

2023 annual report to the Community

# Cowell Early Childhood Centre

Cowell Early Childhood Centre number: 6663  
Partnership: Central Eyre 2



Preschool director:

Michelle Ottens

Date of endorsement:

12/02/2024



# Context Statement

Information about Cowell Early Childhood Centre is available on the centres website, as well as the Australian Childrens Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website.

Cowell is a small coastal community on the Franklin Harbour, on the eastern side of the Eyre Peninsula. The estimated population is 1500. It is 450km from Adelaide & 161km from Port Lincoln where our District Education Office is located. Major industries for the community include oyster farming, agriculture and nearby mining. The Cowell district has experienced prolonged drought in recent years that has impacted on farming and related industries - despite the economic consequences of the drought, the community pull together and demonstrate a high level of resilience that minimises the negative impact on children and families.

The Cowell Early Childhood Centre incorporates a part time Preschool, which operated for 2 ½ days a week during preschool/school terms, and a Rural Care program that operates for 5 days a week 49 weeks of the year. The Preschool is a standalone category 2 centre, staffed by one directors; (0.8), and an early childhood worker (ECW) (0.6). The care program is staffed by four ECWs who rotate shifts over the week. Three of our workers have a Diploma in Education and Care and one is currently actively working towards a Diploma. The Cowell Early Childhood Centre has a physical capacity of 30. The enrolments for 2023 included 5 preschool children and 20 children enrolled in care. There are 7 projected enrolments for January, 2024 and 2 children who will continue from the Mid Year Intake. Another 6 children are projected for the Midyear Intake in 2024. There have been many babies born recently and the demand for care remains strong.

Our centre is immediately adjacent to the Cowell Area School.

We have a strong pre-school to school transition programme which is implemented across the whole year with the Cowell Area School reception class which is located in close physical proximity. The Preschool children also attend sessions at the Cowell Community Library. In the term prior to the child starting school, children attend school for 2 morning sessions, on a Wednesday. The consolidation sessions then build up to the child attending 2 days until the end of lunch time in readiness for their entry to school following the holidays.

# Preschool Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2020 centre	93.8%		85.9%	89.1%
2021 centre	100%	90%	94%	92%
2022 centre	89.3%	80%	39.5%	36.4%
2023 centre	85%	100%	65%	95.8%
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.

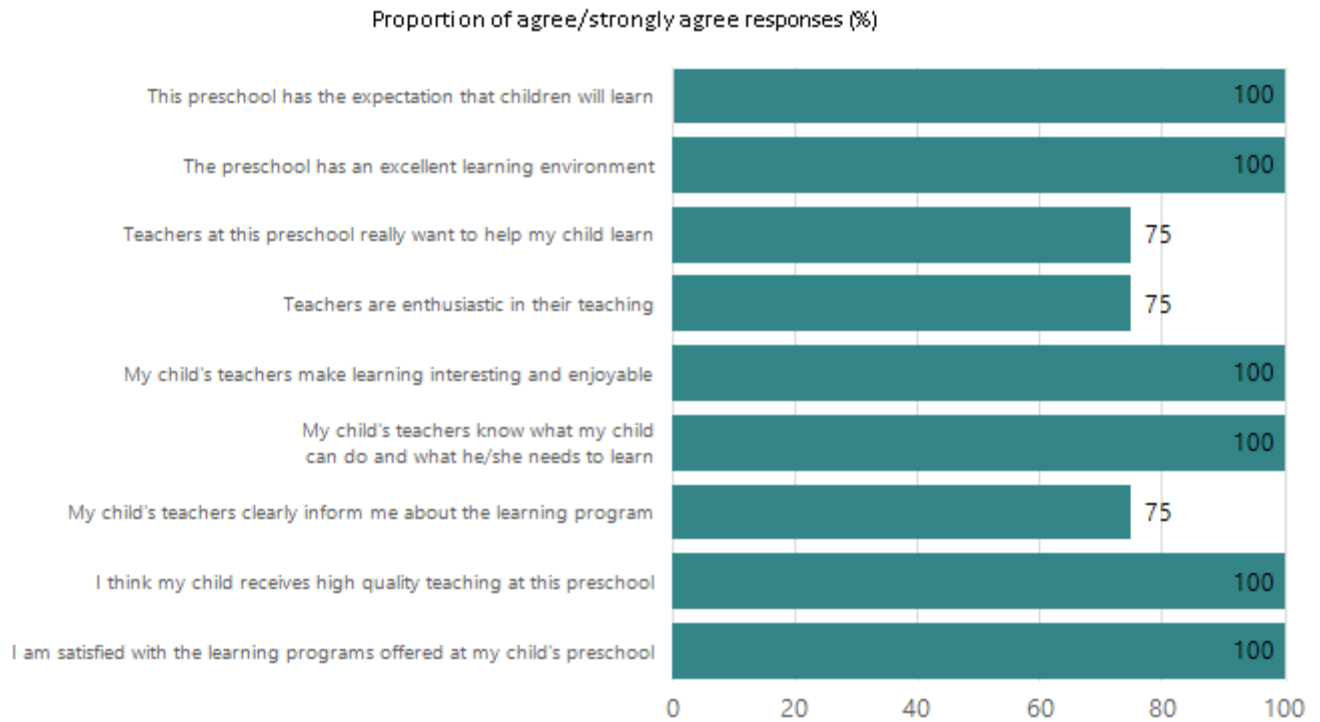
Note: Term 2 2020 data may not be available for all preschools.

