

NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM OUR Acting Children's Services Manager

Welcome!

Welcome back to all new and returning families and children enrolled for 2023, it is wonderful to see children back from holidays and we are looking forward to establishing relationships with children and families attending our services for the first time.

It has been a busy start to the year and I want to thank our staff who did an amazing job getting our centres ready to open with new spaces of fun and education.

In January, we farewelled Children's Services Manager, Miryam Franjic, as she left Glenelg Shire Council to take on a new role. We thank Miryam for her service and dedication to providing quality education and care and maternal and child health services for our children in our shire.

Many of you would be aware that some of our services have been affected by gastroenteritis with three centres having confirmed outbreaks. We ask you to continue to monitor your child for symptoms and ensure that if your household is affected, you refrain from visiting childcare centres and Kindergartens. Viral gastroenteritis is highly infectious and washing hands with soap and water is one of the most effective ways of preventing the spread of infection.

Finally, a thank you to staff, families and children for making me feel welcome in Childrens Services. I hope you all stay safe and well.

Thanks Shelley



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Glenelg Shire Council would like to respectfully acknowledge that our kindergartens and Long Day Care services operate on the traditional land and waters of the Gunditjmarra people, Bunganditj people, Jardwadjali people and their respective cultural heritages.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people provide an important contribution to Australia's cultural heritage and identity. We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait community living throughout the Glenelg Shire and the contribution they make to the Shire's prosperity and wellbeing.

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS COMMITMENT

Glenelg Shire Council is committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.

Reducing and removing the risk of child abuse will be at the centre of our decision-making concerning children in our organisation.

Council has zero tolerance for child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and acted upon. Council will actively listen to children, ensuring their voices are heard and considered in decisions that affect their lives.

This approach is reflected in Council's Community Engagement Framework and Youth Charter

OFFICE NEWS

FINANCE NEWS

ALLOWABLE ABSENCES

Families can get CCS when their child is absent from a session of care they would normally attend for up to 42 days per child, per financial year.

We increased the allowable absence count to 52 days for the 2021–22 and 2022–23 financial years, due to COVID-19.

Families can use their absence days for any reason. They don't need to provide evidence.

In shared care arrangements, the allowable absences count is allocated to the child, not to each individual parent.

If a child is enrolled in more than one session of care on the same day (such as before and after school care) and is absent for one of those sessions, it is counted as one absence day.

Please follow the link below to find out more information - <https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-package/child-care-subsidy/absences#toc-additional-absences>

Glenelg Shire Children's Services



1300 453 635



PO Box 152, Portland VIC 3305



Childservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au



www.glenelg.vic.gov.au



ABSENCES FROM CHILDCARE

Families can get Child Care Subsidy (CCS) when their child is unable to attend child care up to 42 days a year. Families can get extra absence days in certain circumstances.

Allowable absences

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ADDITIONAL ABSENCES

Families may be able to get additional absences once they have used their allowable absence days, in certain circumstances.

For further information regarding allowance absences, please see the below link:-

<https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-package/child-care-subsidy/absences>

Please be aware that if you exceed your allowance absences, CCS WILL NOT be paid on any absences for the remainder of this financial year – 30 June 2023.

From July, the gap fee must be paid electronically

Families using child care must pay the gap fee using electronic means from 1 July 2023.

The gap fee is the difference between the provider's fee and the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) amount. Find out more about gap fees and Child Care Subsidy.

Electronic funds transfer, or EFT, is when a customer pays a bill using electronic means. Typical EFT payment methods include:

- bank or credit card, including mobile wallets
- direct deposit or bank transfer, including PayID
- online payment systems through third party software



- BPAY or Centrepay.

This change will help us protect CCS against fraud and non-compliance. We will check EFT payments against provider and service bank statements and receipts. This way, we can prevent fraudulent CCS claims for care that did not take place. In turn, this ensures CCS flows fairly to families.

Most services already accept EFT payments. This is because it's safer for staff and easier to administer. Similarly, over 98% of families already use EFT to pay their gap fee. Most families get salaries or benefits electronically, making it easy to pay the gap fee using EFT.

Families who cannot use EFT to pay their gap fee should talk to their service. Families seeking EFT exemption might be eligible for Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS). ACCS may cover all of a child's child care fees.

