

2024 annual report to the Community

Elliston Children's Centre

Elliston Children's Centre number: 6616

Partnership: Central Eyre 1



Preschool director:

Annette Williams

Signature

Date of endorsement:

09/04/2025



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Context Statement

Elliston RSL Memorial Children's Centre is determined by the approved provider as a category 1 Centre with ratios of 1:10 and a capacity for 15 children. It is a part-time preschool service and remote in location. Elliston is a small coastal town nearly 700kms from Adelaide on the west coast of Eyre Peninsula. It is 169kms from Pt Lincoln and 127kms from Streaky Bay. The District Council of Elliston includes the towns of Elliston, Lock, Pt Kenny, Venus Bay and Sheringa. Main industries are farming, fishing and tourism. Elliston has an area school, a hospital, post office, police station, a visitor centre and a service station plus various accommodation businesses. During 2021, 2022, and 2023 we have been situated in a revamped school classroom on the Elliston Area School site while a new preschool building has been in the planning and construction stage, ready for use Week 1, Term 1, 2025. The population of Elliston is about 400 and relatively stable. Since the COVID-19 pandemic there have been several houses and land blocks sold to people from out of state. This has assisted the enrolments at the Centre. The Elliston RSL Memorial Children's Centre services the needs of families with preschool children who live in the coastal section of the District Council of Elliston. The area includes communities at Bramfield, Mt Wedge, Sheringa and Colton and the surrounding farms. Children from outlying areas travel in by bus. The average number of children enrolled for the preschool into the future remain about the same, that is, between five - ten children. 600 hours of preschool for each child is accessed across a 12-month period, depending on whether the child starts at the beginning of the calendar year or mid-year, being weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays – 8.45am to 3.15pm. Thirteen Monday sessions are allocated throughout the 4 terms to ensure the 600 hours are made available to each child. Once these dates are determined, they are provided to the parents in advance (more than 14-days' notice). Elliston Explorers is an embedded nature based program. With small numbers, this program is instrumental in creating and defining a collaborative and problem solving ethos for the group. A Supported Program developed by the current Director, called AP Kids is also an important component of the Centre. This program is extremely successful in supporting the community and the families, where 3 year olds are able to attend every Tuesday and Thursday from 8.45am – 12.00pm. 3.5 year olds attend all day on Tuesday and Thursday. Monday sessions focus on the preschool children. Staffed with a Director/Teacher and an Early Childhood Worker (ECW). The centre operates during DfE term school dates (South Australia). Elliston Children's Centre has an allocation of pupil free days annually which are notified to the Education Standards Board in advance and dates are provided to the parents in advance (more than 14-days' notice). Parent volunteers who have a representative on Governing Council support the playgroup, which is offered on a Friday from 9am till 11 am. Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) is only available over the internet or phone, which means the Centre is paramount to the wellbeing of families. Family Day Care is very limited within the town and surrounding areas. Transition takes place throughout the year, with visits in week 3, 6 and 9 between the R/1 class and the kindy. In Term 4 kindy children attend school for increasing lengths of time for four weeks, working up to a full day in Week 6.

Governing Council Report

4 March 2025

Last year was a significant one for the Elliston kindy and the Parent Committee. Annie was appointed director again for year and was to undertake more study to fulfill the role requirements for the Director position. However, term 4 saw us bidding her farewell as she chose to step back from the Director role for family reasons. The Parent Committee would like to thank Annie for her huge contribution at the Elliston RSL Children's Centre, its relocation to the school, the new Kindy space and all the time and love she has put into it. We would like to warmly welcome Kirsty to the Director role this year. We are excited to draw on her experience and knowledge to assist our children learn and transition to school. We had the completion of the new kindy building at the end of the year. The parents and children were very excited to watch this space transform. We look forward to the completion of the outside play area; including the green slide relocation and remembrance areas. Our only fundraising for the year was the catering of bus tours at the Hall. In total we had five bus tours, raising significant funds for the kindy. We chose to give one catering job to the Information Centre as we had limited