## 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.

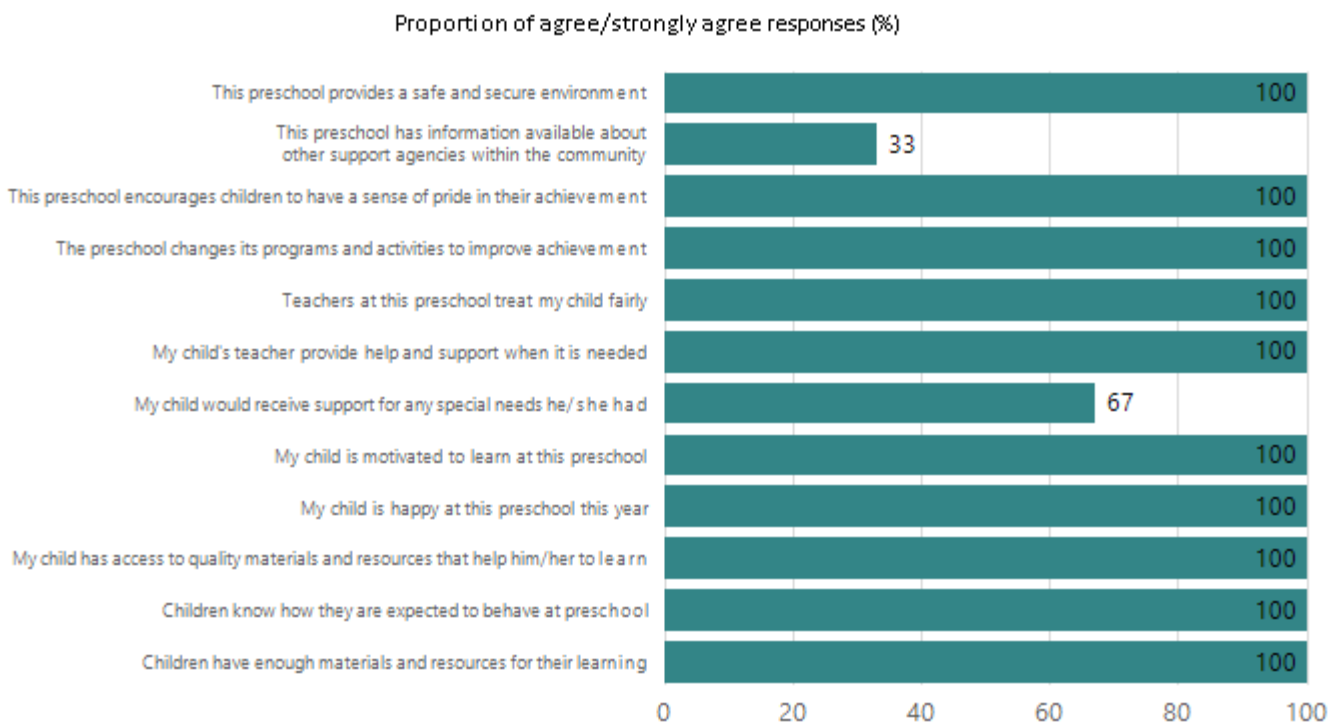
# Preschool Family Opinion Survey

## Quality of Teaching and Learning



Data Source: 2023 