Exemptions will apply in limited circumstances. We will provide more information about exemptions soon. We'll also develop some materials you can use to communicate this

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE STARTED TO PAY FULL FEES?

There are things you need to do to keep getting Child Care Subsidy (CCS). If you haven't done these, your CCS may have stopped, which means you'll start paying full fees.

Check you've confirmed your family's income within the time limit. When you get CCS you must confirm your family's income after the end of each financial year. If you haven't lodged a tax return, or let us know you don't need to we may stop your CCS.

Check your activity level for both yourself and your partner, if you have one. Make sure it's recorded correctly.

You can check both of these online using your Centrelink online account through [myGov](#).

THE BEST WAY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Children's Services Customer Service Team

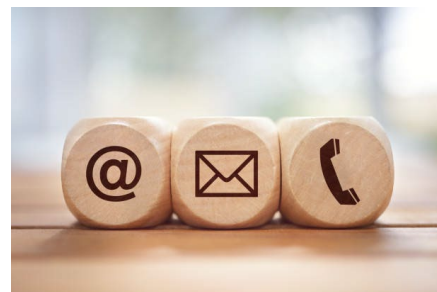
Tel: 1300 453 635

Email: childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au

Fee or Account Enquiries, Children's Services Accounts Team

Tel: (03) 5522 2515

Email: csaccounts@glenelg.vic.gov.au



ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS

We ask that families please notify the Children's Services Team as soon as possible if your child will be absent from their program. This can be done via the Xap Smile App or through the following methods:

Phone – 1300 453 635

Email – childrenservicesenquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au

CONGRATULATIONS

Our Administration Officer Jess Hallinan welcomed her daughter Elsie June Ball on 26 November 2022. Congratulations Jess!



Kalbarri Kindergarten's 4-Year-Old Kindergarten Teacher Melanie Bunk welcomed her daughter Zara Dawne Stannard on 11 November 2022. Congratulations Mel!



PHOTO'S REMINDER

Photographs and videos are classified as 'personal information' under the information privacy act 2000. Photos and videos of children are only to be taken by authorised council officers during education and care sessions. **No images are to be taken by families, friends or visitors to the service during the program.**

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH OPENING HOURS

- Portland – Monday to Friday
- Heywood – Tuesday
- Casterton – Thursday
- Dartmoor – By appointment only
- Office Administration Hours – Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm

MCH can be contacted on the following:

- Phone: 5521 0504
- Email: mch.pdh@swarh.vic.gov.au
- Text Message: 0427 818 624
- Website: https://pdh.net.au/services_list/maternal-and-child-health-services/

NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN IN CARS

A friendly reminder to our families to ensure that you never leave a child in a car.

In Victoria, it is against the law to leave a child unattended in a car.

The Never Leave Kids in Cars campaign prompts parents to take their kids with them whenever they get out of the car, just as they do their everyday valuables, to avoid potentially tragic consequences.

More information and resources can be found in the following links:

- <https://www.vic.gov.au/never-leave-kids-in-cars>
- <http://www.kidsafevic.com.au/road-safety/hot-cars/>
- <https://raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/safety/car-pedestrian-safety/never-leave-children-in-cars>.



SIGNING YOUR CHILD IN/OUT

Families are reminded they are required to sign their child in/out of the program on the tablets provided at the service prior to leaving. If you are unsure of your sign in/out credentials, please see a staff member.

SCHOOL TERMS & PUBLIC HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Glenelg Shire Council Children's Services Kindergarten programs operate during the Victorian school Terms. The term dates can be found here - <https://www.vic.gov.au/school-term-dates-and-holidaysvictoria>


Glenelg Shire Council Children's Service's closes on Victorian Public Holidays. These can be found here <https://business.vic.gov.au/business-information/public-holidays/victorian-public-holidays-2023>

Families are not charged for Public Holidays.


NOTIFYING ILLNESSES

If your child is in any way unwell and not their usual self, please keep them at home to allow for their full recovery, so that they can fully participate in the program on their return. Children who have an infectious illness must remain at home. This is for the wellbeing of all children and adults at the service.

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If your child becomes unwell whilst attending the service you will be contacted and asked to collect your child as soon as possible. If you are unable to be contacted, the next authorised nominee from the child's enrolment form will be contacted. In the meantime, every effort will be made to keep your child comfortable, away from other children and under close observation.