parents available on the day. Sam Agars, at the Information Centre, has been very easy to work with and is willing to assist us where needed. Catering had its challenges including: accessing a large, affordable supply of fresh produce on the correct day, catering two tours in the same week, a small workforce to draw on, finding families available to help due to work/family commitments and significant pressure and extra time requirements on the person organising each catering job. Our menu predominantly consisted of carved ham and roast chicken with three homemade salads, cake and slice. Homemade soup with dinner rolls was also a hit. The feedback was always positive and home cooking was valued. On the occasions when children attended with parents, they were well received by the guests who loved to interact and hear about the kindy. If catering continues at the Hall, children’s art work or photos of activities would be engaging for the tours. Often these people donated to the kindy and a personal touch would be valued. Due to the time required for the catering and issues with staffing, it was voiced by parents that possibly in 2025 another option for fundraising could be looked at. This was briefly discussed at the last meeting, to be addressed again in the new year.

This was the first-year children have taken up the midyear intake option for kindy. Those families involved continue to be curious about how the mid-year transition to school looks and look forward to them transitioning in term three. This year we look forward to everyone enjoying their new learning environment and play space, watching the children flourish under Kirsty and the official opening of the Kindy. I would like to thank everyone for supporting me in my role as Chairperson. This year I will be making the step to School Governing Council, as all my children will be school age and leave open the position for 2025.

Kind regards

Helen Sommerville

Chairperson, Elliston Kindy Parent Committee.

Preschool Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2021 centre		78.4%	84%	84%
2022 centre	100%	75%	43.8%	66.7%
2023 centre	89.6%	56.9%	87.5%	93.8%
2024 centre	87.5%		73.6%	

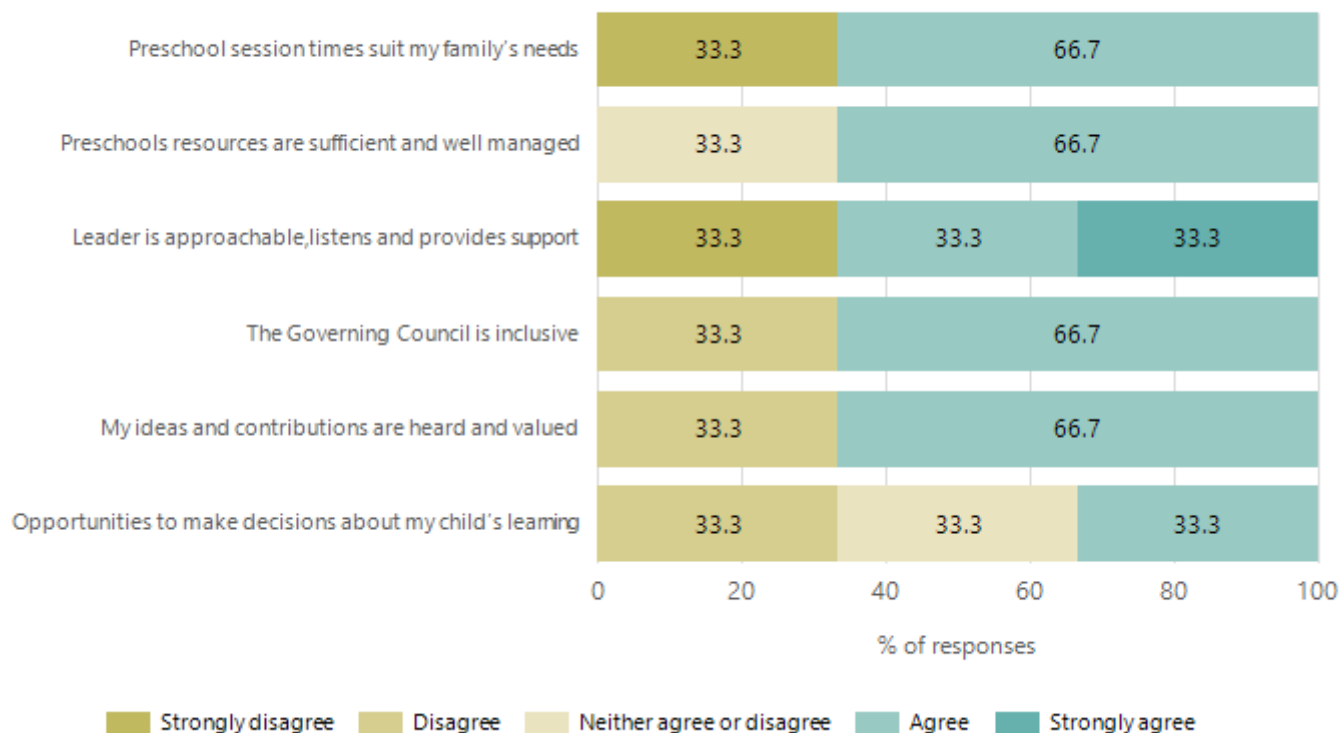
Based on attendances recorded in the two-week reference period each term. Data for eligible enrolments as described in the de Enrolment policy. Attendance rates may differ to previous reporting with the transfer from calculations based on deemed attendance using booked hours divided by attended hours. Data Source: Department for Education Attendance Data, Semester : 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.

