschool Director Amanda Narroway
- Postal address PO Box 716, Clare SA 5453
- Location address Cnr Elliot Street and Blyth Rd, Clare SA 5453
- Partnership Mid North
- Geographical location – 135km north of Adelaide
- Telephone number 88422483
- Fax number 88423284
- Preschool website address: [www.clarevalleycc.sa.edu.au](http://www.clarevalleycc.sa.edu.au)
- Preschool e-mail address [dl.6665.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.6665.info@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Enrolment/Attendance  
average 80 kindergarten children
- Co-located/stand-alone  
On our site we host Toy Library, Learning Together at Home and Health
- Programs operating at the site
  - ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children

We offer 15 hours of preschool. Families can choose from two groups.  
Group A – Monday, Wednesday and alternate Fridays 9.00am-3.00pm  
Group B Tuesday, Thursday and Alternate Fridays 9.00am -3.00pm

- ❖ Long Day Care  
Available from 7.00am – 6.00pm weekdays through the Child Care service
  
- ❖ Preschool Support  
Available for children with identified needs, Preschool Support for DECD  
Kindy children and ISS through Novita.
  
- ❖ Community Development Co-ordinator and associated Children’s centre  
activities
  
- ❖ Playgroup (Friday Mornings)

## **2. Key Centre Policies**

Integration of services

Well being of staff and children

Literacy – particularly oral language

Partnerships with family

Sustainable practices

Viewing children as confident and capable

Numeracy

### 3. Curriculum

- Framework used:  
A play based curriculum which is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework.
- Core Values  
The **Core Values** for the Centre are:  
Family, Quality, Lifelong Learning, Fun and Team Work.
- Specific curriculum approaches  
Child Care children if not already in kindy join the kindy programme in the term they are turning 4. A childcare worker works along side the kindy educators.  
A continuous planning, assessing and reporting process which begins when children are welcomed at the Centre and involves parents in supporting their children's learning.  
We emphasise primarycare giving throughout the centre  
We emphasise strong and genuine two way relationships and partnerships with families  
We implement “Learning Stories” as a programming, planning and assessment tool  
We critically reflect our practices and programmes

### 4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile  
Director with 2 days teaching and 3 days admin.  
2.5 Early Childhood Teachers  
1.5 FTE Early Childhood Workers and 1 Early Childhood Pre School Support worker  
Assistant Director – 2 days admin  
4 Educational Leaders  
10 Core Staff with Primary Care groups  
7 relief and lunch cover staff  
Children’s Services Employeesel 2.1  
3 Clerical staff  
2 Cooks

- **Performance Management Program**  
The centre's performance management program is based on the DECD Performance Management Policy. It is designed to provide staff with opportunities for involvement in their own performance evaluation and appropriate skills development.
- **Access to special support staff**  
Special support staff for Child Care enrolments are accessed through Inclusion SA, whilst children in the kindergarten are supported through early assistance grants and Regional support services staff.
- **Other-Role of the Director**  
The focus for this position is to provide leadership for a multi service site that provides high quality care and education services to children and their families within an Integrated Service provision context. It includes a .4 teaching role in the Kindergarten.

As the child care service operates 7.00am -6:00pm weekdays for 50weeks of the year, out of hours work will be necessary. The Director is also site manager to all services in the Centre.

The Child Care service is run as a business. The Director works closely with the Finance sub-committee comprising parents and the Director. This Committee oversees a substantial budget including wages. The Management Committee employs the staff in the Child Care service and delegates the day-to-day running of the service to the Director. There are 200 families using the range of services in the Centre.

The Director provides significant and positive leadership in developing and guiding the vision for the Centre.

Children are involved in a number of transitions: from home or Family Day Care to the Centre; from room to room within the Centre and from Kindergarten to School. The Director plays a proactive role in liaising with schools and the wider community, facilitating positive transition experiences for children and their families.

