



2024 annual report to the Community

Sturt Street Children's Centre

Sturt Street Children's Centre number: 4161

Partnership: Adelaide - Prospect



Preschool director:

Alison Wells

Alison Wells

Date of endorsement:

14/03/2025



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Context Statement

Information about Sturt Street Children's Centre is available on the centres website, as well as the Australian Childrens Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website.

Governing Council Report

As this marks my final year as Governing Council Chair, I reflect with great pride on my years of involvement with the school. My youngest daughter graduated to secondary school this year, along with a large cohort of Year 6 students, making this an especially significant transition for me personally.

I am delighted to present the annual report on behalf of the Governing Council of Sturt Street Community School and Children's Centre.

Serving as the Chair of this school body comprised of parents, community members, teachers, and staff, it is with great pride that I share our accomplishments and challenges.

Throughout the year, the Governing Council convened at least twice per term, as stipulated by the Department for Education, underscoring our commitment to effective governance of the birth to Year 6 site.

Managing the administrative and financial intricacies of our unique site necessitates a comprehensive understanding of the purpose and integration of the Sturt Street model, which delivers high-quality education, care, and services to children from birth to Year 6.

Operating as an employer for over 30 staff members in the Early Learning Centre (ELC) and Out of School Hours Care (OSHC), the Governing Council has played a pivotal role in navigating the challenges post-Covid. Enrolment fluctuations, influenced by global and local movements of families, as well as relocations from the CBD, have presented subsequent staffing challenges.

In 2024, there were significant staffing changes in the Children's Centre from the beginning to the end of the year. The preschool started with three new contract preschool teachers as Prue was seconded to a co-Director role at another preschool, and they were replaced with two part-time teachers. At the end of the year, we had two educators retire, and the Assistant Director stepped down from her role to take on a two-day-per-week educator position. It is most pleasing and exciting to see more stability in staffing for 2025 and the opportunities for new teams to develop.

We continue to receive preschool enrolments from within our catchment area and nearby suburbs. The enrolment pressure on preschool is largely due to being a Children's Centre where families choose the site because of the extended hour care that is offered—before and after preschool care and child care—as well as the seamless transition for their children from birth to Year 6. Unfortunately, this year, we had to advocate for some families who were initially denied a preschool place as they were considered 'out of catchment,' despite their children accessing child care and having siblings at the school who had attended both child care and preschool. Fortunately, the original decision was overturned, and places were provided to these long-term Sturt Street families.

The focus for the Quality Improvement Plans (QIP's) for both the ELC and Preschool was literacy, as this is a vulnerability identified in the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data. Given that we have many international families who are bilingual, it is no surprise that providing literacy-rich environments and intentional teaching plans is essential to ensuring children have many opportunities to engage with speech and language activities. The data collected over the year showed positive growth in this area.

One of the most exciting developments this year was the arrival of 20 international students, further enriching our diverse school community. With students joining from various backgrounds, this influx has fostered a global perspective among our learners, strengthening the school's multicultural identity.

Our school community has remained actively engaged in a range of successful events and activities throughout the year, including Sports Day, various excursions, Swimming and Aquatic Lessons, Bicycle Education, and Camps for Years 5 and 6. A highlight of the year was the end-of-year Christmas Choir Concert, which brought families together in a wonderful celebration of student talent and community spirit.

2024 also marked the third and final year of our School Site Learning Plan (2021–2024), which maintained a strong focus on Mathematics (Number) and Literacy (Reading). Teachers continued to collaborate through Professional Learning Communities, engaging in peer observations and providing critical feedback to refine their teaching practices. In the area of wellbeing, staff implemented an agreed Berry Street trauma-informed practice strategy, ensuring a supportive and inclusive environment for all students and educators.

Our students continue to achieve excellent academic results, with a small cohort undertaking NAPLAN testing in Years 3 and 5 and achieving very good outcomes. Across the school, overall academic performance remains strong, reflecting the dedication of our teachers and the commitment of our students.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the 2024 Governing Council Members for their commitment and contributions to Sturt Street. As I step down as Chair, I have full confidence that the incoming Council will continue to support the leadership, staff, parents, and broader community in fostering the unique and special learning environment at our school.

