

## 2024 annual report to the Community

# Mary Bywaters Memorial Kindergarten

Mary Bywaters Memorial Kindergarten number:  
3649

Partnership: Panalatinga



Preschool director:

Peta Wheatcroft

Date of endorsement:

20/06/2025



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education

# Context Statement

Information about Mary Bywaters Memorial Kindergarten is available on the centres website, as well as the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website.

## Governing Council Report

Directors report AGM 2025

I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on the year that has been—to share some of the wonderful achievements of 2024, the growth we've witnessed in the children, and the adventures they've had along the way.

2024 has been a year of reflection for myself, for our team, and most importantly, for our practice. We've continued to focus on the educational outcomes for your children and how we can best support their growth and learning journeys. Our wonderful Chairperson, Courtney, has already given a detailed account of the year's events, so I won't double up on those aspects.

The children of 2024 have been deeply engaged. They have wondered, explored, questioned, discussed, made new friends, and developed their confidence and self-help skills. They embraced challenges with enthusiasm and gusto. We've seen their skill sets grow and evolve—especially among our mid-year enrolments, whose engagement with literacy and numeracy has continued to flourish.

Tonight, I thought I'd spend a few moments talking more specifically about what we mean when we talk about **literacy** and **numeracy** in early childhood education.

**Literacy** in our context is broad and all-encompassing. It includes music, singing, dance, and dramatic play. It involves exploring sounds—syllables, rhymes, initial and final sounds—along with letter recognition, illustrations, drawings, and understanding text. We explore the nuances of text too: question marks (?), exclamation marks (!), large and small print, and how these all contribute to meaning. It's about creating a world where children understand that literacy surrounds them.

**Numeracy**, similarly, is more than just counting. It's about height, length, weight, size, volume, mass, rhythm, syllables (see the crossover with literacy?), estimation, patterns, shapes, and so much more. Our children already understand cyclic patterns: "I go to Grandma's on Monday," or "two more sleeps until kindy." They are developing an understanding of how their days and weeks are structured and connected, which lays the groundwork for more formal numerical thinking.

We support this development by encouraging the children to plan, design, create books, and tell the stories behind their artwork. We ask: *What is your picture telling me? What am I looking at? Tell me the story. I'm listening.* These moments are rich in learning.

Of course, kindergarten is so much more than just academics. The social development and growth we witness throughout the year never cease to amaze us. It's especially encouraging to hear from families who tell us that their child is thriving at school and to know we've played a part in building their confidence.

### Looking Ahead to 2025

As some of you may already know, this year marks our next **assessment and rating** cycle. The last time our site underwent this process was in 2016. We've completed the pre-assessment documentation and addressed all compliance areas. Our next round of documents is due by **3rd March 2025**, and we anticipate an on-site visit from an assessor within the next few months. During that visit, I'll be discussing our QIP (Quality Improvement Plan), our policies and procedures, and ensuring we're doing what we say we do.

Alongside this, we have some exciting developments in the works. Our **mindfulness area**, including the new firepit, is set to be completed over the Term 1 holidays. We'll need your support to make this happen. A **working bee** is being planned for a Saturday to help tidy up, address eroded areas, and make the site safer.

Our **connection to Koorina culture** continues to grow. Our RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) is nearly ready for submission. We teach the children through Koorina song and storytelling, incorporating simple phrases and animal names. You might have heard your child refer to themselves as part of the *Kurraka wadli*—the magpie kids in the magpie house. Language, after all, is a powerful tool for building literacy and a deeper cultural understanding.

## Your Involvement Matters

We truly value and rely on your input. Our **planning floor books** are always available for families to contribute to. Your ideas are discussed and reflected on because we don't pretend to have all the answers. You know your children, your culture, and your families best. We are here to support you—and learn from you.

The **Governing Council** remains an essential way for families to work alongside us. I've been guided more than once to better decisions through the wisdom and input of council members. It's a privilege to share the responsibilities—and sometimes the burdens—that come with leadership.

Unfortunately, **volunteer opportunities** have once again been limited due to department policies. While we used to welcome family members and volunteers for one-off activities, we now require all volunteers to hold a **Working With Children Check**. The process is simple, and a link will be sent out via email. Still, it's a change that makes community building more challenging.

And community building is truly what we're about.

We aim to support your child in understanding their place in the world—starting here at kindy and expanding into the wider community. We hope this space feels safe, welcoming, and inclusive to you. A place where families, just like children, can build connections, feel supported, and know they have a voice.