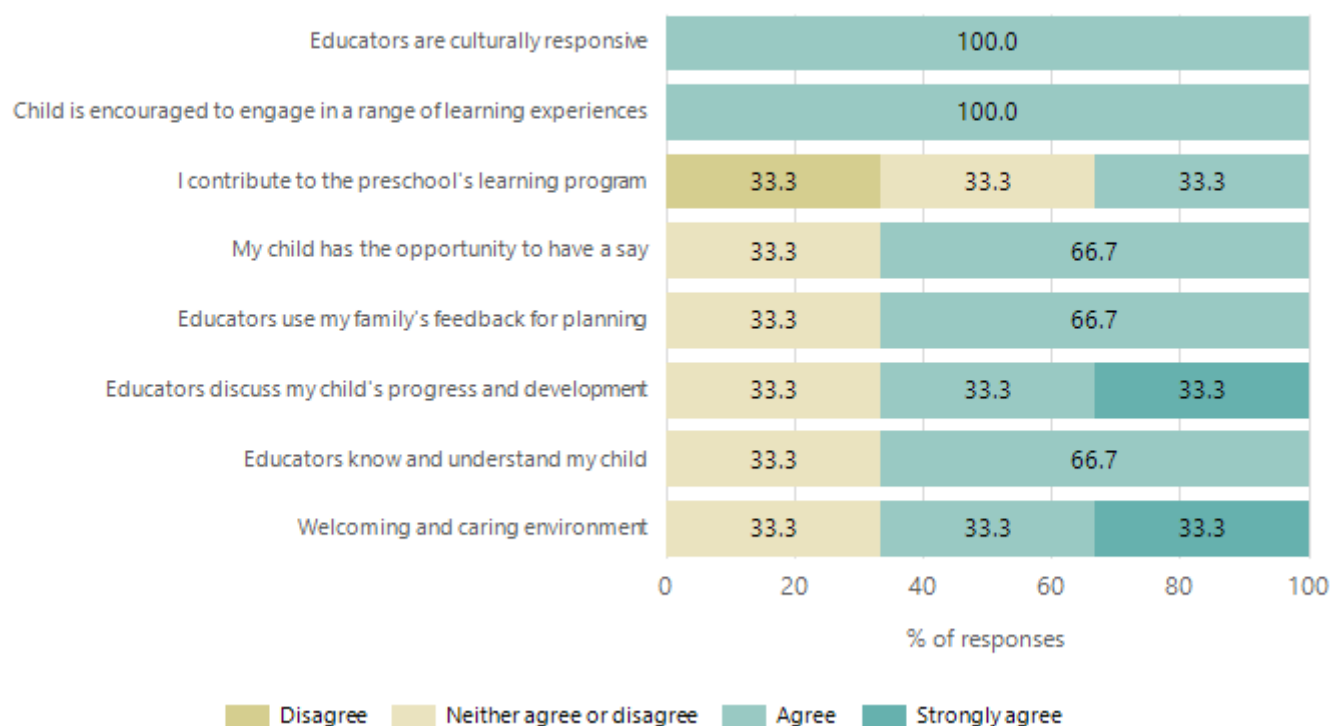
Preschool Family Opinion Survey

Governance, Leadership and Management