Thank you for the privilege of serving this wonderful community. I look forward to seeing Sturt Street Community School and Children’s Centre continue to flourish in the years ahead.
Shannon Carlaw
Chairperson

Preschool Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2021 centre	94.7%	78.8%	99.2%	80.3%
2022 centre	84.1%	66.1%	74.1%	70.8%
2023 centre	83.1%	84.7%	86.9%	91.1%
2024 centre	76%		85.4%	

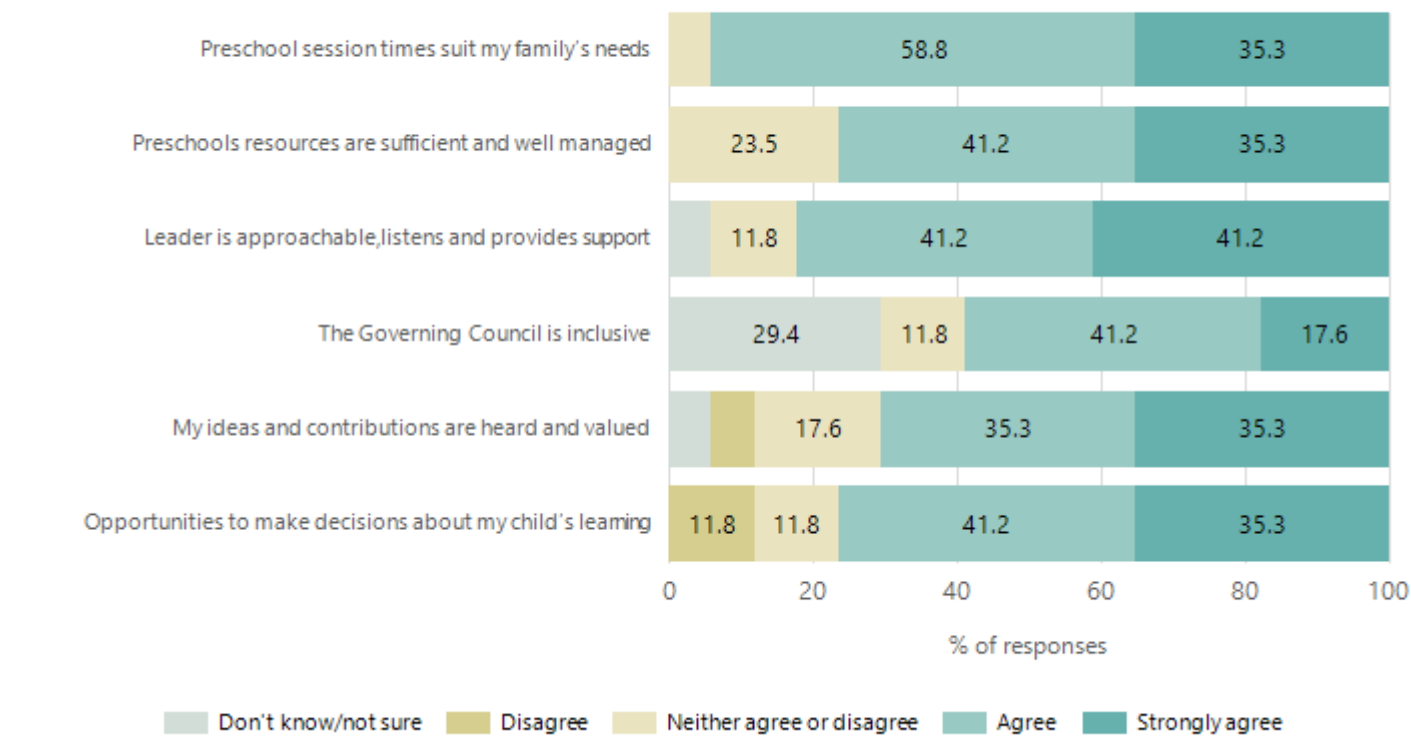
Based on attendances recorded in the two-week reference period each term. Data for eligible enrolments as described in the department's Enrolment policy. Attendance rates may differ to previous reporting with the transfer from calculations based on deemed attendance to actual attendance using booked 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

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.

