



# SCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 08/13

**School number:** 0195  
**School name:** Youth Education Centre  
**School Profile:** Category 1

## 1. General information

- Principal : Mr Andrew Bowering
- Deputy Principal: Ms Danuta Earle
- Postal Address: PO Box 88, Pooraka, SA, 5094
- Location Address: 26-56 Goldsborough Road, Cavan, SA, 5094
- DECD Region: Eastern Adelaide Region
- Telephone No,: 08 8169 1484
- Fax Number: 08 8169 1689
- Website address: yec.sa.edu.au
- E-mail address: info@yec.sa.edu.au

### • February FTE student enrolment:

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Av. Daily FTE in Training Centres	72	72	72	72
Av. Daily FTE in Outreach Programs	27	36.1	33	22.8
All students are School Card				

Average No. of admissions to Training Centre for school years 2008 – 2013: 1107

### • Student enrolment trends:

These derive from Government and Department for Communities and Social Inclusion policies and as a direct result of Police and Court actions and are consequently variable. The last 12-month period has seen admissions of around 1175 residents, with lows around 50, highs in 80's. Across 2012, we had an average daily enrolment of 108.9 students. All of these students are School Card Holders. There was an average of 44% Aboriginal students/day enrolled for 2012. There were 362 disconnected young people engaged in education, training, & employment programs across the Outreach Programs. Of these students, 51 were Indigenous.

- **Staffing numbers:**

Senior Leader

Ms Cherie Przedworski (ICT and Timetabling)

Coordinators

Two Curriculum Coordinators

Two Student Services and Pathways Coordinators

An Outreach Education Coordinator at Kilburn Flexicentre

A Youth Connections Coordinator at Kilburn Flexicentre (funded through DEEWR program)

Staffing numbers:

23 FTE teachers and 272 SSO hours over a 49 weeks program including vacation periods, on a ratio matching Special Education schools (nominally 1:6 teacher:students).

**Goldsborough Road Campus** – the school is within the Adelaide Youth Training Centre opened in September 2012 (Youth remand and detention of male and female young offenders). Ongoing, daily and long-term management liaison intricately ties the school and the residential program. The school provides various programs within the centre for 49 weeks each year, with a two-week break across Christmas and New Year. There is an expectation that staff participate in the holiday program, as need dictates.

**Jonal Drive Campus** – the school is within the former Cavan Youth Training Centre (Youth remand and detention of male young offenders). Ongoing, daily and long-term management liaison intricately ties the school and the residential program. The school provides various programs within the centre for 49 weeks each year, with a two-week break across Christmas and New Year. There is an expectation that staff participate in the holiday program, as need dictates.

**Outreach/Flexicentre Campus** – is an educational and vocational campus catering for young people between the ages of 15 – 18 years of age at risk and/or within the Youth Justice system who have been disconnected from education and are experiencing difficulty engaging in future pathways.

The Outreach Services include:

General courses at the Flexicentre (3 days per week) with a SACE/VET and Australian Curriculum focus. 'On Ya Bike' Program, is a program for Aboriginal youth in Year 7 from geographically close primary schools who are at risk of disengaging from their mainstream schooling. A focus is to attain the necessary skills to transition to high school in 2014. It is a partnership with the Western and Northern regions Aboriginal Inclusion support personnel.

Outreach offers short and mobile courses to meet the vocational needs of the target group. Courses include Tyre Fitting in a purpose mobile workshop, Motor Vehicle Licence, White Card, Trade Maths and basic First Aid.

Building Links Program for 'at risk' youth on 3 days per week. This program also provides a VET course for the local regional schools for 3 days per week.

Work Experience Program that has employer mentors for those young people who require this service.

There is a collaborative leadership team, with some staff working across three campuses. Youth Education Centre has a Governing Council & Student Representative Council.

## 2. Students (and their welfare)

### • General characteristics

Characteristics of the student population include:

- Active involvement in the Youth Justice system.
- Young people are on detention, remand or police custody orders.
- Under the guardianship of the minister.
- Ages 10-18 years old (some students may be older than 18 years if they are completing a detention order committed as a Youth).
- 10-15% female (at Goldsborough Road only).
- A diverse mix of cultural backgrounds including an over-representation of Aboriginal young people as compared to the community.
- A considerable number of young people with drug dependency problems and/or high level of substance abuse.
- Disconnection from mainstream education or chronic non-attendance.
- A high proportion of young people from dysfunctional family backgrounds which manifest abuse, poverty, neglect, abandonment and incarceration.
- High rates of recidivism.
- Residents are under the care of Communities and Social Inclusion and are supervised by Youth Workers at all times, including whilst attending school.
- The students reside on-site in units from where they are escorted to school for programmed lesson times.