Thank you all for being part of our community.

From the Chairperson,

What an amazing year we have had at Mary Bywaters Memorial Kindergarten, upon reflection so much has been achieved!

The children are incredibly lucky to be immersed in such a wide range of experiences. Over the course of 2024 children have had visitors from a bearded dragon, Police horses, viewing chicks hatch from eggs and watch grow, a BIG truck for the children to explore, a grandfather with a prosthetic leg and Adrian and his drums! So many moments for children to learn about the big wide world and develop their inquisitiveness and curiosity!

Many improvements have been made to Mary Bywaters over the year which have led to wonderful learning experiences; such as our car park was redone which provided an opportunity for a wheels day for the children to enjoy!

The platform was made and with that the bonfire area, children learning about fire safety while also enjoying marshmallows! Families also enjoyed a sausage sizzle while children could show their families around the Kindy.

A new fridge was delivered and children were very inquisitive about what was or could be inside the box! Such imagination!

We enjoyed the veggie garden in the car Park also being able to pick and taste the produce and cook it into some delicious snacks!

The end of term 1 was celebrated with a tea party, children helped to prepare many delicious treats and tea and show their special people the kindy and their friends.

Unfortunately, we had Hannah leave in term 3 who was missed and welcomed Paige to the team and the children and families welcomed her cheerfulness and kindness.

The children explored their local community, going on 3 community walks, to the local over, the local shops and to the miniature train shed. They were also part of Amanda Rishworth's art show "Our place in the Community" which was showcased at the Port Noarlunga Art Centre.

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to Peta, Monica, Hannah, Paige and all the other educators who given our children such a nurturing, welcoming, warm and encouraging environment to spend their Kindy year, filled with fun, wonderings, explorations and discovery and most of all love. I am forever grateful to Mary Bywaters Kindy for helping all the children grow into little learners and prepare them for the next big adventure of School!

Courtney Edwards     Chairperson

# Preschool Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2021 centre	92.5%	89.5%	95.3%	91%
2022 centre	87.6%	86.1%	75%	81.2%
2023 centre	94.5%	76.4%	87.7%	69.1%
2024 centre	98.3%		82.3%	

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. Data Source: Department for Education Attendance Data, Semester 1 Report 2024. A blank cell indicates there we no students enrolled.

