



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT 2017

Updated: 31/03/2017

Centre number: 1698

**Centre name: Mt Gambier Children's Centre for Early
Childhood Development and Parenting**

1. General information

- School Principal: Mardi McClintock
- Director: Pauline Bosco

- Postal address: Mulga Street, Mount Gambier

- Location address: Mulga Street, Mount Gambier

- DECD Partnership: Blue Lake

- Geographical location – Approx 7 km from the city centre

- Telephone number: 08 87234989

- Fax number: 08 87259567

- Preschool website address: www.mountgambiercc.sa.edu.au

- Preschool e-mail address: pauline.bosco51@schools.sa.edu.au

- Enrolment/Attendance
2017: Enrolment: 59

- Co-located with the Mulga Street Primary School

- Preschool programs operating at the centre
 - ❖ Sessional and full day Kindergarten for eligible children, Universal Access

 - ❖ Occasional Care for one session for under 2's and five sessions for over 2's (funded)

- ❖ Preschool Support for children with additional needs
- ❖ Parenting programs include Circle of Security, Bringing Up Great Kids, Patchwork Program, I am woman program, Art therapy and Toolbox Parenting
- ❖ Playgroups – we offer a mainstream playgroup and a playgroup for children with autism or autistic like behaviours

2. Key Centre Policies

- Our Centre's key priority is to support children and families to achieve the best possible learning, health and wellbeing outcomes in a universal setting with targeted responses for children and families who may require additional support.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework underpins our sites philosophies and practice.

Core Values: The child is at the centre of everything we do. We believe genuine wellbeing and partnership with families occurs when a relationship is reciprocal and respectful. We understand that families are children's first and most influential educators and that wellbeing occurs in a safe and healthy environment. Our values reflect the guiding principles outlined in the National Quality Framework and National Quality Standards which are:

- The rights of the child are paramount
- Children are successful, competent and capable learners
- Equity, inclusion and diversity underpin the framework
- Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued
- The role of parents and families is respected and supported
- Best practice is expected in the provision of education and care services

Specific curriculum approaches:

The Children's Centre provides a high quality educational program for children in the year before they begin their formal schooling. Our purpose is to plan and evaluate a program that provides a welcoming environment where staff, children, families, the community and other services work together in a mutually supportive way. Providing a learning environment that supports children's development through play and offers choice for independent and co-operative learning is key to our approach.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile

Currently we have a full time Director, Education and Care (0.5 teaching & 0.5 administration), 4 Preschool Teachers (two appointed at 0.5 and one appointed at 0.6 and one at 0.3) 1 full time SSO, a fulltime Family Services Co-ordinator and Community Development Co-ordinator

- Performance Development Program

All staff submit a performance development plan to the Director outlining their personal, career and learning priorities as well as site priorities with links to our site's Quality Improvement Plan. The Director submits the PDP to the Line Manager who is the Principal of Mulga Street Primary

- Access to special support staff – the Children's Centre has access to DECD Psychologists, Aboriginal Inclusion support, Behaviour Support and Speech Pathology as well as links with the Health Services which include Occupational Therapy, Health Screening and Dieticians.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds – Mount Gambier Children's Centre's building and grounds were completed in 2010, and formal handover occurred in January 2010. The Children's Centre was developed from an existing building which originally housed the Mount Gambier Special School Primary Campus. The Mulga St Preschool relocated to the new site and opened its doors in Term 1, 2010. We provide a new look service that offers an extended range of high quality programs to meet the needs of local families. Our Centre has advantages in terms of ease of access, transition between programs, access to educational and community services all in a familiar setting. The Centre was officially opened by the then Minister of Education Mr Jay Weatherill on September 9th, 2010
- The building has access for children and adults with disabilities.

6. Local Community

- **General characteristics:** Mount Gambier Children's Centre is located on the Mulga Street Primary School site. It is a growing residential area in the north-west of Mount Gambier, a city of 25000 people. Mount Gambier is a well organised and close knit community, with a variety of medical, commercial, recreational, cultural and sporting facilities and organisations available
- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool:** Decision making and planning also occurs through the Mulga Street School's Governing Council,

which is an important element of the Children Centre's Community. The Governance supports the Preschool Education and Care through sub-committees drawn from the wider community. Parents are always encouraged to participate in their child's education, we welcome involvement in the daily curriculum, special events and excursions. Coffee and Chat mornings are held twice a term as a relaxed forum for parents to catch up, connect, share ideas and have a say in programs, services and community development.

Mount Gambier Children's Centre works with a Hub and spoke approach to ensure all families have access to programs and services. We have an established hub at Melaleuca Park Kindergarten and were involved in supporting the development of the Mount Gambier North PS Hub.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:** Many of the children from the Children's Centre attend Mulga Street Primary School; the remaining children transition to the other local schools, both private and public including rural small schools.
- **Other local care and educational facilities:** The educational community is well established with excellent facilities for child care, pre-school, primary and secondary education. The local TAFE also offers a range of courses for both vocational and personal development. Schools are well serviced by other government agencies.
- **Availability of staff housing:** A range of affordable housing options are available including private and government rental or purchasing your own home or unit.
- **Other local facilities:** Mount Gambier is a large regional centre with excellent commercial, industrial and shopping facilities. Mount Gambier is a well-known tourist centre with the Blue Lake drawing large numbers of visitors throughout the summer months to view its unique hues. A number of medical clinics, a public and private hospital, cinemas, theatre and library are amongst the facilities available. Mount Gambier is only 25 minutes from the coastal town of Port MacDonnell, the southern most town in SA, which boasts excellent cray fishing and rugged coastlines
- **Accessibility:** Mount Gambier is easily accessible from major cities, with daily bus and air services available.
- **Community Groups:** Opportunities to become involved in community groups such as sport and music are many and varied in this beautiful city. Music has become such an integral part of the culture of the city, and each year visitors flock to the city to enjoy the various festivals
- **Local Government:** Mount Gambier's Council is called The City of Mount Gambier. The surrounding districts' council is the District Council of Grant which was created in 1996 following the amalgamation of the District Council of Mt Gambier and Port MacDonnell. The Mount Gambier Children's Centre has developed close links with the Mount Gambier City Council through a variety of projects including Perspectives of Children in the City and the development of John Powell Reserve Naturescape, 50 Things project (50+ things to do in Mount Gambier before 13 years old) and the Charter for Children.