### • Student well-being programs

**Goldsborough Road and Jonal Drive Campuses** – There is an induction process undertaken while a student is in the 'assessment phase' which includes an introduction to the range of programs available, school expectations, student aspirations and a survey of basic skills. Progress is aligned to the AYTC Behaviour Support Framework which is assessed and reported to DCSI Case Management and residential unit staff on a weekly basis.

Curriculum takes into account counselling and health needs of this student group, hence up to one third of the timetable is 'pastoral care' in nature. At the AYTC campuses all residents have a Key Youth Worker who oversees the progress of that resident.

**Flexicentre Campus** – holistic approach to education used – pastoral care is an integral part of the daily activities within this programme.

### • Student support offered

Department for Communities and Social Inclusion provide services of a Community Nurse and Psychologist and provide all medical needs. Teaching staff provides counselling of individual residents. This includes behavioural support, course and personal counselling, employment and training support and tutorial assistance for students undertaking external studies.

Chaplaincy programs operate within the Adelaide Youth Training Centre.

- **Student management**

Teaching staff are experienced in managing adolescents with strong emotional needs, and who indulge in destructive and risk taking behaviours. The school's behaviour management policy is based on a non-coercive model, with withdrawal from class an important sanction. It is aligned to DCSI Behaviour Support Framework and 'phase progression'. Residents respond well to quietly enthusiastic teachers with well planned delivery and stimulating learning materials, quick rapport building skills, clear behaviour-limit setting patterns and fair but high expectations.

Youth Education Centre has a modified school exclusion policy. Readmission is after reflective intervention with an education staff member. In the Adelaide Youth Training Centre, Youth Workers (DCSI) are present in classes. Teachers hold briefing sessions daily to allow for adequate communication of matters that require follow up support. In addition, student behaviour is discussed at campus staff meetings.

- **Student government**

Teachers' rapport with students is used to ensure the student voice is responded to where possible. Student Representative Councils operate across all sites. Student representatives from the AYTC attend Governing Council meetings.

- **Special programmes**

Students are provided with one to one literacy and numeracy tutoring, if required. Homework Centre funding supports Aboriginal students with their curriculum and cultural needs. SACE is locally delivered.

Programs that involve community agencies for cultural, health and career (life) planning purposes are arranged frequently. DCSI deliver mandated criminogenic programs as well as cultural and health programs during timetabled elective periods. From 2010 these have been accredited via a SACE locally developed program in Health. YEC operate a music program supported by DECD Music branch and ACMF across all sites.

Activ8 is a State funded initiative from the Office for Youth which provides students with a variety of activities and programs they would not otherwise be able to access.

The school has the Youth Connections – Specialised Services tender for South Australia. This involves Youth Education Centre offering the following services: Flexible and tailored case management to young people who are severely disengaged and who are in or are exiting the Youth Justice system in South Australia. Youth focused activities for young people with the purpose of engaging severely disengaged youth who are in or exiting the Youth Justice system in South Australia, or who are at imminent risk of entering the Youth Justice system in South Australia. Assist education providers and other organisations across South Australia to strengthen their services and

build their own capacity to work with young people who are at imminent risk of entering, or who are exiting the Youth Justice system in South Australia.

### 3. Key School Policies

Youth Education Centre is a specialised and unique learning environment catering for the needs of a variety of students deemed at risk, or currently within the jurisdiction of the Youth Justice system.

#### Our Purpose

Our purpose is to provide educational support and training opportunities that prepare young people at-risk for successful transition into the community as valued and responsible citizens.

#### Our Values

*Respect*

*Responsibility*

*Success*

- **Strategic Directions for 2013**

- 1. **Engaged and Achieving Students**

- All students have an individualised learning program which is informed by current data, shared by all relevant agencies/parties and delivered and reported against by staff.
    - All teachers are effectively utilising and evaluating relevant and appropriate pedagogy for at risk youth.

- 2. **A sustainable, inclusive and differentiated curriculum**

- YEC curriculum provides quality, inclusivity and consistency to meet the needs of all students.
    - Student achievement data is systematically collected, analysed and used to facilitate and demonstrate improvement in teaching and learning outcomes.