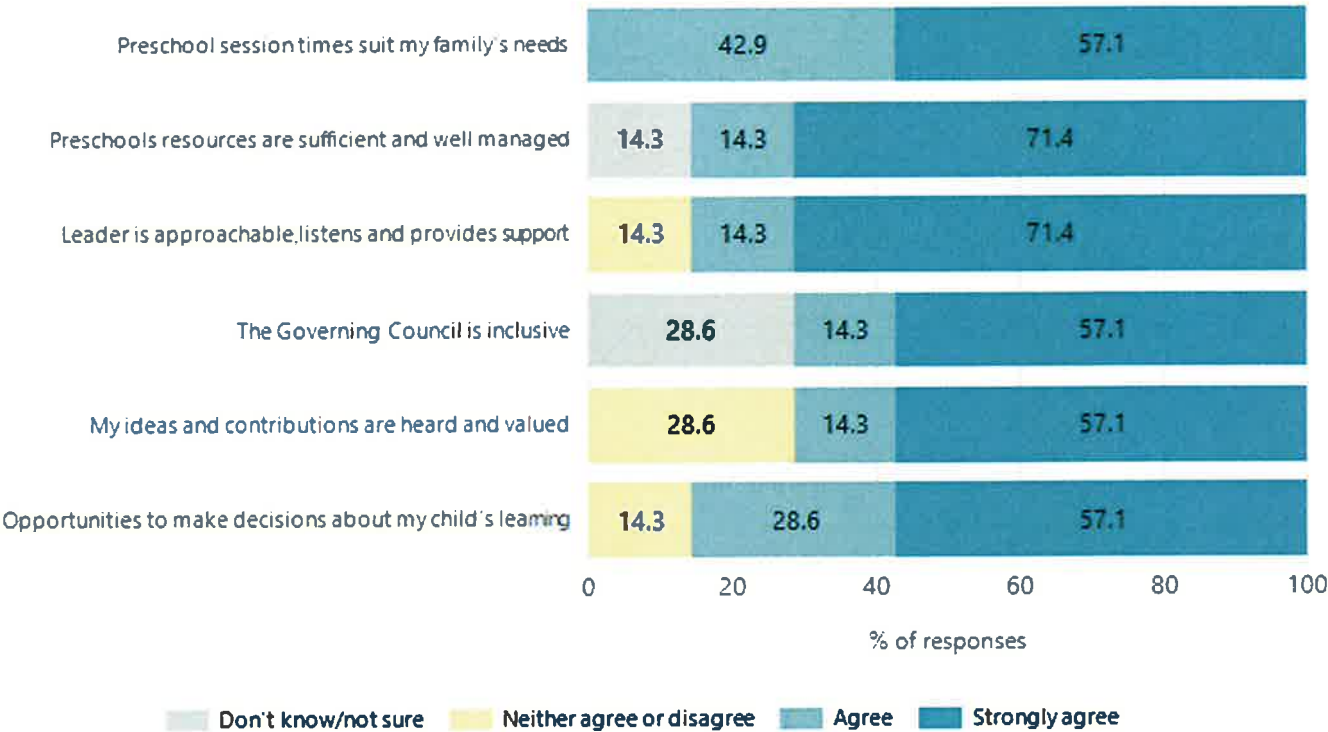
# Attendance Comment

Our families support their children in regular attendance. We have enjoyed a consistent attendance throughout the year.

In South Australia, preschool attendance is not compulsory, but it is strongly encouraged. Preschool gives children the best opportunity to develop skills, which prepare them for school. These benefits include establishing positive routines and habits, friendships and connections as well as developing communication, problem-solving and creative skills. All children are entitled to access a preschool program over 4 terms the year before they start school.

