1. General information

- Centre name: Tailem Bend Kindergarten
- Centre number: 6554
- Preschool Director: Kelly Grear
- Postal address: 49 Trevena Rd. Tailem Bend 5260
- Location address: As above
- Telephone number: 08 8572 3348
- Fax number: 08 8572 3192
- E-mail address: kindy.director@tailemkgn.sa.edu.au
- DECS Region: Murray and Mallee
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 100 km from GPO
- Enrolment/Attendance: Average of 25 – 35 children per term
- Co-located/stand-alone: Stand-alone
- Programs operating
  - Pre Entry: Integrated into kindergarten sessions on Tuesday mornings or afternoons (negotiated with the family)
Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
   : 4 sessions per week – children have 2 full days on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Occasional Care (indicate whether funded or unfunded)
   : Funded for over 2 year olds, 2 sessions per week Tuesday mornings and afternoons

Extended Care
   : Before and after kindy care for bus children.

Lunch/Full Day Program
   : Twice per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) for all full time children.

Playgroup
   : Run by volunteer parents on Friday mornings, 9.30am – 11.00am. The kindergarten provides the facilities and most indoor and outdoor resources.

HUB Groups
   : These are run at the kindergarten at various times outside of kindergarten sessions, through Pathways for Families funding. HUBs focus mainly on activities, education and workshops for families with children 0-12 years old and their children.

Bilingual Support
   : Requested as needed.

Preschool Support
   : Requested as needed.

Partnerships 21 status
   : Joined in Round 1.

2. Key Centre Policies

Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
   : Our core business is the provision of quality teaching, learning and care service within an integrated setting for preschool and occasional care children, in an inclusive environment that supports the development of children's life skills and competencies through play.

Site Priorities 2009 (from Site Learning Plan and Early Years Literacy & Numeracy Plan)
   : To formally monitor children’s wellbeing in their first and fourth terms of full time kindergarten.
   : To engage with the ‘Respect, Reflect, Relate’ document to improve our understanding of it.
   : To continually improve our Transition Programmes with our common Destination Schools.
3. **Curriculum**

- **Core Values**
  - Our program and interactions have been guided by the following values:
    - Trust, respect, understanding, caring, excellence, equity, responsibility, integrity, honesty.
  - The kindergarten community is reviewing our values in 2009, and developing vision and purpose statements.
  - Our work is underpinned by our commitment to the following principles:
    - Valuing play as the mode of children’s learning, equity and access, accountability, partnerships, management and a constant focus on quality, standards, continuous improvement and performance.

- **Specific curriculum approaches**
  - Constructivist and play-based approach guided by children’s interests, needs and abilities, staff observations, information from families and Individual Learning Plans for all full time Kindergarten children.
  - A high priority placed on Literacy and developing social skills.
  - We have ongoing close ties with Monarto Zoo through the Mealworm Breeding Project. The Mealworms that we breed at kindergarten and deliver to the Zoo are fed to the Meerkats. We visit the Zoo usually at least two times per year.

4. **Centre Based Staff**

- **Staff Profile**
  - PSD1 Director 0.6
  - Teacher 0.5
  - ECW1 0.5
  - ECW2 Occasional Care 0.2

- **Performance Management Program**
  - In accordance with DECS policy and guidelines. Reviewed twice per year.
• Access to special support staff
  : Through Regional Office and community services (such as Murray Mallee Community Health Service).

5. Centre Facilities
• Buildings and grounds
  : Fixed brick building, approximately 30 years old, but with renovations and an extension carried out in 2002, which included a new office, new bathroom and children’s toilet. Purpose built kindy with large outdoor area and attractive grounds with good shade coverage, large permanent playground equipment and sizeable storage shed.
  : A bird/butterfly attracting garden has been planted in 2009, with plants indigenous to the local area.
• Capacity (per session)
  : 33 children.
• Centre Ownership
  : Minister for Education.
• Access for children and staff with disabilities
  : Access to building, all rooms and grounds is level, permanent change table facilities are provided (with built-in stairs).

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)
• General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)
  : Tailem Bend is a rural centre with its regional centre; Murray Bridge located 25 kms away. Work includes local business, dairy industry and other types of farming. The town has a railway history and heritage. At present the community is receiving funding through the Government’s Pathways for Families Initiative, which provides funding and services specifically for families with children 0-12 years old, and their children.
• Parent and community involvement in the preschool
  : 6 families involved in the Governing Council in 2009 and average involvement from families in all aspects of the centre. Families assist with lunch care, end-of-day dishes and end-of-term clean up, and are also supportive of the kindergarten’s fundraising ventures. We are well supported by the community also.
• Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
  : Tailem Bend Primary School, Jervois Primary School, Unity College, St. Joseph’s School.
• Other local care and educational facilities, eg child care, schools, OSHC
  : 1 local primary school and 2 family day care services.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  - All basic facilities eg. grocery, butcher, chemist, newsagent, post office, bank, food outlets, pubs.

- Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational
  - Medical centre, various sporting facilities, golf course, gymnasium, social clubs, parks and playgrounds, water activities on riverfront.

- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality
  - Very accessible to Adelaide along freeway.
  - Bus service available to/from Murray Bridge.

- Local Government body, availability of publications describing the local area
  - Coorong District Council Ph. 8572 3611
    www.coorong.sa.gov.au
  - Tailem Topics produced monthly (local publication).