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2023.

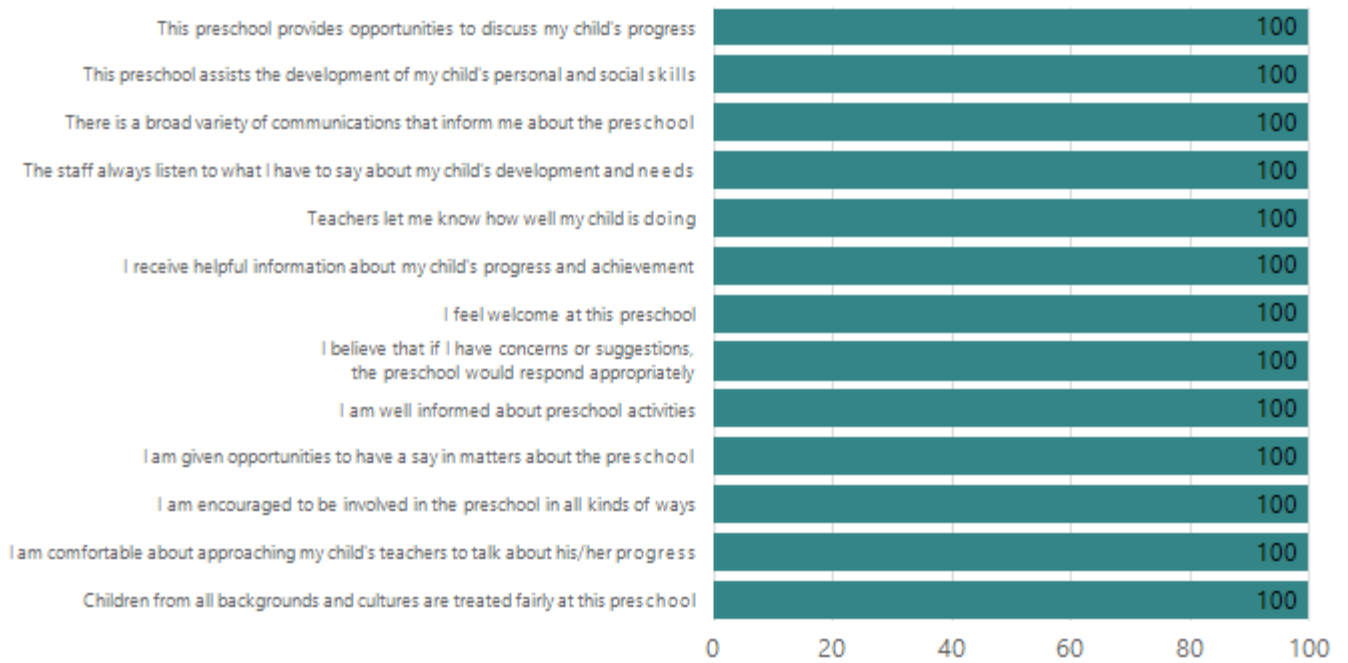
## Support of Learning



Data Source: 2023 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2023.