- 3. **A collaborative and sustainable culture is advanced across a 'one school' YEC**

- Build upon a 'one school' culture across YEC to foster a physically and emotionally healthy workplace and learning community.

- **Recent key outcomes:**

Youth Education Centre is the schools recipient of the national 2013 Dorothea McKellar Poetry Award.

Please refer to the 2012 Annual Report

### 4. Curriculum

- **Subject offerings**

- Goldsborough Road Campus**

- Literacy and Numeracy

- There is an emphasis on English and Maths. All students are involved in English and Maths subject areas to facilitate participation in educational programs while in custody and on release. Each student's literacy and numeracy levels are assessed if they are in the youth training centres for at least 5 days. This information is then used to develop individualised literacy and numeracy programs for each student. *Intensive Literacy and Numeracy* support is available to those students who require additional assistance.

- SACE  
Where students are age-appropriate and on longer term remand, detention or continuing work from home school, they enrol in SACE courses which are now locally delivered.
- Specialisation/Vocational Training  
To allow students to experience vocational areas of interest, 'Specialist/Vocational Subjects' are offered for longer term students. These include Woodwork, Metalwork, Hospitality, Multi-Arts, Horticulture, Art (range of areas such as air brushing, glass slumping), Dry Wall Construction, Physical Education and Music. These are accredited via SACE or TAFE.  
Some students also undertake TAFE courses in areas such as, Retail and Certificate 3 in Business Administration.
- Personal Development and Recreational Courses  
These courses include groups of programs such as International Cookery, Aquatics and Independent Living Skills
- Outside Service Providers such as SYC, Ausdance, Urban Myth and the National Schools Chaplaincy Program
- Department of Community and Social Inclusion delivered programs

DCSI are mandated to deliver certain programs to young people while in custody. These are delivered as part of the school timetable and some are accredited as a Local Program in Health through SACE. They include Plus +, Challenging Offending Behaviour, Managing Anger, Victim Awareness and Save-a-Mate.

### **Jonal Drive Campus**

An adapted Middle School program is presented by teachers experienced with this student group and in this context. It includes programs that address:

- English and Maths  
There is an emphasis on English and Maths. All students are involved in English and Maths subject areas to facilitate participation in educational programs while in custody and on release. Each student's literacy and numeracy levels are assessed if they are in the Youth Training Centres for at least 5 days. This information is then used to develop individualised literacy and numeracy programs for each student. *Intensive Literacy and Numeracy* support is available to those students who require additional assistance.
- Balanced Curriculum  
Middle school aged students and students who are on short term remand participate in a balanced curriculum. Learning areas covered include English, Mathematics, Art, Life Skills, Health, Physical Education, Woodwork, Home Economics, History and Science.
- Teaching methodology  
Methodology determines that lessons broadly fit the parameters that all students experience. Part of each day is committed to practically oriented courses. Teaching staff support students to improve and develop their self-esteem. This may be through the production of art, craft or other physical products or through meaningful discussion about serious life matters.

Contact with home schools and DECD Regional Service Providers has increased over the last 6 months because Youth Education Centre staff are now able to communicate with these groups. We

seek information from home schools in order to develop Learning Plans for all students who are with us for at least 20 days.

### **Kilburn Flexicentre Campus**

The Outreach Services include:

- General courses at the Flexicentre (3 days per week).
- Short and mobile courses to meet the vocational needs of the target group.  
These courses are of 1 – 5 days in duration and run for forty weeks of the year. They are accredited on a national and state basis and delivered at various sites across Adelaide and the country area. They often lead to part or full time work or work experience. The programs include Motor Vehicle Learners Permit, Tyre Fitting, Basic Trade Maths, White Card and Basic First Aid.
- Building Links Program  
This program also provides a VET course for the local regional schools for 3 days per week.
- Work Experience Program  
Engaging employer mentors for those young people who require this service.

## **5. Sporting Activities**

Sporting competitions are restricted by virtue of the secure nature of the facility. Occasional visits by outside organisations, competitions between units and special feature events provide some avenues for competition beyond those provided by the school programme.

Unit programs, conducted outside of school hours, give opportunities for recreational sport, weight training and general fitness activities.

YEC offers physical education that has a focus on skill development, a broad range of fitness and sporting experiences within the limitations of the setting, positive socialisation and active participation.

