PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6543
Centre name: Robe Soldiers Memorial Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director – Sally Smith
- Postal address – PO Box 436, ROBE 5276
- Location address – 29 Victoria St, Robe 5276
- DECS Region – Limestone Coast
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km) – 340 kms.
- Telephone number - 87682306
- Fax number - 87682892
- Preschool website address: http://www.robesoldierskgn.sa.edu.au
• Preschool e-mail address – ssmith@robesoldierskgn.sa.edu.au

• Enrolment/Attendance – Our enrolments over the past 5 years have varied from 12 children up to 29. However Robe is a growing community and our enrolments have been over 20 for the last two years. In 2010 and 2011 we will average around 24 children.

• Co-located/stand-alone – We are a stand-alone preschool, however Robe Primary School is easily accessed through our back gate onto the school oval. We also share our building with a mobile child care service – CCOWS (Child Care on Wheels Service) which operates a long day care service on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays in our kindergarten room, and Wednesdays and Thursdays in the adjacent RSL Hall. (Accessed from the kindergarten via our shared kitchen)

• Programs operating at the preschool

   Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children – We are a rural entry centre and our children attend 6 terms before they go to school. Universal Access will be implemented in Term 3, 2011 and children will attend for 5 hours in their first term of kindergarten, and 11 for the subsequent 5 terms. We also offer extended time at kindergarten for children with special needs. Aboriginal children are eligible to begin at 3 years old.

   Occasional Care – unfunded - only children in their first term at our kindergarten are able to access this program.

   Lunch/Full Day Program – Integrated into our session times and managed by staff supported by a parent volunteer.

   Bilingual Support

   Preschool Support - funded by the Regional Office and Early Intervention (site funded) are offered.
2. **Key Centre Policies**

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose – Robe Kindergarten – 'A place to wonder and imagine, create and discover, play, learn and grow.'
- We have three site priorities this year:
  1. Literacy - Reading and writing
  2. Early Years – Universal access, validation, Early Years Learning Framework implementation, Early Years System
  3. Improve facilities – extend verandah, paving and watering.

3. **Curriculum**

- Framework used: We have used Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia as the basis for our programming since 2010.

- Core Values – We value the early years as a critical time to foster children's positive self concept and to develop skills that will equip them for life long learning. We aim to promote understanding and acceptance of others. We also value the partnership that we have with families and the community and believe that we are all learners together. We value sustainability and inclusivity and we actively promote the principles of social justice and equity. We are committed to developing a supportive environment, with strong links between us, child care, school and our local community. Through critical reflection we strive for continuous improvement and innovation.

- Specific curriculum approaches

  The program is based on the individual needs, strengths and interests of each child. Outcomes are monitored and recorded for reporting to families, the local school and the community. There is a strong emphasis on the development of social skills, literacy and numeracy and creative pursuits through the enjoyment of music, art and drama and through using a responsive play-based approach. We program frequently, adapting our ideas to suit children’s interests. Science is a strong focus for our program at the moment and we foster this through our learning environment.
• Joint programmes/special curriculum projects – We have sponsored a child in the Phillipines for the last 9 years. Part of our program includes learning about our sponsor child and sharing information about her learning and development. We also have very strong links to the JP class at Robe Primary School and spend a lot of time supporting children’s successful transition to school.

4. **Centre Based Staff**

• Staff Profile – Term 3, 2011 (Universal Access)
  Director - 0.5, ECW1 – 13.25 hrs and ECW1 – 4 hours (site funded)

• Performance Management Program – Staff meet once per term to discuss. Regular staff meetings and incidental conversations occur frequently to support performance management.

• Access to special support staff – We access support staff from the Limestone Coast Regional Office and also refer to Community Health in Naracoorte.

• Other – CAYHS attends twice a year to conduct preschool health checks.

5. **Centre Facilities**

• Buildings and grounds – The centre is located in the main street and is attached to our local RSL Hall. DECS leases the building and owns the playground land. It is a brick building and has been extensively improved through acoustic and school pride grants. The Governing Council have recently extended the verandah to increase the covered and sheltered outdoor learning space.

• Capacity (per session) – our capacity is 29, however a more comfortable limit is around 22.

• Centre Ownership - DECS leases the building from the RSL and owns the playground land.

• Access for children and staff with disabilities – wheelchair access could be accommodated.

• Other – We have access to the school oval for active play.
6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: Robe is one of the fastest growing communities in the state. Robe is geographically isolated from major centres. The town is growing rapidly due to the availability of employment. Most families are involved in fishing, services and the tourism industry. Vineyard development provides work for residents. Most of our children come from two parent families where both partners are working in a part time or full time capacity. The children are brought to the centre by their parents even if they live out of town as there is no bus service.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool – We have strong parent and community involvement in the preschool. Our Governing Council has a third of the parents represented, parents stay and play with their children in the mornings or come early in the afternoons. The local community is very supportive of our program – both financially and supporting our learning program through excursions etc.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool – nearly 100% of children move on to Robe Primary School.

- Other local care and educational facilities – We have a mobile child care service which operates 5 days per week at venues in Robe and one day per week at Kangaroo Inn Area School and Beachport Primary School. There is a waiting list for this service so parents are urged to apply early for care. The CCOWS (Child Care on Wheels Service) Director can be contacted at the Robe District Council 87682003 for inquiries about child care and information about joining the waiting list.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities – A new Foodland has meant shopping can be done locally. The tourist industry ensures the success of small business enterprises as the population swells considerably in the summer months. There is a cinema in Robe.

- Other local facilities - Social life revolves around sport ie football, netball, tennis and water sports. There is a medical clinic operating on a full time basis. Robe is well known for its excellent cafes and restaurants. We have a pharmacy

- Availability of staff housing - There are a few houses available but there are often shortages of affordable rental accommodation due to the strong holiday accommodation market. No Government Housing is available.

- Accessibility - The trip to Adelaide is approximately 4 hours. A bus service is available most days of the week. There is no public transport to larger towns.
7. **Further Comments**

- Partnership arrangements with other group – We have a strong partnership arrangement with both the school and CCOWS. The Director is a member of the Limestone Coast Leaders group and also has strong links with Beachport Primary School and Kangaroo Inn Area School. Robe is a picturesque and historic town and National Parks, bushwalks and beautiful beaches are key features of the local environment.