



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated:

Centre number: 6652

Centre name: Balaklava Community Children's Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Dale Gathercole
- Postal address: 15 Scotland Street, Balaklava, 5461
- Location address: as above
- DECD PARTNERSHIP Portfolio: Gawler PARTNERSHIP : Lower Mid North
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
BCCC is conveniently located within 1 kilometre of the GPO and main shopping precinct in the Balaklava township.
- Telephone number: 08 88 621 251
- Fax number: 08 88 621 271
- Preschool website address: www.balaklavacc.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address:
Preschool: BCCC.kindy916@schools.sa.edu.au
Childcare: BCCC.childcare150@schools.sa.edu.au
Administrator/Finance Officer: Administrator.admin721@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance;
Preschool

	<i>Enrolment</i>	<i>Attendance %</i>
2016	66	

2015	64	88
2014	38	93
2013	57	86
2012	54	87
2011	57	85
2010	62	83

Childcare

	<i>Enrolment</i>	<i>Attendance per day</i>
2015		29
2014		26
2013		19
2012		21
2011		23
2010		21
2009		18

- Co-located/stand-alone
Standalone Integrated Community Children's Centre
- Programs operating at the **Centre**:
 - ❖ Pre-Entry - Children are offered familiarisation sessions and depending on enrolments, may range from 3 x 2 hour visits to 1x 2hr session per week during the term prior to their eligible Preschool sessions. These are integrated into Preschool sessions or coincide with transition visits to the schools
 - ❖ Sessional Preschool for eligible children - children attend 2 full days (8:25am to 3:00pm) per week plus 3 extra Fridays during each term
 - ❖ Early Entry – is negotiated up to 2 terms before the child's eligible year where additional time is likely to significantly improve a child's learning and developmental outcomes. Children may be able to attend for 2 hours a week in their first term and up to a full day a week in their second term if staffing permits
 - ❖ Bilingual Support – is available for children for whom English is not their first language

- ❖ Preschool Support - available for children identified with additional needs – Preschool Support Program for DECD Prechool children and ISS through Novita for Childcare children
- ❖ School Transition Program – Learning experiences involving feeder schools in Balaklava (public school & Christian) and Owen form a regular part of the ongoing program
- ❖ Long Day Care – 5 days/week, 7.45am – 5.45pm, 29 places (Federally funded)
- ❖ Before & After School Care - 7.45am – 8.45am and 3.15pm – 5.45pm. Bus transportation to the Centre is provided by two schools to enable access by school aged children
- ❖ School Holiday Program – Vacation Care operates 5 days per week, 7.45am – 5.45pm (Federally funded), excluding 3 weeks over the Christmas / New Year period.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

We believe that everyone has the right to feel safe at all times:

Our Vision: We are committed to creating a friendly, positive, fun environment, enabling all children the opportunity to be stimulated and expand their knowledge in a caring and supportive manner.

Our Philosophy Statement: Children and their families are the centre of everything we do. BCCC Educators are committed to quality learning and care. Strong relationships help children feel that they belong, as they are supported to build social skills & confidence to interact with others. Wellbeing: Children thrive when they feel loved, safe and supported by their family, peers & educators, giving them security to be who they are & to develop their own identity with confidence. Play: Children learn through play and, by providing children with a range of play opportunities, they can have fun whilst developing imagination, independence, and inquisitiveness as happy learners. Learning: By providing children with opportunities to communicate about their learning, we support them to develop skills to be confident, competent and enthusiastic learners, an important foundation for life.

3. Curriculum

- Frameworks used: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia: Belonging, Being, Becoming (0 to 5yrs) and the Framework for School Age Care in Australia: My Time Our Place
- Core Values
Our Values: Educators and Governing Council aim to maintain a caring, inclusive and pleasant learning and care environment for all children and adults by embedding the Centre's core Values (Respect, Family, Community, Teamwork, Happiness, Support and Honesty) into daily practise, decision-making and interactions with the BCCC community.
- Specific curriculum approaches: Playbased pedagogy which utilises both the indoor and outdoor learning environments- nature play features strongly.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects:
Playgroup Session – a Diploma level Children's Services Educator co-ordinates sessions each Friday, 9:45am – 11:45am, during school terms
Australian Early Development Census Steering Committee- community based committee 'Our Community. Our Children' meets termly to advocate for early years development within the Wakefield Regional Council community

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
Department for Education and Child Development Employees

1 x Director 1.0 (includes 0.2 Preschool teaching)
3 x Teacher Preschool 1.5 FTE
4 x Early Childhood Workers 48hrs

Children's Services Employees

1 x Deputy Director CSE L6.4 - 38 hours
2 x CSE L 4.3- 45hrs
2 x CSE L4.1- 44.5hrs
3 x CSE L 3.4- 79.5hrs
2 x CSE L3.3- 52hrs
2 x CSE L3.2- 48.25hrs
1 x CSE L3.1 – 5.5hrs

Balaklava Community Children's Centre Employees

1 x Administrator/Finance Officer- 25hrs
1 x Cleaner- 12hrs
1 x Groundsperson- 3hrs

- Performance Management Program
Staff have 2 Performance Management meetings per year. They are able to request the Line Manager of their choice, either the Director, Deputy Director or both.