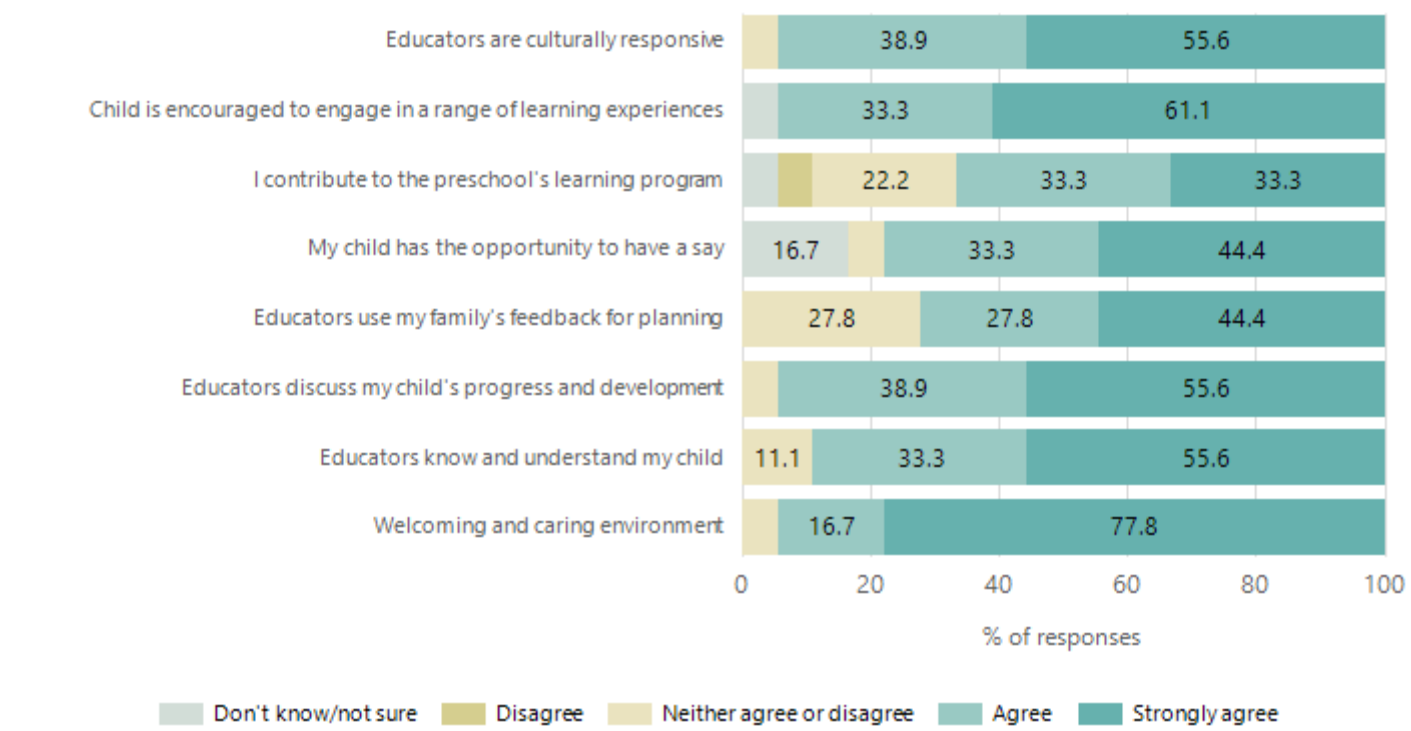
Preschool Family Opinion Survey

Governance, Leadership and Management



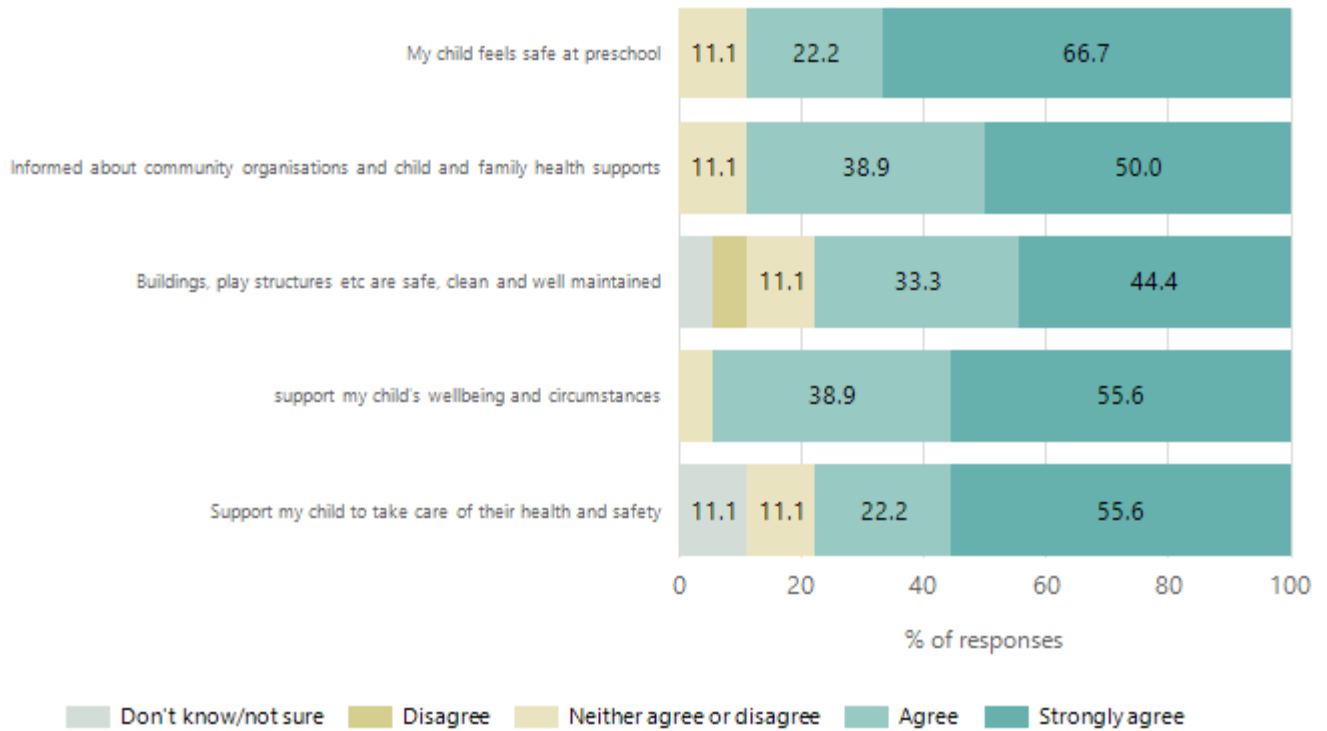
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

