Site Context Statement – Update June 2026

Centre Number: 6520

Kingston Early Learning Centre (KELC) is based at 32 Cameron Street, Kingston SE, a vibrant rural town on the picturesque Limestone Coast, 297 kilometres from Adelaide. Proudly serving as a key part of the Kingston and district community.

As a stand-alone preschool with an integrated, accredited Rural Care childcare program, KELC offers quality education and care for children from birth to school age. This unique integration ensures children experience inclusive, supportive transition pathways reflective of the needs of our rural context. As of May 2026, KELC has nine eligible preschool enrolments.

Our educational programs draw on the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), using the Numeracy and Literacy Indicators and a strong focus on learning dispositions. Collaboration is highly valued, with strong partnerships between children, families, educators, and the broader community at the centre of our philosophy. We prioritise inclusive practices, celebrating diversity and tailoring programs to the strengths and interests of every child. Wellbeing and social development underpin our approach, recognising these as critical to building confidence, independence, and lifelong learning skills. Early intervention is delivered through targeted staffing and small group work, and our inclusive curriculum ensures that all children and families feel respected and supported.

KELC provides sessional preschool on Tuesdays and Thursdays for full days, along with every second Friday morning. The Friday session takes place at Kingston Community School to facilitate a seamless, year-long transition into primary education. Additional access and support is provided for Aboriginal children, those under the Guardianship of the Minister, and children requiring English language support. Accredited Rural Care is available for children from six weeks to five years and older, offering long day care, after school hours care, and vacation programs for 50 weeks per year. There is a strong partnership with Kingston Community School, with regular fortnightly sessions and end-of-year transition activities supporting positive, confident school entry. The service also provides pre-entry, targeted inclusion and early intervention support, and works closely with CAFHS and local health services.

Our staff are skilled, dedicated, and experienced, comprising a 0.8 FTE Director, 0.6 FTE Teacher and a team of Rural Care educators, including regular relief staff for continuity. Staff engage in systematic performance management and ongoing professional development focusing on reflective, evidence-based practice. We regularly access specialist support and partner with local health providers to identify and address developmental needs as early as possible.

The welcoming centre is set on grounds gifted and supported by the Kingston community, first opened in 1971 and redeveloped to include Rural Care in 2006/07. Facilities include a large main room, dedicated art and kitchen spaces, a meeting/withdrawal and sleep room, modern office spaces, accessible bathrooms with disabled facilities, generous outdoor play areas and gardens. The centre is wheelchair accessible and has capacity for up to 45 children (preschool and Rural Care combined), with access to school bus services for rural families. We are excited to be working collaboratively with Kingston District Council, Department for Education our local Kingston Early Learning Centre Services group and DIT to establish a new Kingston Early Learning Centre which will be located on the Kingston Community School grounds. This is on track for completion in March 2027.

Kingston SE is a resilient rural community of around 2,000 residents, with major industries in farming, fishing, viticulture, tourism, and retail enriching the local lifestyle. Families are actively involved in the centre, participating in activities, Governing Council, and improvement projects. KELC maintains strong relationships with local health, education, and community groups, placing it at the heart of community life. Children generally transition to Kingston Community School (R–12), ensuring continuity and positive educational pathways. KELC also collaborates with agencies such as CAFHS, Kingston Community Health Centre, and local sustainability groups.

The community offers a wide range of facilities, including shops, cafés, supermarkets, health services (hospital, dental, allied health), and an array of community and sporting groups. Beautiful beaches and parks supplement the children's experience, with community visitors and resources regularly integrated into educational programs to promote health, safety, sustainability, and engagement in community life.

KELC's small size and rural context create an environment where strong relationships blossom between children, families, and educators, reinforcing a sense of belonging and community. The integrated care and education model means siblings, friends, and children of all ages share and grow together, reflecting the heart of our rural community. The strengths, diversity, and values of Kingston South East inspire every aspect of our centre, making KELC a nurturing, inclusive, and memorable place for children beginning their lifelong learning journeys.

The centre is conveniently located on the corner of Cameron and Cooke Street, with ample roadside parking. There are 4 pupil free days and 2 site closure days per year. Rural Care operates 50 weeks per year, closing for two weeks over Christmas and New Year, and the preschool program aligns with South Australian school terms.

At Kingston Early Learning Centre, children and families are truly known, valued, and celebrated. Our collaborative, inclusive approach ensures every child is supported to thrive at the beginning of their lifelong learning journey.