



Wallaroo Preschool Centre

2022 annual report to the community

Wallaroo Preschool Centre Number: 6640

Partnership: Northern Yorke

Signature

Preschool director:

Mrs Belinda Petherick and Miss Ashleigh Higgins

Governing council chair:

Sarah Clifford

Date of endorsement:

15 February 2023



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Context and highlights

Wallaroo Preschool is a standalone Department for Education Preschool which currently has 52 enrolments.

It is traditionally a complex site with many of our children accessing NDIS services or being referred to Department Support Services for one or more additional learning needs.

We have recently self-funded extensive improvements to our outdoor learning environment to incorporate more natural and challenging learning spaces.

Our consistent educator team have a united approach for supporting children's development at preschool and value and respect every child as they enter our preschool. Our responsive approach towards children and their needs allows children to feel valued, respected and heard. Our Preschool Philosophy is reflective of our practices and pedagogy and our calming, nurturing environment embraces diversity, respect and kindness.

Our tenured director, Ashleigh Higgins returned to a 0.2 role from parenting leave in term three this year with Belinda Petherick continuing as a 0.8 Director for the remaining of the year, providing continuity for the site. Our team of educators have remained consistent for several years now, with regular educators and relievers providing familiarity to the site and children. We have one 0.5 teacher, a 0.4 teacher, a 0.2 teacher (covering Director Administration time) and a 0.9 Early Childhood Worker. We employ our Preschool Support Workers for additional hours to support specific children with varying developmental needs.

Playgroup is held Friday mornings during term time from 9:30am - 11:30am. This is run by volunteers and supported by our educators. It is well utilised by our local community and provides an excellent opportunity for families and children to become familiar with our preschool prior to their preschool year.

Beach Kindy is an embedded part of our preschool program with all children engaging in beach visits throughout Terms One, Two and Three to discover and wonder about the natural world around them. At Wallaroo Preschool we know children are competent, confident and capable learners, who are able to make decisions for themselves. They are naturally curious, inquisitive and want and need to find out how the world around them works. The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and the National Quality Standards (NQS) acknowledge that natural outdoor learning environments play an important role in the cognitive, emotional and physical development of children. Opportunities to play and explore in nature promote a growth mindset through the provision of risk, challenge and process-based play (it's not about the 'end-result'). We are so fortunate in the Wallaroo community to have an accessible natural beach environment within walking distance of our preschool and continues to be a highlight of our learning.

Our excursion to Bowman Park is an opportunity to further our learning of discovery away from the comfort of our home town. Dressed for rain in our NaturePlay Onsies, the children embarked on a wonderful day of learning and opportunity. Exploring up the big hill, challenging persistence and resilience of some, and using navigation skills to wander along paths was all part of our wonderful experience, then ending the day in a downpour of rain. As they say, "no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing."

The Music Education Strategy resonated with our educators and together with the children immersed music into much of our teaching and learning.

Governing council report

This year we have been blessed with an enthusiastic, dedicated group of parent volunteers who have invested their time to be part of our governing council. Members include our Vice Chair Belinda Hall, Treasurer and fundraising co-ordinator Kendal Farquhar, Secretary Jess Measday and general committee Danielle Stoodley, Gemma O'Brien, Cassie Hewton, Susan Munn, Agatka Murphy and Rachel Toribio. Our twice-per-term meetings have been well attended, both in person and via zoom, and we have discussed a wide range of issues relevant to the inner workings of our preschool.

Each term we have focused upon specific fundraising activities, all of which have been well received and well supported, not just by our preschool families, but by the wider community. Our fundraising aim this year was to raise enough money to purchase an outdoor xylophone, to further encourage musical development through play.

Our term one fundraiser was a long standing tradition of turning artwork into keepsakes via the 'Picture Plates' platform. With our son Travis being our third child to attend Wallaroo preschool, I think we almost have one of everything from the Picture Plate catalogue! We raised \$487 from this year's Picture Plates fundraiser.