## **6. Other Co-Curricular Activities**

- General  
As residents are unable to leave the youth training centres, except in special circumstances or on release, the school encourages performances by outside agencies. Residential care staff holds responsibility for after hours programming of young people.
- Special  
*Active8* – The Premiers Youth Challenge Program – operates at each of the 3 sites facilitating adventure style activities.

## 7. Staff (and their welfare)

- Staff profile

Youth Education Centre staff is characterised by stability and flexibility. Mobility is low with many teaching staff having been with the school for more than 5 years. Staff are encouraged to be 'biased generalists'. This means that, while possessing skills that can be broadly applied in a number of teaching areas, each is also expected to be the specialist teacher in one or more curriculum areas. Teachers are experienced practitioners, mainly from secondary teaching backgrounds, although not necessarily in Special Education. The wide subject span requires that the school creatively employ a range of part time and full time staff, with an added reliance on TRTs familiar with the site and Hourly Paid Instructors with specific skills.

SSO staff handles a demanding workload of library maintenance; high level continuous enrolment; and the normal complexity of school clerical and financial administration duties.

- Leadership structure

There is a Principal across the whole school

A Deputy Principal

A Senior Leader (ICT and Timetabling) who has site 'learner management system' responsibilities

Two curriculum coordinators with a SACE/TAFE and Australian Curriculum focus

Two coordinators with a student services and pathways focus.

In the Outreach Services, there is:

An Outreach coordinator

A Youth Connections coordinator

- Staff support systems

The staff is a mutually supportive team, with all staff being involved in decision making, goal setting and curriculum development. Professional development has two objectives – maintenance of mainstream skills and development of skills appropriate to the Youth Training Centre setting. There are daily briefings as a group.

- Staff utilisation policies

Programs within Youth Education Centre operate over 49 weeks of the year. Staff may be required to work some holiday periods with leave during term time negotiated through the Senior Leader. Class size limits match WHS criteria unique to this site; standards have been determined in discussions regarding DCSI safety and security standards.

Private motor vehicle travel between Youth Education Centre sites and within the community will be required. Staff appointed to Youth Education Centre may be required to move sites as determined by staffing needs.

- Access to special staff

DECD provides some Aboriginal Education Resource Teacher and Special Education funding via an agreed formula. It also provides 28 hours per week Aboriginal Community Education Officer time.

- Other



The majority of teachers at Youth Education Centre have budget and curriculum responsibility for at least one specialty area and are expected to be adaptable to sudden changes in routine, flexible in methodology and relaxed in their relationships with residents.

## 8. Incentives, support and award conditions for Staff

- Cooling for school buildings  
Refer to School Facilities section below.
- Additional increment allowance  
Teachers and Coordinators receive an additional 'Special Class' allowance.
- Designated schools benefits  
Flexibility of holiday periods (49 week program) may be seen as an advantage.
- Travelling time  
Staff are given release time to travel between sites

## 9. School Facilities

### • Buildings and grounds

#### **Goldsborough Road Campus**

The school is housed in the Adelaide Youth Training Centre which was opened in September 2012. It comprises a resource centre, several flexible classrooms, specialist areas for art, computing, hospitality/home economics, technical studies, fabrics, hairdressing and music.

#### **Jonal Drive Campus**

The school is housed within the perimeters of the former Cavan Training Centre. The buildings are structurally of a 50's institution architectural style featuring imposing security fences and enclosed walkways. Large industrial style workshops cater for technology and applied art classes as well as providing general teaching areas. A gymnasium is used jointly by DCSI and the school for recreation and Phys. Ed. activities. A grassed area, asphalt area and swimming pool suit outdoor physical activities.

#### **Kilburn Flexicentre**

Kilburn Flexicentre is located in the former Kilburn Primary School which was refurbished in Term 3, 2012. The facility comprises four general classrooms, reception and staff preparation areas, new kitchen and café style eating space. A separate building houses the Second Story health services and the short course bike programme. The Tyre Fitting mobile van and school vehicles are secured within a large industrial shed.

- **Cooling**

All general teaching areas across all sites are air conditioned. Workshops are not.

- **Specialist facilities**

See Buildings and Grounds

- **Staff facilities**

#### **Goldsborough Road Campus**

Staff are provided with spacious preparation areas, a meeting room and modern staff room. Residents and teachers have access to a full-sized gymnasium, weights room, heated swimming pool and playing fields.

Access into the Centre is gained through a metal detector booth and secure 'air lock'. Internal keys and access fobs are issued from the DCSI electronically controlled key safe, to which they are returned on exit.

