



2023 annual report to the  
Community

# Balharry Memorial Kindergarten

Balharry Memorial Kindergarten number: 6502

Partnership: Wrattenbully



Preschool director:

Sile Legoe

Signature

Date of endorsement:

16/02/2024



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education

# Context Statement

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

## Preschool Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2020 centre	90%		85.7%	82.9%
2021 centre	86.7%	84.3%	90.4%	89.3%
2022 centre	91.4%	80.7%	86.8%	87.1%
2023 centre	75.5%	75.8%	89.5%	90%
2020 state	89.1%		84.6%	85.8%
2021 state	87.3%	85.3%	87.1%	84.5%
2022 state	83.6%	77.6%	77.9%	77.8%
2023 state	85.4%	82.9%	83.4%	81.4%

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 2023. A blank cell indicates there were no students enrolled.

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

## 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.

## Destination Schools

Feeder Schools (Site number - Name)	2021	2022	2023
0749 - Lucindale Area School	92.3%	85.7%	81.0%
9999 - Unknown	7.7%	14.3%	19.1%

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, 2023.

# 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	1

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collections as on the last pay date of June 2023. 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	2.6	0.0	3.9
Persons	0.0	3.0	0.0	8.0

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collection as on the last pay date of June 2023.

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	\$0
Grants: Commonwealth	\$0
Parent Contributions	\$7650
Fund Raising	\$23695
Other	\$28800

Data Source: School supplied data.

# **GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING**

## **Director's Report AGM 12/02/2023**



2023 was a busy year at Balharry with lots of changes and some great progress. Our cohort of 21 children at kindergarten had a wonderful year together. The children were very lucky to have two excellent educators, Georgia Turland and Catherine Flint, working during the week. Each of the girls being passionate educators, provided high quality experiences for all of our kindergarten children. I was very grateful for their support, friendship and professionalism throughout the year.

Rural care saw a two-worker program run over the five days of Rural Care. This enabled us to support more families seeking care throughout the week. We started the year with April Bretag, Mardi Harrold, Micaela Lock, Casey Weaver, Tegan Fergusson, Cindy Klun, Andrea Werchiwski, Maggie Armfield and Ashleigh White. There were a few staff changes throughout the year with Cindy Klun finding full time work at Kingston and Micaela Lock going on maternity leave towards the end of the year. Tegan Fergusson backfilled Cindy's contract and I was very grateful for multiple staff members increasing their contracts towards the end of the year to backfill Micaela.

Finding relief staff throughout the year was difficult with limited qualified early childhood workers in the area. Our staff team was very well supported by Michele Oliver at Kindy and Rural Care and by Kristen Will who was a great support for the first half of the year before getting a contract at a childcare centre in Bordertown. Having regular relief staff allowed us to keep our programs consistent throughout the week, which was a great support to the children and of course staff.

Following Professional Development conversations with staff it became clear that all Rural Care staff sought increased ways to be involved in the planning process at Balharry. We explored our understanding of inclusion and worked as a team to explore our current understanding of the EYLF planning cycle and used this to decide which areas of planning and programming we needed to explore more deeply. With the high demands upon our Early Childcare Workers we also explored what parts of our work were essential for supporting children's learning and development, and which parts were superfluous. Rural Care Staff moved away from using learning profile books for children, replacing them with shared individual goals for every child which were communicated to parents as Next Steps. Sharing Next Steps also provided an additional opportunity for parents to provide feedback or ask questions regarding their child's progress and our learning programs.

As a staff we explored the way in which we were setting up learning experiences. Catering for birth to 5 years meant we wanted all experiences to be accessible for all learners whilst also providing challenge for all of our children. Kindy Staff completed some training with Lisa Burman around symbolic play, which was shared with all staff. We explored different ways to include symbolic play in each of our environments, aiming to stretch children's ability to imagine and create during play.

Kindergarten families were invited to attend interviews in Terms 1 and 3, which were very well attended by families. This was a really positive way to share Children's learning, ask questions, discuss any concerns and provide feedback regarding our program. We had some special events throughout the year where families were invited to come and join us at Kindy including a Special Person's Day, a combined get together at the local playground and of course our end of year celebration.

2023 saw the introduction of Mid-Year entry being offered to Kindergarten children turning 4 before the 31<sup>st</sup> October. We had two children join our kindy group at the start of Term 3. These children will complete their kindergarten at the end of Term 2 2024 enabling them to have increased time in the reception classroom at school.

We did a considerable amount of fundraising throughout this year to secure the funds to upgrade our playground. Fundraising included volunteering at the Field Days, a wood chop, sponsorship donations, motorbike raffle, quiz night, goods and services auction, grant applications and the hot dog stand at the Lucindale Street party. This work was driven by our very hardworking Governing council.

I was extremely grateful for the support given to this project and blown away by everybody's work ethic and can-do attitude. We will see the completion of this project in April 2024. A huge thank you to Jason (Jrn), Jamie, Trudy, Emily, Stew, Rachel, Amanda, Zoe and Micaela, I really enjoyed working with you all this year.

In October we saw the highly anticipated beginning of our Building works. McMahon won the contract for these works and quickly set about preparing the Centre. Staff were incredibly flexible and adaptable in their ideas to create the best possible learning environment in a considerably limited space. The building team have continued to be very approachable and supportive to our needs and issues that have arisen. The children have had the opportunity to see the building process in action which has provided some excellent learning opportunities. Also Will Carr, the site manager, came in to the site to visit our children and answer any building questions they could think of. While this has been a disruption to our service, the optimism and practical ideas of staff has supported all children to be able to learn and enjoy experiences amongst these surrounding.

Towards the end of this year I was lucky enough to win the contract to continue in my role as director for the next 5 years. This was wonderful news allowing me to start thinking about what next. Our Pupil Free day towards the end of 2023 saw our staff come together to explore where we want to go next year. We are now beginning our journey to deepen our understanding of children's agency, learning through inquiry and continuing to strengthen our partnerships with families.

We are really looking forward to the completion of the building works this year and exploring the opportunities our new space will provide. We also look forward to completing our outdoor space which will make our centre a really beautiful place to play, learn, grow and have fun.