During term two we ran a successful pre loved book sale – with preschool families and community members donating books that were then re sold at preschool and at a stall at the Drakes complex. We had a small number of books that were left over unsold from our fundraiser, and these were kindly donated to children who had fled Ukraine due to the ongoing crisis in their country, a very relevant cause for 2022. Our preloved book sale raised \$260, and along with the dollar value, gave our preschool a community presence, with many people stopping at our stall at Drakes just to have a chat or comment how nice it was to see our Preschool represented in the community. During term two we also ran a very enjoyable Kindy Disco for our preschool children. From the huge smiles and crazy dance moves, the palpable excitement the children displayed due to being at kindy at night time, and the amount of popcorn we vacuumed up from the floor, we deemed the Disco to be a huge success! We are sure it was a highlight for many children during their time at preschool. We raised \$170 from the disco, but the experience and memories the children will hold dear far outweigh any dollar value.

During term three we again offered our Kindy Photos fundraiser to preschool families, with our governing council members graciously volunteering their time to photograph and collate a selection of photos for each child as a keepsake. Our volunteers did a wonderful job capturing the essence of each child. We were very impressed with the quality of the group photo this year, just about everyone is looking in roughly the right direction, which with a group of three and four year olds, I'm sure you can appreciate is no easy task! Kindy photos raised \$575, but more importantly, gave us precious memories of our children's year at preschool, a year that has flown past in the blink of an eye!

And finally, during term four we have ran our extremely successful Christmas raffle. The kindness, community spirit and generosity of our local businesses has been greatly appreciated during a year in which COVID is still hanging over our heads. Local businesses are dealing with higher operating costs and decreased sales, yet they have still offered very generous donations. Please ensure you support the local businesses who have supported us – you can find the list of donors on our Kindy Facebook page. We are so excited to say our Christmas raffle has raised in excess of \$3300 – an amount which has far exceeded our expectations. We are all, kindy children included, very excited to know who our lucky winners will be!

An extra special mention to this year's fundraising subcommittee co-ordinator, Kendal, who has volunteered many hours towards our fundraising projects this year. Thank you!

Finally, a huge thank you to you - all our kindy families who have supported Governing Council's fundraising efforts this year. In total we have raised close to \$5000, a wonderful effort by all to support our amazing Preschool. This will definitely allow next year's Governing Council to facilitate the purchase of an outdoor xylophone, something which as Governing Council members we are all incredibly proud of!

As we, with a mix of sadness and excitement prepare to send our little people off to school, I am sure you will all join me in thanking our amazing team of educators who make Wallaroo Preschool the special place that it is. Thank you for investing your time, love and passion this year into helping our children become the best versions of themselves. You have all helped to equip our little learners with resilience, determination, wonder and a sense of belonging. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Preschool quality improvement planning

Educator involvement in the Music Education Strategy in 2021 initiated an increased interest and focus on the learning and implementation of music in early years. Research shows the positive growth on children's emotional and academic development when children have the opportunity to engage in music at preschool. The skill of keeping the beat was an early precursor for children understanding patterns in language and developing a solid phonological awareness.

As such educators set the following goal for their 2022 Learning Improvement Plan:

"Children will increase their ability to identify sounds and patterns in words."

The challenge of practice was for educators to increase and broaden their knowledge on phonological awareness and be intentional with their spontaneous and planned learning experiences.

Educators built their understanding and knowledge of phonological awareness by engaging in professional learning and utilised current research such as, but not limited to, Best Practice Papers. Literacy Guide books, DfE Literacy Indicators and EYLF.

Educators recognised what this looks like for all children within our diverse preschool and developed their understanding of literacy progressions through high quality teaching practices and planning.

As such children were exposed to a range of musical experiences, both in play moments alongside other children as well as planned moments for intentional teaching. All our children, including children with developmental and intellectual learning needs, were exploring and consolidating their ability to keep the beat through their involvement with music. For some children, this furthered into breaking familiar and unfamiliar multisyllabic words into syllables.