Families MUST inform the service if their child has been diagnosed with an infectious disease such as influenza, measles, COVID-19 or chickenpox. A detailed list of the Department of Human Services' minimum periods of exclusion for infectious and communicable diseases is included as an Appendix. Below is an extract showing some of the more common childhood conditions and exclusion periods:
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion>

POLICIES OUT FOR REVIEW

The below policies are currently out for or will be coming up for review;

- Dealing with infectious diseases
- Dealing with medical conditions
- Emergency and evacuation
- Governance and management of the service
- Nappy change procedure

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Families are required to keep their Emergency Contact Details up to date at all times. This is to ensure that in the case of an emergency, we are able to contact you, or your authorised nominees. Only people authorised by the child's parents/guardians are allowed to collect their child. All authorised people must be over 18 years old. Appropriate identification will be required eg Photo ID. Please ensure you update the details in XAP or notify our administration team if you would like to add someone on.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Children's Services Relay 4 Life Ankle Biters team has again registered for the Portland event.

All children, families and staff are welcome to join the team and participate in the event on Saturday 25 March 2023.

Please follow the link on the website to register
<https://www.relayforlife.org.au/fundraisers/anklebiters>

Participating in the Relay 4 Life has many benefits including:



- Being an active and involved member of the local community
- Raising money for Cancer research
- Physical activity – walking around the track

If you would like further information, please ask an educator at your service

SUNSMART & CLOTHING

With summer still here and the warm weather, the UV rating is continuing to rise. Services monitor this daily and support children to apply sun protection when required. Please send a labelled sunhat (No Baseball Caps) with your child to Kindergarten or Child Care. All children must wear a hat outside, or they will be required to play under cover. Children's safety is of the utmost importance.

Please remember to label all items to prevent any lost property. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather – All children must wear T shirts – no Singlet tops, muscle tops or strap dresses.



Please pack spare clothing in your child's bag to ensure they have clothing for any incidents.

Appropriate footwear is also required – NO Thongs/Crocs, if sending gumboots please also pack another pair of shoes.

CAR PARK SAFETY & ONLY LEAVING WITH YOUR CHILD

Families are reminded to ensure you are always supervising your child/ren whilst in carparks and around roads. Families must only leave the service with their child or a child who they are collecting. You are also required to maintain a safe speed whilst driving into our carparks.

MEDICATION

Prescribed and over the counter medication will only be administered to a child when written instruction from an authorised person, stated on the enrolment form, is recorded on a medication form. Medication must be labelled with the child's name, be in date, in its original container and handed directly to a staff member on arrival each day (Please do not leave any medication in your child's bag). Families are reminded they must collect the medication at the end of the day from a staff member.



WAITING LIST

If you are requiring more permanent days, please send an email to let us know what days you require so we can add to our waitlist.

RECRUITMENT

Glenelg Shire Council currently has a number of positions vacant in the Children's Services Unit. For more information, please visit

https://hcm618.peoplestreme.net/glenelgshirecouncil/erec_external.asp



BANANA OAT PANCAKES

Ingredients:

- 1 small to medium ripe banana (125g peeled weight)
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 3/4c self raising flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder

Put all ingredients in a blender and mix 20 seconds or until blended and combined. Allow mix to sit for 10 minutes. (alternatively put all ingredients in jug and use stickblender, or mash banana well add remaining ingredients and whisk well).

Grease a pan and place over low to medium heat. Put 1/4 cup of mix in pan (can do as many as pan allows) and cook for 2-3 minutes or until bubbles appear and begin to pop. Flip and cook a further 2 minutes

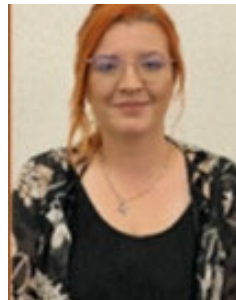
Serve warm or place onto cake rack to cool.



