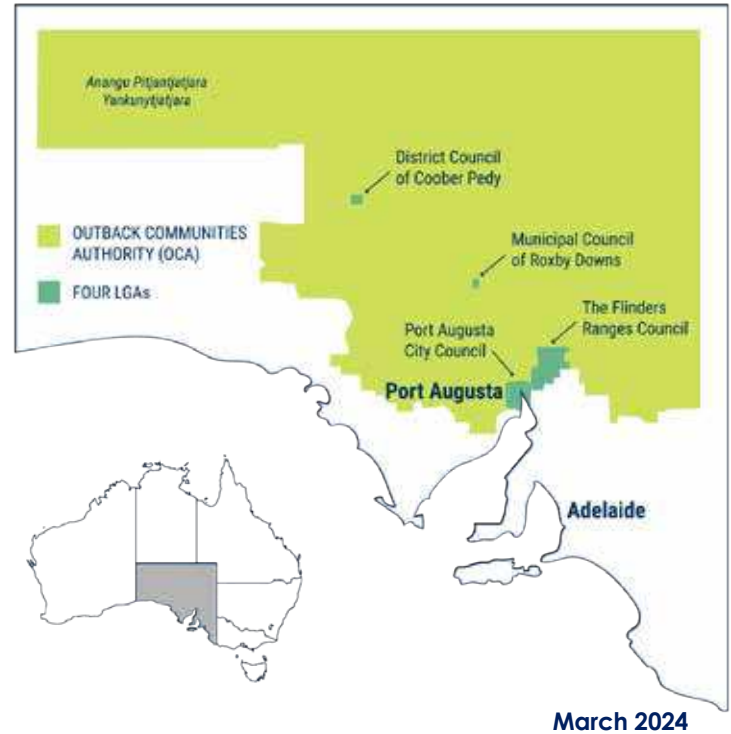


Childcare Services Development Report SUMMARY

- **800,000** square kilometers
- Population of **26555**
- **1600** children aged 0 – 4 years
- Childcare places = **380**
- **1** Childcare place per **4.2** Children

Region is a “Childcare Desert” – Victoria University Study on Childcare – Childcare Deserts and Oases: How Accessible is childcare in Australia



KEY CHALLENGES

Workforce Supply

- Facilities unable to operate at full capacity due to the lack of qualified staff.
- Most Centres in Far North SA region have rolling vacancy advertisement seeking qualified childcare workers.

Waiting Periods

- Some families are on waiting lists for up to two years almost all are on a waiting list for some period of time.
- Some communities in Far North SA have no childcare services for their residents.

NEGATIVE SOCIAL + ECONOMIC IMPACT

Due to a lack of access to childcare...

- 63%** Of survey respondents indicated they are unable to work the number of hours they could or would like to
- 43%** Of survey respondents indicated they are unable to return to work when they are ready to do so.
- 37%** Of survey respondents indicated a negative impact on mental health for them as parents.
- 50%** Of survey respondents questioned their decision to stay in the region or move elsewhere where childcare is available.
- 56%** Of survey respondents indicated they and their families experienced added stress.

“My husband and I are both teachers and if we can’t get childcare we will seriously consider relocating elsewhere.”

“I had to leave my job due to not having access to childcare.”

“I’d like to have a second child, but unless I know I can get childcare, it is just not worth the stress.”

“It is a fact of life – we just have to travel to access childcare – 80km round trip.”