Through both spontaneous and planned learning moments, children developed their knowledge of rhyme; recognising and matching rhyming words as well as producing rhyme and recognising odd words out in rhyme.

Every child at Wallaroo Preschool made progress towards learning and development outcomes.

Throughout the year educators continued their learning for Pedagogical Documentation as the vehicle for formative assessment and increased strategies to obtain and analyse initial documentation for baseline data. Educators showed evidence of critical reflection as they analysed documentation on children's development and formulated curriculum decisions to provide further opportunity for children to learn within their zone of proximal development and in a way which is developmentally appropriate for children of preschool age. Our commitment to action outlined interactions necessary to achieve progress for all children which was evident within our cycle of planning.

With intentional teaching on phonological awareness an embedded part of teaching practices, educators will continue to explore music with intentionality in 2023.

Enrolment

Year	Enrolment by Term			
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2019	37	35	37	34
2020	47	N/A	47	48
2021	43	45	48	48
2022	46	47	50	51

NOTE: The data is based on person counts in the two week reference period each term. Excludes pre-entry.

Data Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Reporting and Analytics directorate.

Term 2 2020 data may not be available for all preschools.

Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2019 centre	94.5%	91.4%	87.2%	92.3%
2020 centre	85.8%		70.6%	88.4%
2021 centre	83.6%	84.5%	82.8%	81.2%
2022 centre	87.3%	79.7%	75.1%	72.1%
2019 state	90.8%	88.2%	86.8%	87.6%
2020 state	89.8%	83.6%	86.2%	87.2%
2021 state	88.6%	86.5%	88.6%	85.6%
2022 state	84.9%	79.8%	80.3%	77.5%

Based on attendances recorded in the two week reference period each term. Data for eligible enrolments as described in the department's Enrolment policy.

Attendance rates may differ to previous reporting with the transfer from calculations based on deemed attendance to actual attendance using booked hours divided by attended hours.

*Note: Term 2 2020 data may not be available for all preschools.

Attendance comment

Wallaroo is an area with transient families and during Term Four we had a number of families relocate to varying parts of the state and country without contact.

With the health and safety a priority at our site, we also encouraged families to be extremely vigilant and to keep their child home should they have any cold or flu symptoms.

Families are encouraged to contact the preschool using a variety of options should their child be absent from preschool and any unexplained absences were followed up with a courtesy phone call, text or email.

Regular and consistent attendance is encouraged to continue each child's developing relationships with children and educators, as well as maintaining their sense of belonging at Preschool.

Destination schools

Feeder Schools (Site number - Name)	2019	2020	2021	2022
8200 - Harvest Christian College	11.8%	6.7%	10.3%	14.3%
778 - Kadina Memorial School	29.4%	31.1%	25.6%	28.6%
9084 - St Mary MacKillop School	23.5%	37.8%	28.2%	14.3%
460 - Wallaroo Mines Primary School	0.0%	0.0%	5.1%	14.3%
459 - Wallaroo Primary School	32.4%	24.4%	30.8%	28.6%

NOTE: The data is collected in Term 3. It does not reflect actual schools enrolled in by exiting preschool children. Only schools that are a destination for 3% or more of students are shown.

Data Source: Site Performance Reporting System (SPER), Term 3 2022 collection.

Destination schools comment

There were 38 children that graduated from Wallaroo Preschool.

52% of children enrolled at a Department for Education Primary School; 26% of children went to our local feeder school, Wallaroo Primary School, 2% enrolled in the Disability Unit, 13% enrolled at Kadina Memorial School and 10% enrolled to Wallaroo Mines Primary School.

2% of children were enrolled in homeschool for a year as they explore our beautiful country with their family and 46% children enrolled in local Independent or Catholic school.

A supportive transition to school program is in place that may be tailored to meet individual children's needs. A detailed Summative Statement of Learning is provided to each destination school as well as face to face meetings with the preschool, school and families of children who receive additional support through a range of allied health services. Reciprocated visits from Wallaroo Primary School at the beginning of each year encourages a continuing transition program.