NEW STAFF



Tiia Pratt
Casual Educator



Amber Davies
Casual Educator



Caitlin Muecke
Full Time Educator - KMC



Paige Colegrave
Casual Educator



Sarah Luers
Educator – KMC



Chelsey Galpin
Full Time Educator – KMC



Ivy Stewart
Cert 3 Trainee



Brianna McMillan
Cert 3 Trainee



Denise Pfeiffer
3-YO Kinder Teacher PCFC



Catherine Menzies
Casual Educator

FAREWELLS

- Chelsea Smith
- Rianna Neville
- Mikhaila Pendelbury
- Tarsha Edwards – remains as a casual educator
- Aymie Sheridan – remains as a casual educator
- Jo Jackson – remains as a casual educator
- Jess Cook
- Dimity Smith
- Miryam Franjic
- Demi Jennings

FROM OUR SERVICES

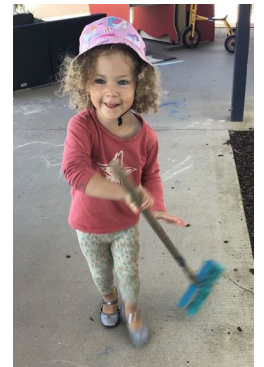
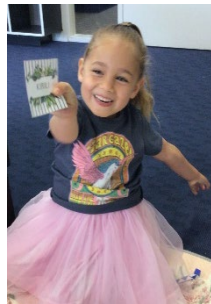
Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara Portland Child and Family Complex

Welcome to Karreeta Peeneeyt Mara, Portland Child and Family Complex 2023!

We have had an amazing start to the year with new and existing children getting to know each other and their educators and settling well into the environment. Children have enjoyed exploring both the indoor and outdoor play and learning spaces. Children are enjoying singing, stories, art, riding bikes and climbing.

Throughout the day children are extending on their own curiosities and interests, consistently challenging themselves with their developing abilities, problem solving and play experiences.

We look forward to a fun year ahead of growth and development.



Kathleen Millikan Centre

We would like to welcome back all our families to the Kathleen Millikan Centre both existing and new. We look forward to a fun-filled year making memories to treasure. It is our goal to provide your child with a warm, caring and nurturing environment which will allow your child to grow, learn and discover.

A reminder to all families that we promote healthy eating both in our policies and learning framework. Please refrain from sending chips, lollies, chocolate and other 'sometimes' food items in your child's lunch box.

Please do not send any nut products to the service; this includes Nutella, peanut butter or any foods containing nuts, this will assist us to maintain a safe environment for children with allergies.

Educators will send out updates of your child's journey periodically through Xap, we welcome your comments being added.



FROM OUR SERVICES

Dartmoor Children's Centre

A big welcome to all our new and existing families to 2023. We are all feeling refreshed and excited for the year ahead.

The children have settled in extremely well and have been enjoying all the play spaces, group times, outdoor play, and conversations. We have been focussing on learning about each other and our families. We have a gathering display with our families' names, and we will soon add a photo to this area.

Many conversations have also been had about what everyone has done on their holidays!

We have been learning about friendships and what we can do to make people feel welcome. Also playing games to remember everyone's names and initiate friendships.

It is great to have families back into the Centre and for your children to show you what they have been learning.



Heywood Kindergarten

We have had a very busy start to the year. The children have shown their creative side, modelling with play dough, creating with construction, colouring and painting.

Although it looks like play, the children are actually learning important skills.

They are learning to: Make choices, create from their own ideas, strengthen their fine motor skills, take chances, describe what they have created, and more.

IDENTITY: Children are open to new challenges and making new discoveries.

LEARNING: Children are curious and enthusiastic participants in their learning



FROM OUR SERVICES

Jaycee Kindergarten

We would like to welcome all our new and returning families and are looking forward to building strong and respectful relationships. The children are learning the daily routines and have started to build some trusting relationships with their peers and educators.

Over the last few weeks, the children have been engaging in a range of experiences within the indoor and outdoor environments. Some of these experiences include Farm Duplo, painting, pasting, playdough, magnets, cars, dinosaurs, cooking in the café, role play with the babies and exploring their gross motor skills on the climbing equipment and riding the bikes around the bike track, while also exploring the pirate ship.



Kalbarri Kindergarten

At Kalbarri Kinder we have been enjoying the start of term 1, meeting new families, and seeing familiar faces. We have been enjoying seeing our friends, and making new ones.

We have enjoyed having fresh apples and pears off our amazing fruit trees. We look forward to the rest of the term that is going to be filled with lots of fun and learning.






**THANK YOU FOR READING.
WE HOPE YOU HAVE
ENJOYED THIS EDITION.**


**GLENELG SHIRE COUNCIL
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**



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