Prior to the Performance Development Chat staff:

Review their Role/Position Description

Review their 2 goals- one on the Quality Improvement Plan and the other in Personal Professional Development

Complete a Performance Review for both the Director and Deputy Director annually –these are collated by Regional Office staff

Psychological Health Survey- completed bi-annually and these are collated by Regional Office staff

All Staff will be asked to provide feedback of a general nature on:

The functioning of the Centre

The effectiveness of the leadership team

Staff relationships, including your primary work partnerships

Any Training & Development requests

Any other agenda items

- Access to special support staff
The Centre enjoys strong interagency partnerships with DECD Speech Pathologists and Support Services, Country Health SA- Occupational Therapist and Speech Pathologist, Learning Together At Home Program, Families SA, Novita and Child and Family Health Services.
- Other
As the only Long Day Care service in the Wakefield Regional Council Area and the only Out of School Hours Care program in Balaklava we have strong partnerships with our feeder schools (Balaklava Primary & High Schools, Horizon Christian School and Owen Primary School.)

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
Housed in one building with three main service areas (Preschool, Long Day Care and Administration) we are situated on aesthetically pleasing grounds boasting a combination of natural and manufactured play spaces. The Centre is enclosed with a security fence and has access to adjacent off street parking at 3 Humphrey's Street.

- Capacity (per session)- 59
Generally this is distributed Preschool: 30 children to Long Day Care: 29 however in Vacation Care Long Day Care can cater for up to 59 children. Long Day Care generally accepts up to 8 Under 2s and 21 Over 2s.
- Centre Ownership
Whilst the building and grounds are owned by the Department for Education and Child Development, as a not-for-profit integrated vertically grouped community children's service, the Balaklava Community Children's Centre Inc has fundraised and contributed to the development of both the facilities, grounds and the block at 3 Humphrey's Street.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities- Access for children and staff with disabilities is best through the Scotland Street gate and up the ramp into the foyer. Please note there is no Access Toilet available on site.
- Other
As a vertically grouped Centre children from 6 weeks of age to 12 years of age are based at any one time in the Long Day Care room. All children, including Preschoolers mix in the Outdoor Learning Environment (as do the chooks). There is a separate Bathroom for Preschoolers and Long Day Care children with the Out of School Aged children choosing to use either bathroom or the staff toilet. The Centre has a separate cot room (6 cots) and withdrawal room serves as a space for the Under 2 program.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:
The Balaklava Community Children's Centre (BCCC) is located in the Wakefield Regional Council in regional South Australia and is the only children's centre. The Wakefield Regional Council is home to 6,660 people, 1,829 of who reside in Balaklava. The town is approximately 100 kilometres from Adelaide and the families who access the centre are predominantly involved in the areas of primary industry, education, grain and meat and meat manufacturing, working in small business or professional occupations, some working casually, unemployed and stay at home parents. BALCO and Primo are major employers in the area as is education and aged care.
- Parent and community involvement in the Preschool and Childcare
Parents and Guardians are welcome to participate in the learning and care environment of the Centre. Strong partnership around learning goals and supporting individual children's needs are encouraged. We welcome feedback through the children's Communication Books/Folders and through formal and informal avenues throughout the year.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this Preschool
BCCC shares and maintains positive transition programmes with Balaklava Primary School, Owen Primary School and Horizon Christian School. We also support the transition of children within our service from Childcare to Preschool.
Preschool children who meet the criteria are able to access one of the 20 school buses to attend Preschool.
- Other local care and educational facilities
Balaklava High School is situated at the end of Scotland Street and houses the Community Library which we also access.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Balaklava is the central shopping precinct for the township, and the surrounding rural community. Currently businesses include Foodland, Fresh Foods, chemist, TADs Embroidery, Newsagents, Retrovision, occasional shoe store, Real Estate Agent, Accountants, a number of bakery and coffee shops, several hairdressers, hardware stores, two hotels and is home to the newspaper: the Plains Producer.
- Other local facilities
Balaklava Hospital also includes aged care facility and local health services and has its own helipad. Mill Court is an extensive complex for aged care, including independent living. Balaklava Medical Clinic has 4 doctors and the town also has visiting specialist: dentist, CAFHs, physiotherapist, podiatrist, remedial massage and chiropractor. Carer's Link has an office in the town. Emergency services include the CFS and Ambulance. The town has a recycling centre. Other businesses include builders, landscape, petrol stations, transport, building supplies, tyres and banks. The town is home to 7 Christian churches.
- Availability of staff housing-
Some government housing is available within Balaklava. Rental properties are limited. Low cost housing is supported by the Church of Christ. Houses for sale are available in and around the township.
- Accessibility
Balaklava is approximately 100kms from Adelaide and within an hours drive of Gawler, Kadina, Snowtown and Clare. Nearby townships include Halbury, Hoyalton, Owen, Nantawarra and Pt Wakefield.
- Local Government
Balaklava is home to the head office of Wakefield Regional Council.

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups
Currently the BCCC Inc and Wakefield Regional Council have a lease agreement enabling BCCC to use the adjacent block- 3 Humphrey Street for off site carparking. BCCC are looking to expand its services to the community through a purpose built extension.
- The Balaklava Kindergarten opened in July 1946 operating as a standalone Preschool. In 1996 the Commonwealth Government approved the Centre for Childcare services when the Centre became known as the Balaklava Community Children's Centre.