



# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 11/09/2014

**Centre number:** 4668

**Centre name:** Ardtornish Children's Centre for Early  
Childhood Development and Parenting.

## 1. General information

- Preschool Director :Mrs Heather Fuss and Ms Catherine Ayles
- Postal address: 2 Roder Crt St Agnes SA 5097
- Location address: Enter via Saarinen Ave, St Agnes, next to Ardtornish Primary School
- DECD Region: Northern Adelaide
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): Tea Tree Gully 15km
- Telephone number: (08) 8264 9828
- Fax number: (08) 8395 3601
- Preschool website address: <http://www.ardtornishcc.sa.edu.au/index.htm>
- Preschool e-mail address: [Heather.fuss794@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Heather.fuss794@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Enrolment/Attendance  
Enrolments vary each year – between 40 and 65 for the last 5 years. In 2013, our enrolments were 41 in term 3. Enrolments for 2014 were 51 in term 3. Enrolments for 2015 are at 63 in the Preschool. Attendance is good, being around 4 less than enrolments per term.

- Co-located/stand-alone  
We are a stand alone Children’s Centre, and we are adjacent to Ardtornish Primary School. This is our main “feeder” school.
  
- Programs operating at the Children’s Centre
  - Sessional preschool for eligible children– The centre is full time, offering five sessions per week to each child, Monday to Friday, A.M Session 8.30 – 11.30 P.M and Monday to Thursday PM Sessions 12.00 – 3.00
  
  - Lunch/Full Day Program- Full days are offered to eligible children Monday to Thursday, a \$5 fee is charged per lunch care.
  
  - Bilingual Support – Applied for as needed.
  
  - Preschool Support – DECD support applied for as needed. Early intervention support funded by the site.
  
  - Occasional Care program. One session for 0-2 year olds is available on Thursday AM 8.30-11.30. Five sessions are available for 2-4 year olds, Tuesday and Wednesday AM 8.30-11.30 and PM 12.00-3.00 and Thursday AM 8.30-11.30.
  
  - Parenting Programs and workshops – see Termly Program for community information
  
  - Parental support through Family Services Coordinator Program. Confidential, practical parenting support 1:1 at Centre

## 2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

Our vision is for a high quality and an accountable preschool education service, staffed with professional, friendly and caring people working in partnership with the local families to provide a program which addresses the learning needs of all children.

Our goal is the provision of a safe environment in which children can grow and learn. The centre develops and provides a play-based curriculum incorporating the developmental progress of the individual. We enhance individual potential while recognising current skill levels and prior learning. Children develop a love of learning through taking pleasure in play experiences through our provision of programmes.

Our priorities for 2015 are Children's learning and development, Sustainability and Family and Community involvement.

## 3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Belonging, Being & Becoming (The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia)

- Core Values

Responsibility, trust, respect and caring.

All staff engage in writing observations using individual focus children. These observations and children's term 1 or term 4 assessments are discussed with staff during staff meetings. These observations help set the direction of the children's learning and planning for Belonging, Being and Becoming curriculum framework.

- Specific curriculum approaches

Our Curriculum is Belonging, Being and Becoming, which is designed to be supported by 5 learning areas. These areas include:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects

The director engages in partnership meetings twice a term and common interest partnership meetings once a term working with school principals and other preschool directors on joint projects/issues in relation to learning, outcomes and leadership.

The preschool collaborates with Ardtornish Primary School to ensure positive outcomes for children during transition to school and to provide children with opportunities for cross age learning groups.

## **4. Centre Based Staff**

- Staff Profile  
1.0 Director, 0.5 director release for admin, 1.0 Teacher, 0.4 Teacher, 0.5 Early Childhood Worker  
We also have 1 part-time ECW for Early intervention and Support, 1 part time ECW for administration support and 1 part time ECW for finance support. We also have a 1.0 Community Development Coordinator and a 0.5 Family Services Coordinator.
- Performance Management Program  
The Director reports to the Educational Director for Modbury Partnership, and the teachers meet with the Director three times a year.
- Access to Special Support Staff  
Preschool and bilingual support are accessed as needed.

## **5. Centre Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds  
We moved into our new Children's Centre building in Term 2, 2014 and are extremely happy for the beautiful space and facilities we work in.
- Capacity (per session) 45 Preschool and 8 Occasional Care Over Two year olds, 4 under two year olds.
- Centre Ownership DECD
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: Full access

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

- General characteristics  
Predominantly English speaking backgrounds
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool  
There is an active governing council that meets twice a term to organise

fundraising, facilities maintenance and purchase priorities.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool  
Ardtornish Primary School and Torrens Valley Christian School
- Other local care and educational facilities,  
Children can access Ardtornish Out of School Hours  
Care, before and after preschool . This needs to be negotiated with the  
school.  
On the school grounds is a Playgroup building where an independent  
Playgroup is offered 3 days a week.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities  
There are local shopping and business areas. The preschool is  
approximately 1 km from Tea Tree Plaza, The Modbury Hospital and the  
TAFE at Tea Tree Gully. The bus interchange at Tea Tree Plaza is less  
than 1 km away.
- Other local facilities  
Yes
- Availability of staff housing  
No
- Accessibility  
Close to Obhan, Tea Tree Plaza bus terminal. On bus routes for Tea Tree  
Plaza and the city.
- Local Government  
Tea Tree Gully Council