



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 08/14

Centre number: 6543

Centre name: Robe Soldiers Memorial Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director – Sally Smith
- Postal address – PO Box 436
- Location address – 29 Victoria St, Robe
- DECD Region – Limestone Coast – South East Coast and Vines Partnership
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km) – 340 kms
- Telephone number – 87682306 (Wed/Thurs/Fri)
- Fax number - 87682892
- Preschool website address: <http://www.robessoldierskgn.sa.edu.au/>

- Preschool e-mail address – sally.smith572@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance – Over the last 5 years we have had varied enrolment numbers from 13 children to 32 children. With the advent of the Single Intake Policy our enrolment numbers look to have stabilised at around 12-15 children per year.
- Co-located/stand-alone – We are a stand alone preschool, however Robe Primary School is located alongside the centre with our back gate leading onto the school oval. There is a mobile child care service, CCOWS, which operates in the kindergarten on non-kindy days and in the RSL Hall (attached to the kindergarten building) on kindy operating days.
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - Pre Entry – Term 4 for children beginning kindergarten the following year
 - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children – operates on a fortnightly cycle – 8:30 – 3 (Wed/Thurs) and 8:45 – 12:45 (odd week Fridays)
 - Lunch/Full Day Program – all children attend all day on Wed/Thurs
 - Preschool Support – provided from the Mount Gambier Regional Office
 - Robe Community Playgroup – operates during session times on Wednesdays – 10:00 – 11:30

2. Key Centre Policies

3. Curriculum

- **Framework used:** Robe Kindergarten uses the Early Years Learning Framework as the basis of their planning cycle. This is informed by the Foundation level of the Australian Curriculum, the children’s interests, community events and partnerships and our Big Ideas for learning which are chosen each term.
- **Core Values:** We value learning through play and use a project approach to planning developing understanding around big ideas such as ‘Living on the Coast’. We strongly believe in developing children’s sense of agency and independence, through allowing them to make decisions about their own learning and encouraging them to develop their strengths and interests. Our focus on dispositions for learning extends through our profile books, summative reports and parent newsletters and displays. Intentional teaching is used as required to reinforce and extend children’s knowledge and

understanding. Sustainability is a key focus for this year, extending through much of our learning program.

- **Specific curriculum approaches:** We use the Floorbook method to program, plan, and record children's learning. Staff are committed to the Inquiry Method as a way to investigate teaching and learning at our site. We use Reflect, Respect, Relate as a tool to inquire into our teaching and learning and are currently working on using the Active Learning Environment tool to reflect on our outdoor learning program. For the last 4 years we have been involved in the 'Playful Pedagogies and Powerful Learners Project' a project involving educators across the region in inquiry projects and clusters across the region and between sites. This project has aimed to build understanding and
- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects:** Staff are developing a comprehensive transition program for children entering and exiting the kindergarten. Staff, work in conjunction with the JP teacher at Robe Primary School, Child Care staff from the CCOWS mobile service and playgroup parents to ensure a smooth transition to Kindergarten. We are part of the South East Coast and Vines (SECAV) partnership which is focussing on 21st Century skills for learning and developing learning dispositions for lifelong learning.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
We have a staff of 3 – a Director and two ECW's. The Director is currently employed 0.6 and ECW staff have a combination of hours to support lunch care, preschool support, administration time. One of our ECW's also works as an SSO at Robe Primary School.
- Performance Development Program – PD is managed by the Director as part of ongoing dialogue, reflection on teaching and learning and is focussed on discussion during our fortnightly programming/staff meetings.
- Access to special support staff – support staff are currently accessed through the Regional Office in Mount Gambier.
- Other

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. In 2013 the kindergarten bathroom and kitchen were renovated completely and an interior painting program was started. We are in the middle of an extensive project in

conjunction with the children to improve the outdoor learning environment including developing our gardens and vegetable beds, adding a boat in the lawned area, a deck/stage and the development of a watercourse.

- Capacity (per session) – our centre capacity is 29
- Centre Ownership – The centre is owned by the RSL, who are very supportive of our program. The centre is 40 years old in 2015 and was built by the community in 1975
- Access for children and staff with disabilities – our building is accessible for children and people with special rights.

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. Robe is largely mono-cultural.
- 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. The local RSL and Bridge Club are strong community partners.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: children mostly go on to Robe Primary School although some of our children attend Kingston Community School.
- Other local care and educational facilities: We have a mobile child care service, CCOWS 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.
- 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 now a cinema in Robe. There are many cafes and galleries.
- 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.
- 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. Most large towns in the region are an hours drive away.
- Local Government – Robe District Council

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups: We have a strong partnership arrangement with both the school and CCOWS. The Director is a member of

the SECAV partnership 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.