

Centre Profile

April 2019

Na marni meyunna 'welcome everyone'

We would like to acknowledge the land on which our preschool, a place of learning and connecting is situated on is the traditional lands of the Kurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today.

LOCATION

Taikurrendi [pron *Tie-ka-rendi*] Children and Family Centre is co-located on site with Christies Beach Primary school, and was officially opened by Federal Minister for Education, The Hon Peter Garrett AM, MP on 13th June 2013.

CONTEXT

Taikurrendi is one of four Aboriginal Children and Family Centre's established by the Department for Education and Child Development [DECD] in partnership with the Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership [IECDNP], the Australian and State Governments. Its committed focus is on supporting Aboriginal families with young children to improve early childhood outcomes.

Taikurrendi Children and Family centre integrates a range of education, care and health services for families and community in the local area. Some services that are available include preschool [capacity 56], occasional care, health programs and visiting specialists.

The 2018 Australian Education Development Census [AEDC] Community Profile for this council area shows that:

- 3.6% of children identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander,
- 2.5% of children were not born in Australia
- 5.2% of children had English as a second language
- 97.4% attended preschool in the year before school.

The name Taikurrendi comes from the Kurna language meaning, 'to be mixed, together.'

PROGRAMS

Taikurrendi Children and Family Centre features core services and programs that meet the needs of Aboriginal communities. Services and programs may be delivered by Government and non-government agencies.

- Preschool for 3-5 year olds
- Occasional Care program for birth to 5 year olds
- Early intervention and prevention programs

- Adult learning opportunities
- Health promotion and support
- Family Support
- Community development and involvement opportunities

SERVICES

The Community Development Coordinator works to increase community capacity to support families to provide the best opportunities for every child. The Community Development Coordinator's work with families focuses on increasing their parenting capacity, linking them with a range of services, and encouraging their participation within their community and in the directions of the Centre. The Community Development Coordinator also promotes partnerships across a broad range of local services and organisations and establishes interagency programs to meet the needs of the community.

The Family Practitioner works collaboratively with children, families, service providers and community to enhance outcomes for children birth to eight years and their families. The role includes the provision of counselling and therapeutic groups for children and families, service coordination, and the provision of information and links to available services and supports.

Allied Health- Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist

PARTNERSHIPS

Taikurrendi Children and Family centre works collaboratively with a range of agencies within the Onkaparinga Council. Our major association is with The Joining Hands and Minds Task Group.

Membership may include but not exclusive to:

- Relationships SA, ReEngage, Carer's Support, DfE delegates, Southern Primary Health, Aboriginal community members and Aboriginal Elder/s.

Taikurrendi works collaboratively and co facilitates programs with a large network of organisations including

- Tauondi College, CAFHS, Christies Beach High school, Communities for Children, Dept for Child Protection, Metropolitan Aboriginal Family Services, Nunkuwarnin Yunti, Hackham West community centre, CentaCare, FoodbankSA, Junction Australia, Beach Rd and DfE Beach Rd Partnership sites.

ENROLMENT DATA

2019

Taikurrendi preschool operates fulltime and implements universal access. The structure of the preschool program is family choice to access Kookarki 'kookaburra' group (Mon, Tue and half day Fri) or Naahla 'echidna' group (Wed, Thurs and half day Fri). The year has started with 58 enrolments – 52% identify as ATSI (one third as eligible ATSI 3yr olds).

Taikurrendi Occasional care offers six funded sessions of occasional care during the week which is integrated with the preschool program and heavily utilised by the local community.

KEY STAFF

Director of Education and Care	Catherine Cavouras	ph: 8186 1102
Community Development Coordinator	Darjana Nikolic	
Family Practitioners	Anna Becker, Deborah Fehler	
Speech Pathologist	Tara Anderson	
Occupational Therapist	Rebecca Johns	
Lead Early Years Teachers	Rachel Reeve, Chrissy Badics	
Aboriginal Family Literacy teacher	Elizabeth Griffiths	
Occasional Care Educators	Rose Cox, Peta Gill, Lynette Jones	
Early Childhood Educators	Mela Hoffman, Tahnee Mallie, Peta Gill, Danielle Crew, Lili S-L	
Finance Officer	Lisa Poolman	
Groundsperson	Darren Snape	
IT support	Allan Wade (IP Partners)	

VISION STATEMENT

Taikurrendi Children and Family Centre is a safe place for every child and family, where culture will develop and thrive. Partnerships and relationships are created as we lead new ways and opportunities through staff, children and family's education and learning. We will always aspire to reflect a socially just environment that values the identity of our community.

Centre values are:

- **Relationships and Friendship** – are at the foundations of our work with children, families and our community
- **Belonging** - all children, families and staff are culturally safe, connected and embraced.
- **Kindness** – everyone will be treated with kindness and it is what we expect from our staff, children and families.
- **Courage** – We encourage our children , families and staff to be courageous as we strive together in education with innovation and creativity.

Guiding principles:

- Every voice needs to be heard through active listening.
- We can learn from each other as we share knowledge and experiences.
- We are committed to showing Respect to all staff, children and families.
- We want to be open minded to new ideas, and actively seek feedback about our service.
- We expect staff ensure that confidentiality is an an important quality of our centre.
- Trust is the foundation of a good team when working with children and families.
- We will deliver our programs and services with clarity and be transparent in our work practices.
- Being kind to each other and our ourselves when we experience conflict and disagreement.

FOOTNOTE: Our site uses acronyms at times in publications (ie ATSI) for brevity- we view each child, family, community as unique and have a strength based approach valuing their own identity.