Family opinion survey summary

Family comments were extremely positive and supportive of the learning environment and opportunities and voiced their praise in writing:

"Our family would like to acknowledge and thank all the educators for the incredible preschool experience they have provided our three children over the years. With your knowledge and guidance, they all left preschool prepared and ready to start the next step in their learning journey.

The learning spaces and opportunities that you create as a team are always fun and inclusive, as well as educational. The high standard of care and support that you provide is valuable to every child."

"I loved how dedicated the teachers are to giving my daughter the best learning experience as well as all the students"

"There are not enough words to explain the support we have received as a family. We have given plenty of feedback this year to express our gratitude."

"We came very hesitant to leave our beautiful girl without us around for so long but we need not have worried. Our girl has blossomed in the caring and nurturing environment. We were so very fortunate to have such amazing educators be the foundation to (child's name) education journey."

"There are not enough words to thank you all for the amazing support you have given us all. To see the excitement you all had when a new thing happened or to share the news about how the other children responded to (child's name) put all our reservations to rest. We are truly thankful for the love & support you have shown (child's name) this year."

"We love beach kindy! We are so lucky in our proximity to the beach and it's wonderful Wallaroo Preschool takes advantage of this by offering all weather visits to the beach. Beach kindy has resulted in opportunities to explore, build resilience, expand awareness of weather conditions, improve community connections and overall it has fostered a sense of wonder at our natural environment."

"We love everything about Wallaroo Preschool - friendly, welcoming educators, a sense of belonging, beautiful nature play based learning opportunities, community connections through beach kindy and local walks, excursion to Bowman Park."

Relevant history screening

Qualified teachers, ancillary staff and any relievers will produce their Authority to teach alongside and supporting documentation prior to commencing work, including WWCC and RRHAN-EC.

Governing Councillors will also be required to complete the RRHAN for Volunteers.

Regular volunteers produce a WWCC prior to commencing any onsite work.

Contractors also must produce their WWCC prior to being on site for any departmental work.

Financial statement

Funding Source	Amount
Grants: State	\$567,394
Grants: Commonwealth	\$0
Parent Contributions	\$16,420
Other	\$4,836

2022 Preschool annual report: Improved outcomes funding

Improved outcomes category (where applicable to the site)	Briefly describe how the 2022 funding was used to improve the relevant department's standard of educational achievement outcomes (where applicable):*	Outcomes achieved or progress towards these outcomes:
Improved outcomes for numeracy and literacy	This funding contributed to employing additional educators to support children with developmental delay as well as opportunities for educator professional development outside of preschool hours. This specifically was around Phonological Awareness and Pedagogical Documentation.	Educators increased their knowledge and therefore increased intentionality around purposeful interactions with children. Educators were able to articulate their strategies and children all made significant progress towards learning and teaching outcomes.
Inclusive Education Support Program	<p>Additional educators were employed to work at the preschool to support children adjusting to preschool routines and needed support above our Intentional Teaching and Quality Differentiated Teaching Practices.</p> <p>Children were supported to verbalise their emotions with co-regulation strategies and targeted support with personalised visuals and Key Word Sign alongside verbal prompts and language.</p> <p>Educators at Wallaroo are extremely responsive to the individual needs and experiences of the children at the preschool and provided a calming, nurturing approach to supporting all children with varying developmental needs and abilities.</p>	Children increased regulation abilities and developed abilities to further communication skills. Children increased their responsiveness to educators and other children and furthered social capabilities. Utilising visual scheduling and ALS communication boards allowed children to develop awareness of routines and become involved in active preschool learning.
Improved outcomes for non-English speaking children who received bilingual support	There were no children receiving bilingual support at Wallaroo Preschool in 2022.	There were no children receiving bilingual support at Wallaroo Preschool in 2022.

* The department's standard of educational achievement is defined as children and young people progressing and achieving at or above their appropriate year level.