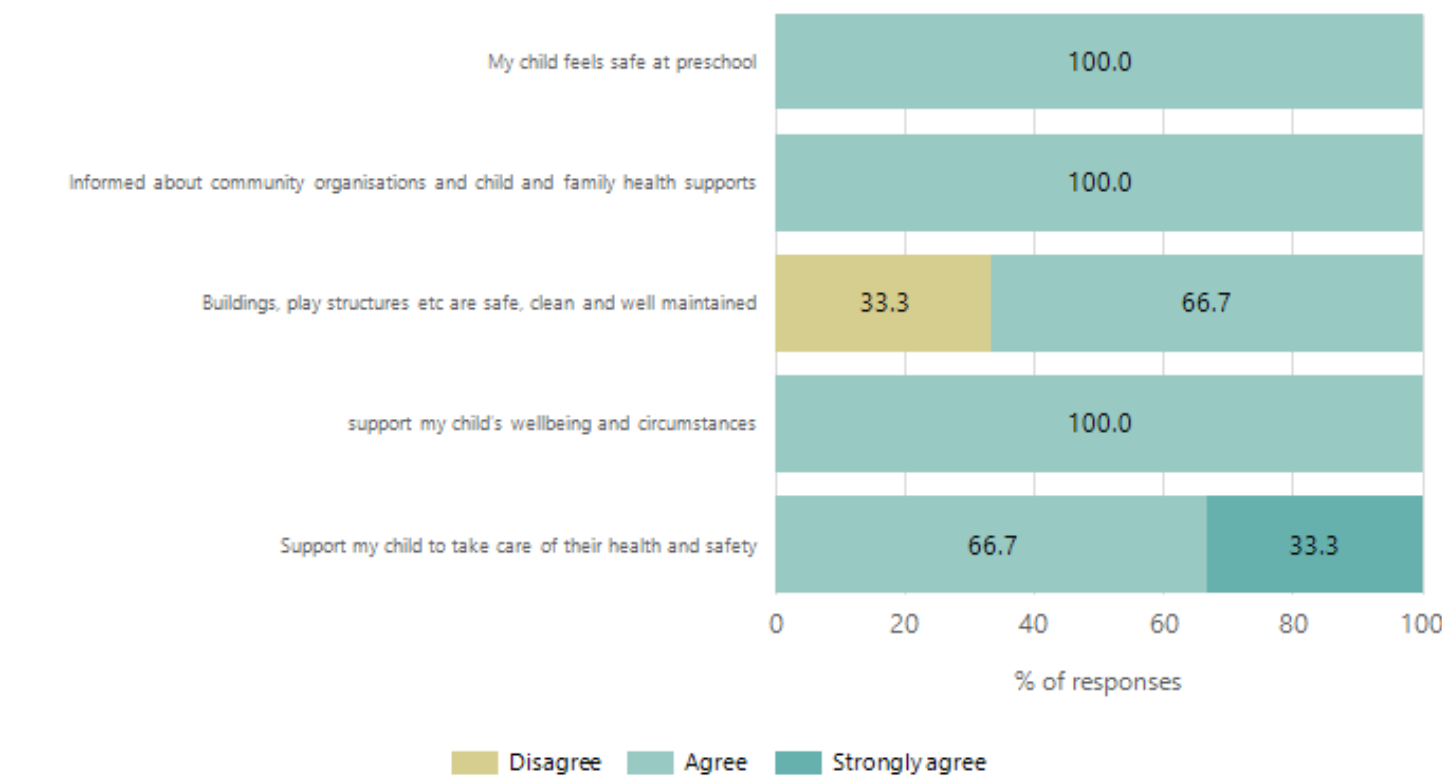
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