# Relationships and Communication

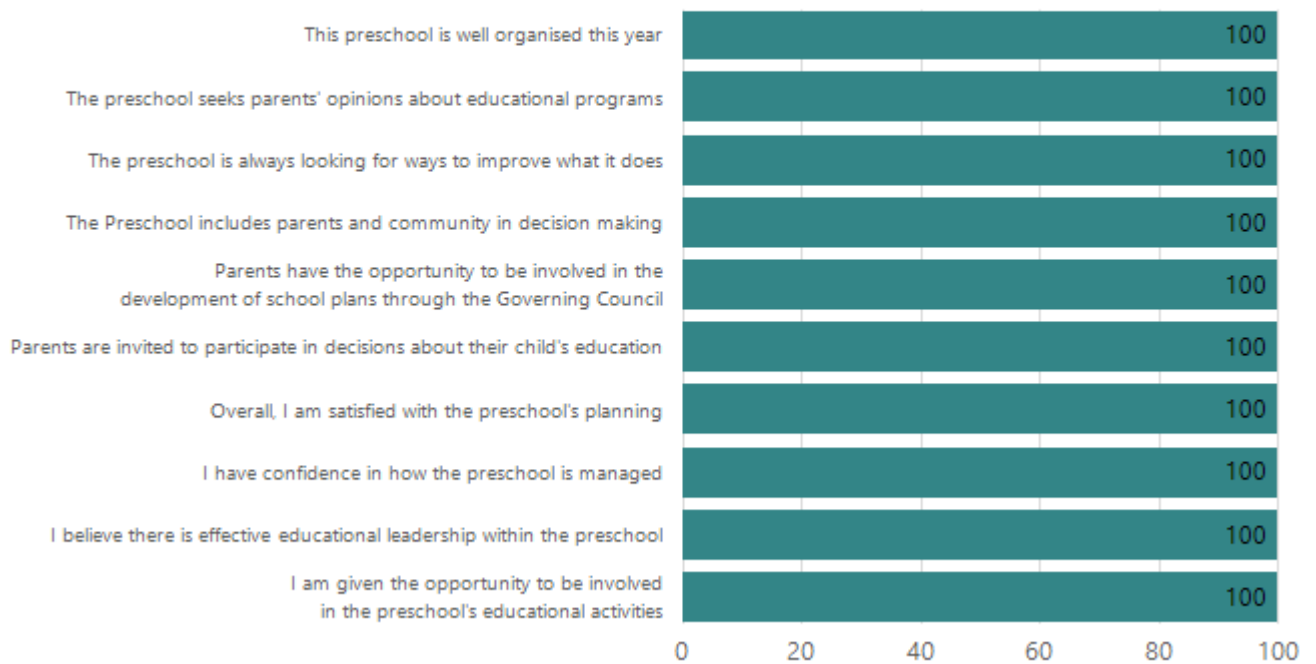
Proportion of agree/strongly agree responses (%)



Data Source: 2023 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2023.

# Leadership and Decision Making

Proportion of agree/strongly agree responses (%)



Data Source: 2023 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2023.

# Destination Schools

Feeder Schools (Site number - Name)	2021	2022	2023
0735 - Cowell Area School	60.0%		60.0%
9999 - Unknown	40.0%	100.0%	40.0%

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, 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
Postgraduate Qualifications	2

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	1.3	0.0	3.4
Persons	0.0	2.0	0.0	5.0

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	\$488,200.14
Grants: Commonwealth	
Parent Contributions	\$1260.00
Fund Raising	\$735.00
Other	\$3262.53

## Governing Council Report

It was a great year at the Centre in 2023. Some of the highlights of 2023 were:

- Michelle Ottens taking on the Director's role while Jacqui Lock was on maternity leave.
- Farewelling Dot Story who worked at the Centre for numerous years in a variety of teaching the ECW capacities.
- The bake sale organized by Mykah, Kamille and Amanda which raised over \$640.00 for our Centre.
- The donation from the Op Shop which allowed us to purchase three balance bikes.
- The donation from the Lion's Club to purchase a bike with a seat on the back.
- The magic square fundraiser which made us \$100.00
- The improvement work that the staff undertook with our children around measurement.
- The positive responses in our parent survey.
- The purchase of many new toys for the children to play with.

Thank you to committee members for their participation in Governing Council meetings and events.

Shykirra Harris, Governing Council Chairperson