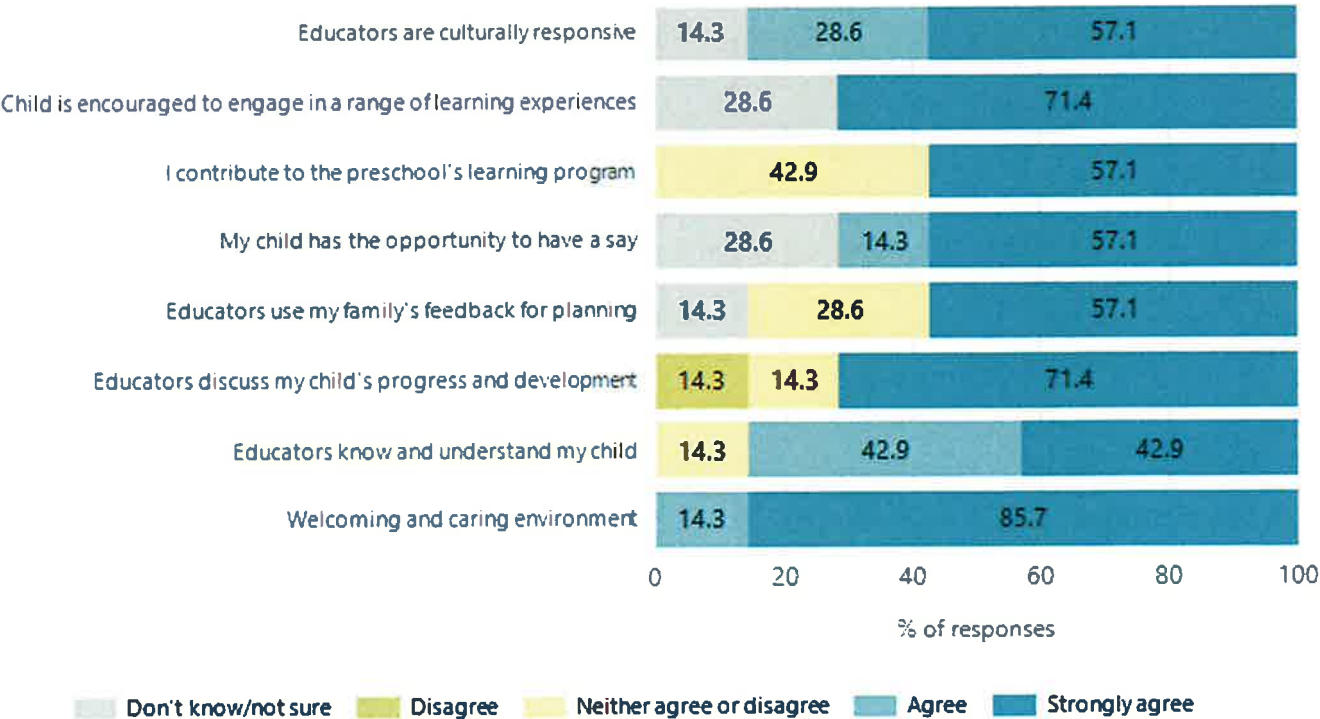
# Preschool Family Opinion Survey

## Governance, Leadership and Management



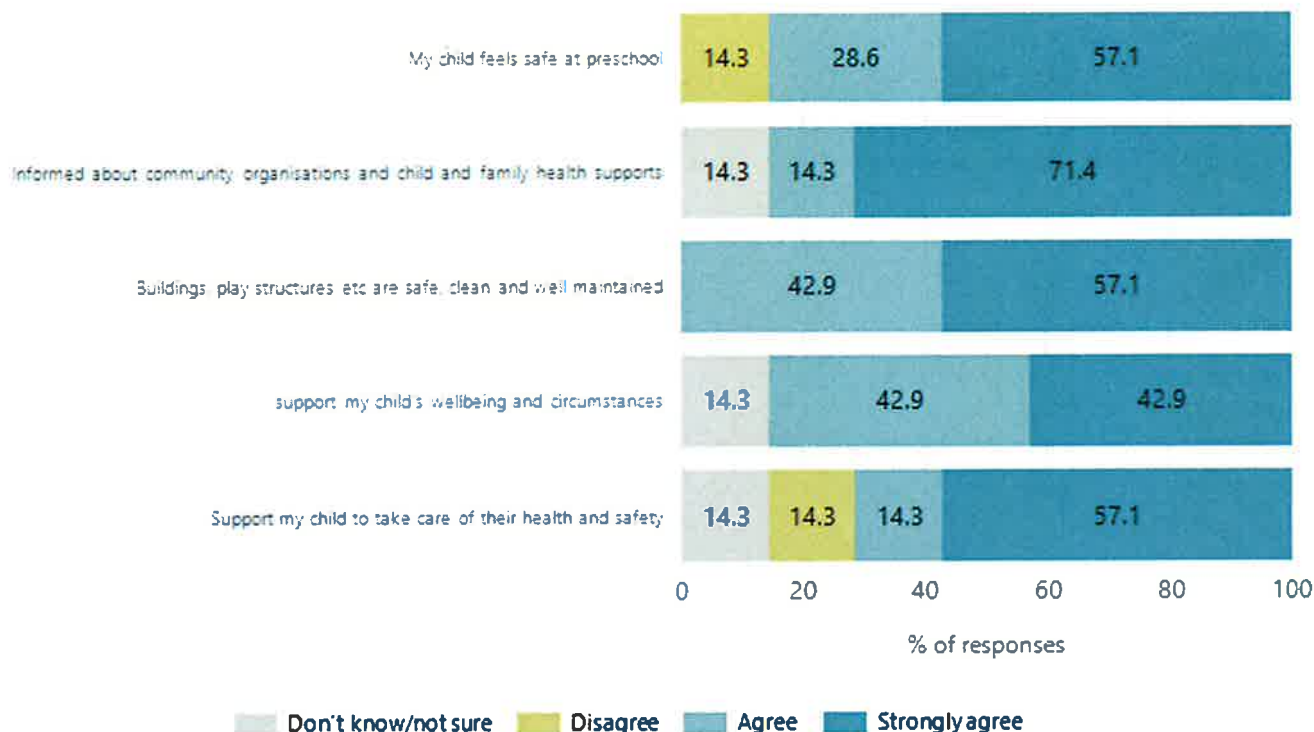
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