Quality of Teaching and Learning



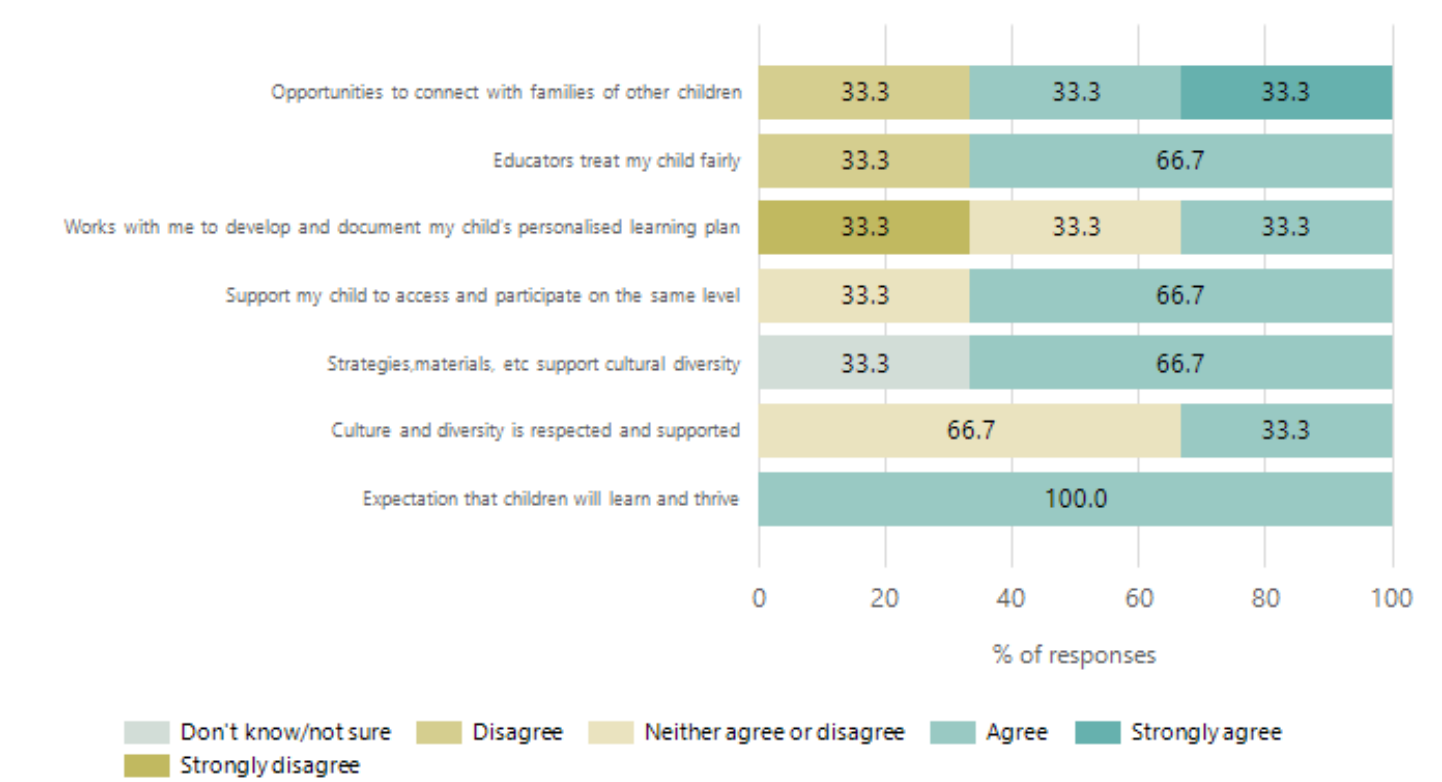
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

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
0128- Elliston Area School	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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
Postgraduate Qualifications	1

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 Equivalent	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.5
Persons	0.0	1.0	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	
Grants: Commonwealth	
Parent Contributions	2590.00
Fund Raising	4,000
Other	170.00

Data Source: School supplied data.

