



Clare Valley Children's Centre Inc

Context Statement

1. General information

- **Centre name:** Clare Valley Children's Centre
- **Centre number:** 6665
- **Director:** Amanda Iremonger
- **Postal address:** PO Box 716, Clare SA 5453
- **Location address:** Inchiquin Road, Clare SA 5453
- **Telephone number::** 88422483
- **Fax number:** 88423284
- **e-mail address:** admin@clarekgn.sa.edu.au
- **DECS Region:** Yorke and Mid North
- **Geographical location:** 135km north of Adelaide
- **Enrolment/Attendance**
 - Varies between 66- 90 eligible preschoolers
 - Around 115 families using childcare
- **Programs operating**
 - ❖ **Pre Entry**
 - Friday morning 8.45am -10.45am
 - ❖ **Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children**
 - 8 sessions/week
 - ❖ **Long day Care**
 - Available from 7.00am – 6.00pm weekdays through the Child Care service
 - ❖ **Lunch/Full Day Program**
 - A full day program is offered to all preschool children
 - ❖ **Special needs Support**
 - Available for children with identified needs, Pre school Support for DECS Kindy children and ISS through Novita.

2. Key Centre Policies

- **Centre Priorities**

- Integration of services

- Well being of staff and children

- Literacy – particularly oral language

- Development of the outdoor learning areas

- Partnerships with families

3. Curriculum

- The **Core Values** for the Centre are: Family, Quality, Lifelong Learning, Fun and Team Work.

- **Specific curriculum approaches**

- A play based curriculum which is guided by the Early years Framework.

- Child Care children who are nearly 4 or over join the Kindy program with a child care worker to support them.

- A continuous planning, assessing and reporting process which begins when children are enrolled at the Centre (anytime between 6 weeks and 6 years) and involves parents in supporting their children's learning.

- We emphasise primary care 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

- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects**

- The Quality Improvement and Accreditation (QIAS) and accreditation processes ensure a culture of continuous improvement. During 2010 the Centre was accredited by the National Child Care Accreditation Council. The centre received the highest possible rating for each of the 7 quality areas.

4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile**

- 2 Early Childhood Teachers

- 1.5 FTE Early Childhood Workers and 2 Early Childhood Pre School Support worker

- Director with 2 days teaching and 3 days admin. Half day funded by Child Care

- Assistant Director – 2 days admin

- 3 Children's Services Professionals level 2.1

- 2 Children's Services Professional level 1.1

- 3 Childrens Services Assistants- 1.1 Core staff with primary care groups

- 8 Children's Services Assistants 1.1 – relief staff

- 2 Clerical staff

- 1 Cook

- **Performance Management Program**

- The centre's performance management program is based on the DECS 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 District support services staff.

Role of the Director

The Leadership position is classified as a **Preschool Director Level 4** (PSD 4 Position)

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 .5 teaching role in the Kindergarten.

As the child care service operates 7.00am -6:00pm weekdays for 51 weeks 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 – 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 new purpose built integrated service jointly funded by State and Commonwealth Governments. It includes a Kindergarten, a Child Care service and Family Day Care. 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 growing healthy Kids team.

The grounds incorporate several play areas, three storage sheds and a 40 space car park.

- **Centre Ownership**

DECS

- **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.S. funded and community managed Toy Library operates from the Clare Valley Children's Centre site 3 hours, 3 days per week with outreach services to other sites in the district.
- Parent run playgroup operates within the centre on Friday mornings between 9.30-11.30am.
- Child and Youth Health conduct Health Checks for children 0-6 years, parenting sessions and toddler programs.

- The Growing Healthy Kids 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

- **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 which children generally transfer to, from this Kindergarten.

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. The Family Day Care Regional Office is located on the Clare Valley Children's Centre site. 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.

- **Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational**

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.

Sporting clubs and facilities are numerous and includes lawn and hard tennis courts, ovals, and squash courts. The Reisling Trail is a popular walking and riding track.

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

- **Availability of staff housing**

Housing is available to DECS employees through the Office of Government Employee Housing.

- **Accessibility to Adelaide**

There is a daily bus service to Adelaide

- **Local Government body**

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. The centre has a copy of a promotional video which is part of an orientation kit about the Wakefield District.

7. Further Comments

Partnership/incorporation 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.