## Quality of Teaching and Learning



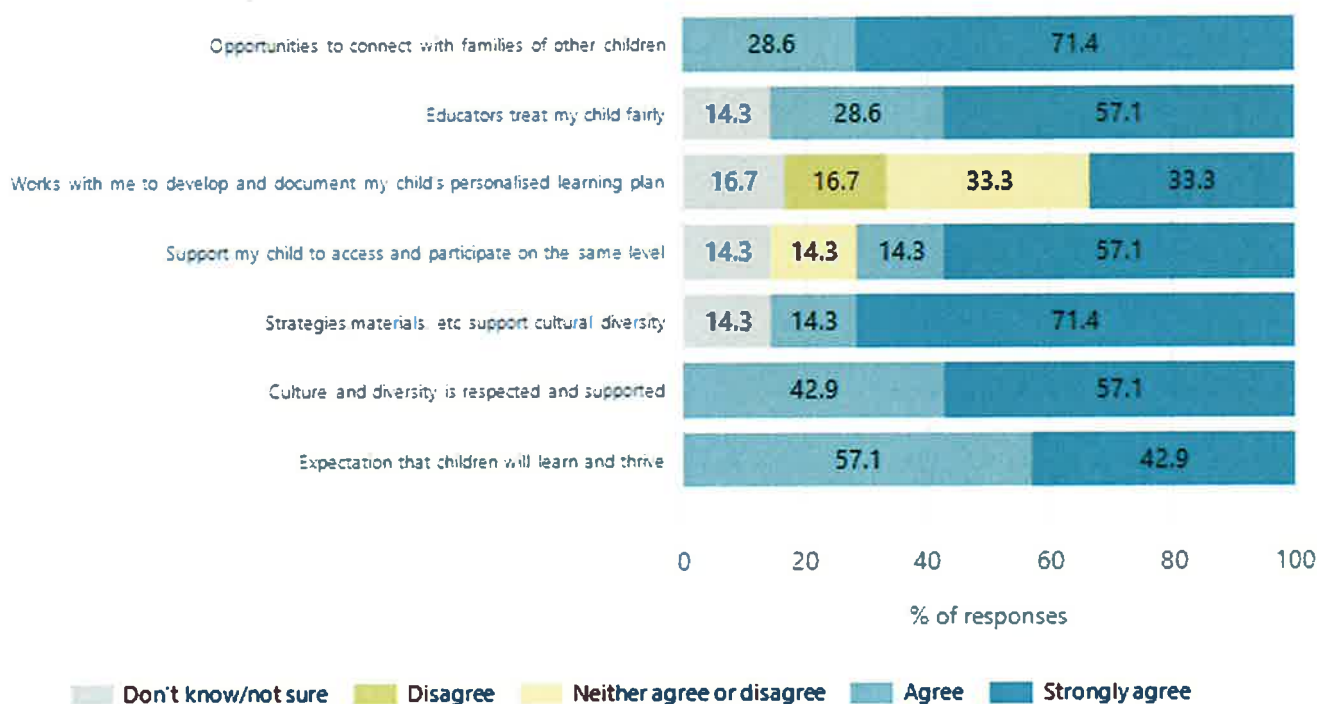
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

## Safety, Health and Wellbeing



Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

## Support and Inclusion



Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

## Destination Schools

Feeder Schools (Site number - Name)	2022	2023	2024
0379 - Reynella Primary School	33.3%	37.0%	32.4%
1056 - Woodend Primary School	5.6%		
1059 - Pimpala Primary School		3.7%	
1163 - Braeview School			8.8%
1537 - Sheidow Park Primary School		3.7%	
1907 - Reynella East College	5.6%		
8390 - Prescott College Southern	27.8%	7.4%	14.7%
9074 - Stella Maris Parish School			5.9%
9124 - Antonio Catholic School	5.6%		
9755 - Emmaus Catholic School	5.6%	14.8%	11.8%
9999 - Unknown	16.7%	33.3%	20.6%

Note: The data is collected in term 3. It does not reflect actual schools enrolled in by existing preschool children. A blank cell indicates there was no data for students enrolled.

Data Source: Department for Education Destination Data Report, 2024.

## Highest Qualifications held by the teaching workforce and workforce composition

All teachers at this school are qualified and registered with the SA Teachers Registration Board.

Qualification Level	Number of Qualifications
Bachelor's degrees or Diplomas	2
Postgraduate Qualifications	

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collections as on the last pay date of June 2024. As self-reported by staff in the system.

Please note: Data includes staff who are Actively employed and on extended paid leave. Please note only the highest qualification of the Teaching staff is reported. Excludes any number of other certifications earned.

### Workforce composition including Indigenous staff

	Teaching Staff		Non-Teaching Staff	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Full-Time Equivalents	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Persons	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.0

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collection as on the last pay date of June 2024.

Please note: Data includes staff who are actively employed and on extended paid leave. "Indigenous category" is self-reported by staff in the system.

## Financial Statement

Funding Source	Amount
Grants: State	\$281742.49
Grants: Commonwealth	
Parent Contributions	\$17050.00
Fund Raising	\$1719.49
Other	

Data Source: School supplied data.