

Laura Preschool Centre

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Preschool Name Annual Report 2014



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

1. CONTEXT

Preschool Name: Laura Preschool Centre

Preschool Number: 6631

Preschool Director: June Cowin

Partnership: Upper Mid North

Throughout 2014 the preschool has operated two full days each week, Monday and Wednesday and three Fridays each term. Playgroup operates on Thursday. The centre is staffed by June Cowin, Director and Debbie Moore, an ECW. Helen Wurst visits each Monday in her role as school chaplain. Helen also delivers specialized programs when required.

2. REPORT FROM GOVERNING COUNCIL

2014 was a fantastic year for Laura Preschool, we saw major improvements to the outdoor play area and begun preparing the preschool site for the introduction of Rural Care.

Our Governing council committee were a dedicated bunch of mothers, being Kelly Burton, Kelly Zwar, Kate Boardbent and Tammie Duke, and were supported hugely by all the parents/guardians at Laura Preschool. They were a very supportive parent and governing council committee, that were always on board to help in any way that they could.

This level of dedication is why we saw huge improvements to Laura Preschool, and managed to have another successful year in fundraising. Once again we held a drinks stall at the Laura Folk Fair, this was a fundraising event that pushed everyone to their limits, just to get it organised. The weekend went well and was a great success for the Preschool. Although the drinks stall was our biggest fundraiser, governing council also held a cake stall and Christmas raffle along with toy catalogue sales.

Many ideas were thrown around as to what to do and where to start with developing the Preschool site, and it was decided to push through with the outdoor area. The outdoor play area was improved dramatically, this is mainly thanks to the dedicated work of June Cowin. We used Betty Fox to design the area and a very talented Fred Camerlengo, from Tandarnya Landscaping, to do the majority of the yard work, along with the great work of some handy mums and dads and their tools, they assisted where possible.

Although Laura Preschool initially decided not to submit application to host rural care at the site, the Education Department saw the site as perfect, and before we knew we were organising a working committee and making the necessary enquiries and changes to host rural care at the site. With a short timeline, the hard work of June, Mel Fudge and Kelly Burton saw things move along nicely with the anticipated start date, week 2 of term 1 2015 looking very possible.

We had a great little bunch leaving and heading off to school for 2015, and the governing council wishes them all the best for their future years. Governing Council would like to thank everyone for a very supportive and successful year, especially the great staff June Cowin, Director and Deb Moore, ECW.

Chairperson of Laura Preschool 2014

Kelly Burton

3. HIGHLIGHTS 2014

Our biggest highlight for the year was the planning and implementation of the outdoor area upgrade. We hoped to build on the research undertaken in 2013 and plan and implement the first stage of an upgrade, but parents and staff, working with designer Betty Fox and Tandarnya Landscaping achieved a huge overhaul of the outdoor area environment.

4. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice

Service Strengths

- Routine is organised so that children have extended time for play engagement
- Strong relationships with both parent and child are established and maintained through conversation and interaction
- Information on the program is available to families through newsletters, brochures, displays, face book and child portfolios

Standard 1.1	An approved learning framework informs the development of a curriculum that enhances each child's learning and development.
Issue	Staff are seeking to better understand the Early Years Learning Framework
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Learning Framework principles, practices and outcomes are evident in centre program and practice • All staff are able to articulate links between EYLF and children's learning and centre practices
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff attended training • Discussion on EYLF at site and joint staff meetings. • Professional reading • Visits to other sites to observe and learn how other educators plan and implement program using EYLF
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum activities, learning goals and learning stories linked to EYLF outcomes • Some learning stories with text describing EYLF outcomes, principles and practices were written
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff continue to develop skills and knowledge in this area

Standard 1.2	Educators and co-ordinators are focussed, active and reflective in designing and delivering the program for each child.
Issue	Currently we plan for individual children but we do not complete a cycle of planning for each child.
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve a cycle of planning for each child each term.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EYLF cycle of planning discussed and details added • Proformas developed • Information relevant to each child's learning collected and planning, implementation and review undertaken for each child • Critical reflection on above process.
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of a cycle of planning for each child each term.
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with critical reflection, reading and professional development

Quality Area 3: Physical Environment

Service Strengths

- We have a large natural outdoor space for children to play and explore.
- The indoor area was upgraded throughout 2013

Standard 3.2	The design and location of the premises is appropriate for the operation of a service
Issue	The outdoor area is in need of upgrade and improvement in design and maintenance. We do not take an active role in caring for the environment and contributing to a sustainable future.
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a design for outdoor area development that can be accomplished over time
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other centres visited & examples gathered of excellent outdoor areas • Planning meetings held • Betty Fox employed to draw up plans • Children's ideas gathered • Plan implemented by Tarndanya Landscaping supported by parent volunteers
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a fantastic new outdoor area that continues to grow, change and engage children in play.
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to maintain and enhance the outdoor learning environment. This includes the addition of a chook yard and orchard.

