



CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: March 2016

Site number: 5422

Name: Port Augusta Children's Centre

Port Augusta Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting support children and families across Port Augusta and surrounding areas to achieve the best possible learning, health and wellbeing outcomes in collaboration with other government and Non-government organisations with targeted responses for families who may require additional support.

1. General information

- Director: Mandy Dempsey
- Postal Address: PO Box 1869, Port Augusta SA 5700
- Location Address: Rupert Street, Port Augusta
- DECD Partnership: Port Augusta/Quorn
- Geographical location – Located in Port Augusta, approximately 284km to Adelaide GPO
- Telephone number: (08) 8642 6504
- Fax Number: (08) 8642 2730
- Centre website address: www.portaugustacc@schools.sa.edu.au
- Centre e-mail address: dl.5422.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Public transport access: Port Augusta Public Bus Service Stop on Carlton parade or Taxi Vouchers can be arranged by calling the centre.

2. Centre Policies

- Quality Improvement Plan and other key statements or policies:
Refer to Quality Improvement Plan on Website

3. Centre Programs

Early learning and care programs

- *occasional care – Thursday and Friday afternoons*
- *playgroups – learning together playgroups, mobile playgroups, outreach playgroups at Willsden Kindergarten, Stirling North Kindergarten, Willsden School*
- *crèche – Support parenting programs on and off site*

Family and community programs

- *parenting groups*
- *family support*
- *parent education programs*
- *community activities and events*

Child health

- *Nutrition, parenting and Aboriginal health groups*
- *Antenatal services (available upon request)*
- *Allied health*

4. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile
 - Director 1.0
 - Family Services Coordinator 1.0
 - Community Development Coordinator 1.0 (position currently vacant)
 - Allied Health Professional (OT or SP) 0.5 (position currently vacant)
 - Learning Together Teacher 0.6
 - Learning Together @ Home Fieldworkers (2) 1.1 FTE
 - ECW - 1.2 (FTE) 4 part time staff members
 - ECW 2 – 8 hours/week Occasional Care

- Leadership structure
 - Director
 - Family Services Coordinator
 - Community Development Coordinator
 - Teacher
- Performance Management

Each term all staff have a professional discussion with the Director and look at personal career goals and challenges and what they can do within the scope of their role to support Children's Centre Outcomes at Port Augusta.
- Access to special staff

Family Services Coordinator is a social worker who can support families to access services and provide counselling to family members.

Allied Health professionals can provide specialised knowledge around Speech and Occupational Therapy to families and children and support early intervention.

Learning Together @ Home fieldworkers support children in their homes by providing families with strategies and resources to support development and learning through play.

Learning Together Teacher provides families and children with opportunities to play together and assists and provides information on how families can support their children through play within a playgroup or specialised program eg baby playgroup, cooking or parenting program.

5. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Housing assistance
 - yes
- Locality allowances
 - yes
- Relocation assistance
 - yes

6. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds – Port Augusta Children's Centre is co-located with Carlton School and accessible by going past Carlton School to the left and walking down the driveway to the entrance of Port Augusta Children's Centre.
- Heating and cooling
 - Heating and air conditioning provide comfortable space for learning all year round.

- Access for students and staff with disabilities
A ramp is available at the entrance to Port Augusta Children's Centre and toilet is accessible.
- Access to transport
Currently access to the centre is via private or public transport, although taxi vouchers are available if families call the centre to request the service. A bus run is being investigated in consultation with other service providers.

7. Centre Operations

- Decision making structures
The Children's Centres governance structures allow for a broad range of people within the community to be actively involved in decisions and their implementation.
Partnership group
 - *Coordinates agency activities, develops a centre vision, monitors family and community consultation, has a rep on the Governing Council*
 - *Brings together agencies/partners with shared responsibility for young children and families from across the community**Leadership Team*
 - *The Children's Centre Leadership Team builds shared leadership responsibility through the professional expertise, knowledge and responsibilities of program**Parent Engagement Group*
 - *The Parent Engagement Group provides opportunities for family and community members to participate in the future directions of the Children's Centre based on community strengths and needs.*
- Regular publications
Term calendar of playgroups and programs
Monthly Newsletter
- Other communication
:Facebook updates as required

8. Further Comments

- *Port Augusta Children's Centre Services are available for the whole of Port Augusta and surrounding communities. Schools and preschools in the area can refer and access services available and other government and non-government agencies can work with Port Augusta Children's Centre to support the local community.*

- *Port Augusta Children's Centre is not restricted to a site location but is several services coming together to provide universal services with targeted support in order to impact population outcomes in four areas :*
 - *Children have optimal health, development and learning*
 - *Parents provide strong foundations for their children's healthy development and wellbeing*
 - *Communities are child and family friendly*
 - *Aboriginal children are safe, healthy, culturally strong and confident*