#### **Jonal Drive Campus**

A gymnasium is used jointly by DCSI and the school for recreation activities. A grassed area, asphalt area and swimming pool are also available to staff. All teachers have desk and filing space provided in a communal preparation room and small lunchroom

#### **Kilburn Flexicentre**

Kilburn Flexicentre is located in the former Kilburn Primary School which was refurbished in Term 3, 2012. The facility comprises four general classrooms, reception and staff preparation areas, new kitchen and café style eating space.

A separate building houses the Second Story health services and the short course bike programme. The Tyre Fitting mobile van and school vehicles are secured within a large industrial shed.

Each teacher is provided with a laptop and appropriate software to undertake administrative duties.

- **Access for students and staff with disabilities**

**Goldsborough Road** – Wheelchair access to all facilities.

**Jonal Drive** – Wheelchair access to all facilities

**Kilburn Flexicentre** – Wheelchair access to all facilities

- **Access to bus transport**

**Goldsborough Road** – 224F board stop X1, alight Stop 31

**Jonal Drive**– Route 238, alight at Stop 30

**Kilburn Flexicentre** – Routes 235, 237, 238 & 239 travel along Churchill Road, alight at Stop 22. Students are able access transport from the Torrens Parade Ground via the school's bus

- **Other**

- Teachers have added day to day 'security responsibilities' within the facility. All staff are inducted in to the DCSI security procedures.

## 10. School Operations

- **Decision Making Structures**  
Whole school decisions are made democratically at fortnightly staff meetings. Formal processes exist for occasions when consensus is not reached. These decisions must be within DECD policies and procedures and guidelines. All decisions must also meet DCSI security requirements. DECD staff attend a range of DCSI meetings requiring joint input re young people and activities within the centres.
- **Regular publications**  
Daily bulletins via the school's learner management system, DayMap.
- **Other communication**  
Principal attends weekly DCSI/DECD Centre Management and Operations Meetings. There are regular briefings with the Deputy Principal and Senior Leader ICT and Timetabling. Due to the small size of the staff, personal communication is a valued and effective means of exchanging information.
- **School financial position**  
The school has a negotiated funding arrangement, which is different from mainstream schools. Whilst unable to undertake normal fundraising activities, the school is able to access a range of state and federal grants for this student cohort.
- **Special funding**  
A Disadvantaged Schools Program (Commonwealth Literacy Program) grant supports specialist literacy intervention. Aboriginal specific funding, varying from year to year with numbers of Aboriginal students, provides the school with support for programs targeting Aboriginal students.

## 11. Local Community

- **General characteristics**  
The school serves the whole SA community. The Adelaide Youth Training Centre is a self-contained community. Residents may only leave at the completion of their detention, conditional release or on special leave. Security is of prime consideration, with teachers required to exercise close control of equipment, materials and keys.
- **Parent and community involvement**  
Parental contact is maintained through formal visiting privileges, telephone and letter. It is extremely rare for direct contact between parent and school. However, youth workers from the

Centre's residential units supervise all resident activities including lessons, and so have a significant impact on the daily operation of the school.

There is a Governing Council comprising representatives of Government and non-government sectors and including Aboriginal representation.

DECD staff attend Case Conferences, where planning for resident programming takes place.

- Feeder schools  
Young people access the school via the Youth Justice System and Families SA.
- Other local care and educational facilities  
**Goldsborough Road and Jonal Drive** are located apart from other local care and educational facilities.  
**Kilburn Flexicentre** is close to a number of primary and pre-schools, with nearest secondary school being Roma Mitchell Secondary College
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities  
**Goldsborough Road and Jonal Drive** are situated in industrial estates with limited shopping and commercial facilities. The nearest major shopping facilities are at Ingle Farm and North Park/Sefton Plaza, with a smaller centre at Montague Farm.  
**Kilburn Flexicentre** is a short distance from the proposed Kilburn shopping precinct
- Other local facilities  
Students do not access local facilities.
- Availability of staff housing  
None.
- Local Government body  
**Goldsborough Road** is in the Port Adelaide/Enfield area.  
**Jonal Drive** is in the Salisbury Council area.  
**Kilburn Flexicentre** is in the Port Adelaide/Enfield area.

## 12. Further Comments

The setting is unique and a visit to the Centre by those who have an interest is highly recommended prior to applying for a placement at this site.