Standard 3.3	The service takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future
Issue	There is very little evidence that the preschool takes an active role in caring for the environment and contributing to a sustainable future.
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include sustainable practices in the outdoor planning
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researched sustainable practices through internet and reading • Information from community services such as OPAL was sought
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some sustainable practices (vegetable/herb garden) evident in outdoor area development plan • Some sustainable practices implemented throughout the year
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit other centres to view sustainable practice • Implement sustainable practices

5. INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Two children were assessed in relation to speech and articulation, programs recommended and implemented.

6. STUDENT DATA

6.1 Enrolments

Figure 1: Enrolments by Term

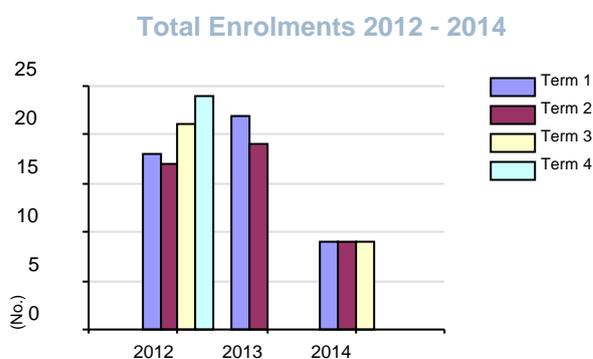


Table 1: Enrolments by Term

Enrolment by Term				
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2012	18	17	21	24
2013	22	19		
2014	9	9	9	

Based on person counts in the two week reference period each term.

Excludes pre-entry.

Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems

6.2 Attendance

Figure 2: Attendance by Term

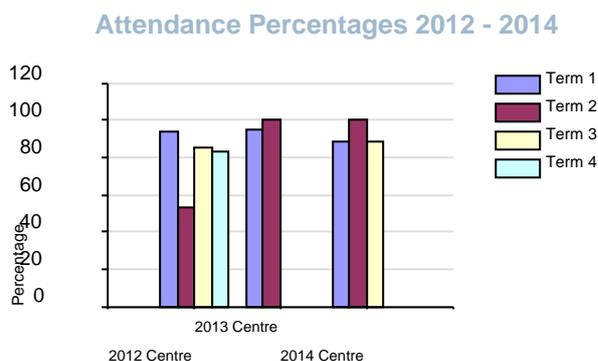


Table 2: Attendance Percentages 2012 - 2014

Attendance Percentage				
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2012 Centre	94.4	52.9	85.7	83.3
2013 Centre	95.5	100.0		
2014 Centre	88.9	100.0	88.9	
2012 State	87.4	85.9	84.5	85.5
2013 State	88.7	88.0		
2014 State	89.9	88.8	85.9	

Based on attendances recorded in the two week reference period each term, and calculated to an average unadjusted daily attendance (deemed attendance). Attendance percentages are based on the calculated deemed attendance (integer), divided by the number of enrolments. Excludes pre-entry Note: Figures have been revised for previous years, using integer deemed attendance not decimal.

Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems

6.3 Feeder School Percentage Data

Table 3: Feeder School Percentage Data 2012 - 2014

Feeder Schools				
Site number - Name	Type	2012	2013	2014
0220 - Laura Primary School	Govt.	93.3	92.3	90.0
0487 - Wirrabara Primary School	Govt.	6.7	7.7	10.0
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0

Based on the percent of children currently enrolled who will attend school in the following year, where the expected school is known.

Due to rounding totals may not add up to 100%.

Source: Term 3 Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems

7. CLIENT OPINION

Category	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Parent Comments
Educational Program and Practice				50%	50%	
Children's Health and Safety				33.3%	66.6%	
The Physical Environment			30%	30%	40%	I think an internal upgrade should be on future budget plans – rural care may speed this up. More children's work on display too
Staffing Arrangements				50%	50%	Have been very happy with both permanent staff members. Both know my child and her needs very well.
Relationships with Children				33.3%	66.6%	
Collaborative Partnerships with families and Communities				66.6%	33.3%	
Leadership and Service Management.				60%	40%	

8. ACCOUNTABILITY

An excel site data base details criminal history screenings and expiry dates. Laura Preschool was audited in 17/9/14 and follow up actions from their report were carried out.

9. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Funding Source	Amount
1	Grants: State	
2	Grants: Commonwealth	
3	Parent Contributions	
4	Other	