Quality of Teaching and Learning



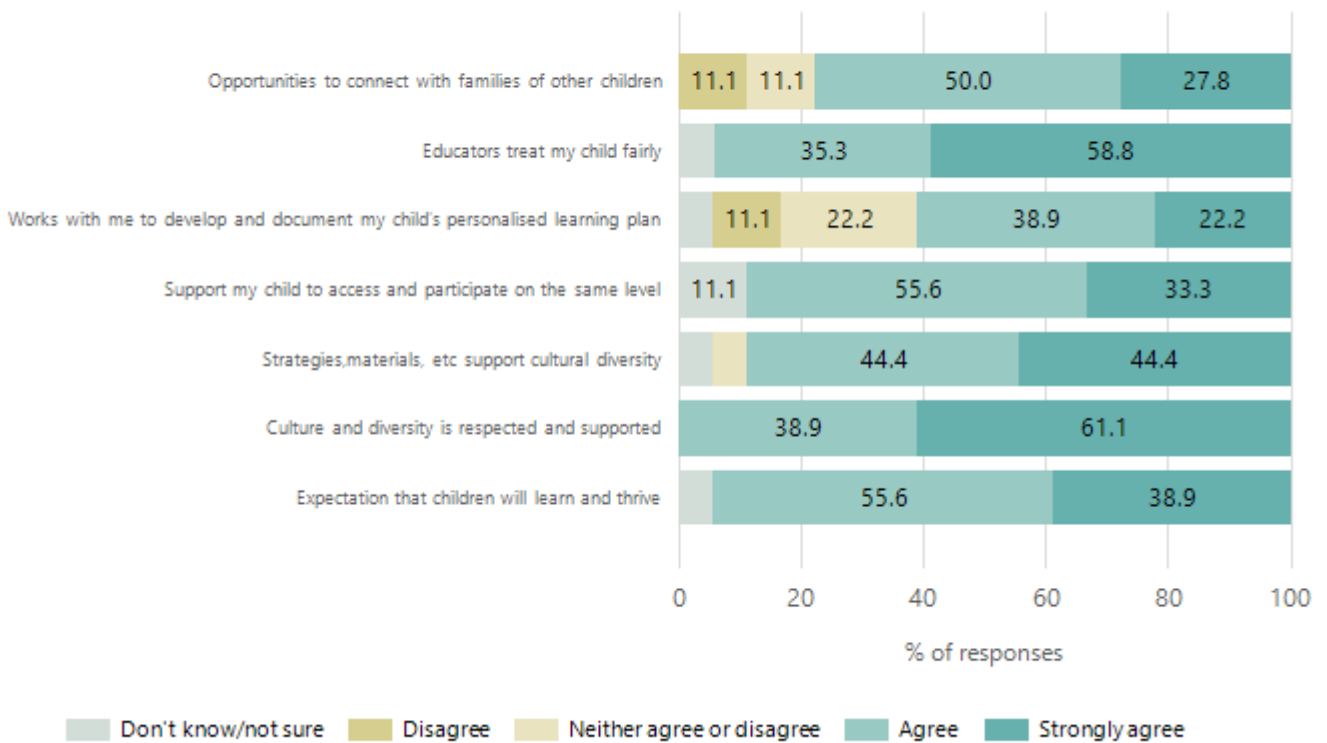
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

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
0120 - Gilles Street Primary School	10.3%	11.9%	6.5%
0699 - Burnside Primary School	3.5%		
1213 - Magill School	3.5%		
1881 - Sturt Street Community School	62.1%	64.3%	50.0%
9999 - Unknown	20.7%	9.5%	37.1%

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	2

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	3.1	0.0	2.0
Persons	0.0	4.0	0.0	2.0

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	nil
Grants: Commonwealth	\$807,598.07
Parent Contributions	\$496,389.64
Fund Raising	nil
Other – paid parenting leave	\$15646.00

Data Source: School supplied data.