The Director works with the leadership team. This team consists of the Assistant Director who oversees child care. Each room also has a team leader (Educator Leader)– including Kindy/ Over 4, Over Two and Under Two. This team meets for the purpose of planning and coordinating centre events, and to foster planning and communication throughout the centre.

## 5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The centre is a purpose built integrated service jointly funded by State and Commonwealth Governments. It includes a Kindergarten and Child Care service. The centre also has a meeting room, a staff room, office and large administration area. The centre is adjacent to Clare High School. A jointly funded building was established in 2008 and incorporates the Toy Library and services of the Lower North health – Healthy Families team.

The grounds incorporate several play areas, three storage sheds and a 40 space car park. And recently a staff car park has been developed for staff.

- Capacity (per session)

- The site is licensed for 104 children on site

- Centre Ownership

- DECD

- Access for children and staff with disabilities

- Relatively easy access and support available.

- Other

- As an integrated centre, Clare Valley Children's Centre also offers a range of additional services to families within the community.

- A D.E.C.D. funded and community managed Toy Library operates from the Clare Valley Children's Centre site 2 hours, 2 days per week

- A Parent run playgroup operates at Clare Primary School on Friday mornings.

- Child and Youth Health conduct Health Checks for children 4 years, parenting sessions and toddler programs.

- The Healthy Families team of Lower North Health are situated in a purpose built building on site. The team includes services such as social work, podiatry, speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy

## 6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:

Clare is a country township providing a regional focus for the lower and mid north. The region provides significant opportunities for seasonal work. There is some diversity in the population within the district however; the local community does not significantly reflect the cultural diversity of the South Australian community as a whole.

The children come from a range of geographical situations- rural, isolated and urban. Most children enrolled are from English speaking backgrounds. The socio-economic backgrounds of the children are diverse.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool

Families are involved in the management of the Centre through a Management Committee, and related sub committees. Parents also assist with daily programs, and other tasks that assist the service.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool

The Kindergarten feeds into 9 schools in the district. These include St Joseph's Catholic School (Clare), Vineyard Lutheran School (Clare), Blyth Primary, Clare Primary, Watervale Primary, Spalding Primary, Auburn Primary, Mintaro/Farrell Flat Primary School and Horizon Christian School, Balaklava.

- Other local care and educational facilities,

Four school facilities are located within Clare, including three primary schools and a combined middle/high school complex. An O.S.H.C. program is located at Clare Primary and Blyth Primary. There is also the Gums child care centre who offers care for children 3 months to 5 years.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Clare shopping precinct houses two supermarkets, a number of real estate agents, hardware stores and a broad selection of retail outlets. Local businesses including: 3 hotels, a number of restaurants/coffee shops, information technology providers and wine related industries.

The local council is the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council. Ph 88422700. Publications describing the local area are available free of charge from the Clare Valley Tourist Information Centre. Ph.88422131.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Clare has a hospital and two medical practises with a total of eight Doctors. Health is well catered for with Dentists, Chiropractors, Physiotherapists, Lactation Consultants and Naturopaths. The Community Health Centre is located at the hospital and includes CAYH, Dieticians, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist and other health related personnel.

Recreational facilities include numerous wineries and restaurants, playgrounds, and many service clubs and hobby clubs.

- Other local facilities  
Sporting clubs and facilities are numerous and includes lawn and hard tennis courts, ovals, and squash courts. The Reising Trail is a popular walking and riding track.
- Availability of staff housing  
Housing is available to DECD employees through the Office of Government Employee Housing.
- Accessibility  
There is a daily bus service to Adelaide
- Local Government  
The local council is the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council. Ph 88422700.  
Publications describing the local area are available free of charge from the Clare Valley Tourist Information Centre. Ph.88422131.

## **7. Further Comments**

- Partnership arrangements with other groups  
We currently operate under two constitutions as required by law.  
The Clare Kindergarten and the Clare Valley Children's Centre Inc.