



2025 annual report to the Community

Goolwa Children's Centre

Goolwa Children's Centre number: 3635

Partnership: Fleurieu



Preschool Director:

Donna McAuley

Donna McAuley Signature

Date of endorsement:

16/02/2026



Context Statement

Information about Goolwa Children's Centre is available on the centres website, as well as the Australian Childrens Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website.

Goolwa Children's Centre is an integrated early childhood service in which early childhood educators, allied health, community development professionals, families, and the local community work together to meet the needs of families and children. We are part of the Fleurieu Partnership of schools and preschools and offer a State funded preschool program integrated with a Commonwealth funded long day care for children from birth to school entry.

Our centre is situated in the town of Goolwa, 80kms from Adelaide. Goolwa is on the Murray River close to both the Coorong and the coast in the Southern Fleurieu District. Small business, tourism and farming are the community's main economic drivers. Goolwa Children's Centre is in the education precinct adjacent to Goolwa Primary School and near Goolwa Secondary College. Most children attending the centre live in the Goolwa township and surrounding areas including Middleton, Port Elliot, Hindmarsh Island and Currency Creek.

The team at Goolwa Children's Centre includes both experienced and early career educators, a long-term assistant director and constant reception staff. All staff have qualifications in Early Childhood Education including Certificate III, Diploma, Bachelors' degrees and post graduate qualifications. The centre has a Community Development Coordinator who facilitates programs with partner agencies including Goolwa Primary school and other local Fleurieu schools, Department of Child Protection, Southern Fleurieu Health Service, Relationships Australia, Aboriginal Health, Housing SA. The Centre speech pathologist and occupational therapist are both on site 1 ½ days per week. Community and Family Health Service CAFHS operate at the centre 5 days per week.

Goolwa Children's Centre has 87 licensed places, with children's ages ranging from 6 weeks to 6 years old. Developing and maintaining relationships between children, staff and parents is a centre priority and a big part of the centre philosophy. The centre operates with two classes: Mulga 0-3 years and Ngawandi 3-6 years. Children with additional needs are supported through the Southern Fleurieu Health Service and the Department for Education Preschool Support Program. The curriculum is play-based, and children are formally divided into smaller groups for developmentally appropriate experiences for short periods of time.

The preschool operates Monday – Tuesday 8.30am - 3.00pm and alternate Fridays 8.30 - 12.30 during South Australian school term times.

Long day care operates Monday – Friday 7.30am-6.00pm and is closed for two weeks over the Christmas and New Year period.

The childcare and preschool programs close together for two full days each year for whole staff training and development. The preschool program has an additional three full day closures for staff training and development per year.

In 2025 our improvement goals and priorities are related to continuing our work with supporting the development of children's emotional regulation strategies. At the beginning of each year, we meet as a whole staff team to analyse the needs of children and families as well as analyse our ways of working as educators. At our whole site closure in January the staff team agreed to continue to work together to improve children's social and oral language skills while focusing on teaching skills for resilience.

Governing Council Report

I would like to begin by sincerely thanking our dedicated Governing Council members for their continued commitment, time, and care over the past year. As a small committee, the contribution of each member is significant, and your willingness to support the centre, staff, and families is deeply appreciated.

I would like to extend special thanks and warm wishes to Jess, our Parent Committee Representative, who recently resigned from the council. Jess has been a valued member of the committee, generously giving her time, insight, and support. We thank her for her contribution and wish her and her family all the very best for the future.

Similarly, we acknowledge Alison, our Staff Representative, who has also stepped down from her role on the Governing Council. Alison has provided an important voice for staff and has supported the committee with professionalism and care. We thank her sincerely and wish her continued success moving forward.

Over the past year, we have also seen an important and positive shift in leadership, with Donna appointed as Director for 2025. The stability of having consistent leadership, rather than multiple changes, has resulted in noticeable improvements across the centre. Donna's steady guidance, commitment to quality, and clear direction have helped strengthen operations, support staff, and enhance the overall environment for children and families. We thank Donna for her leadership and dedication.

It was also a pleasure for the Governing Council to approve professional development and training days for all staff. We recognise the importance of ongoing learning to maintain high standards of care and education. As always, many thanks to Jodie and Deb for the significant administrative work they have undertaken throughout the year, including updating policies and reviewing allergy and health management plans to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children.

I would also like to recognise the outstanding fundraising efforts achieved this year. These efforts have made a meaningful difference to the centre, supporting resources, improvements, and opportunities for our children. This success reflects the strong sense of community within our families and the hard work of everyone involved in organising and supporting these initiatives. The Governing Council hopes to utilise these fundraising efforts toward the completion of the water play area in 2026, which will be a wonderful addition for the children and centre community.

It is also wonderful to see our community programs continuing to thrive, with many running at or near full capacity. This strong participation reflects the value these programs bring to families and the wider community, and we commend the staff and volunteers who help make them possible.

Finally, thank you again to all Governing Council members, staff, and families for your ongoing support and collaboration. Together, we continue to build a positive, supportive, and thriving environment for our children.

Warm regards,

Sarah Mudge

Governing Council Chairperson 2025

Preschool Attendance

	Term 1	Term 3
2022 centre	88.8%	67.5%
2023 centre	85.9%	68.1%
2024 centre	79.3%	71.7%
2025 centre	84.1%	71.5%

Based on preschool sessions attended during a two-week reference period in Term 1 and Term 3. The table represents the proportion of hours attended out of total hours enrolled (booked). Data Source: Department for Education attendance data.

Attendance Comment

In South Australia, preschool attendance is not compulsory, but it is strongly encouraged. Preschool gives children the best opportunity to develop skills, which prepare them for school. These benefits include establishing positive routines and habits, friendships and connections as well as developing communication, problem-solving and creative skills.

Destination Schools

Feeder Schools (3635- Goolwa Children's Centre)	2023	2024	2025
0157 - Goolwa Primary School	45.5%	70.0%	45.8%
0453 - Victor Harbor Primary School	N/A	N/A	4.2%
9012 - Encounter Lutheran College	3.6%	10.0%	12.5%
9999 - Unknown	50.9%	98.1%	37.5%

Note: The data is collected in term 3. It does not reflect actual schools enrolled in by existing preschool children. A blank cell indicates there was no data for students enrolled.

Data Source: Department for Education Destination Data Report, 2025.

Highest Qualifications held by the teaching workforce and workforce composition

All teachers at this school are qualified and registered with the SA Teachers Registration Board.

Qualification Level	Number of Qualifications
Bachelor's degrees or Diplomas	3

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collections as on the last pay date of June 2025. As self-reported by staff in the system.

Please note: Data includes staff who are Actively employed and on extended paid leave. Please note only the highest qualification of the Teaching staff is reported. Excludes any number of other certifications earned.

Workforce composition including indigenous staff

	Teaching Staff		Non-Teaching Staff	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Full-Time Equivalent	0.0	2.2	0.0	2.6
Persons	0.0	3.0	0.0	6.0

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collection as on the last pay date of June 2025.

Please note: Data includes staff who are actively employed and on extended paid leave. "Indigenous category" is self-reported by staff in the system.

Financial Statement

Funding Source	Amount
Grants: State	\$680,365.61
Grants: Commonwealth	\$0.00
Parent Contributions	\$10,717.50
Fund Raising	\$1,739.07
Other	\$0.00

Data Source: School supplied data.