



# Keithcot Farm Children's Centre 2016 Annual Report to the Community



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education  
and Child Development

Keithcot Farm Children's Centre Preschool Number: 4631

Partnership: Golden Way

**Name of Preschool Director:**

Anne Whittleston

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**Name of Governing Council Chair:**

Lee Gregson

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**Date of Endorsement:**

21 November 2016

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## Context and Highlights

Keithcot Farm Children's Centre is part of an interagency partnership that brings together care, education, health, community development activities and services for families with young children. In June 2015 we were advised that our Children's Centre had been allocated a significant amount of funding for the renovation and refurbishment of our facilities as part of the 2015/16 State Budget. Children's Centre's support children and families to achieve the best possible learning, health and wellbeing outcomes in a universal setting with targeted responses for children and families who may require additional support. Decisions regarding future services to be offered in our new refurbished Centre are currently being explored by our leadership team and key partner agencies. These include government, non government and community-based organisations, parents, community members and staff.

The expansion of our building has created an amazing opportunity for our children to experience first hand the planning and construction of what will be an outstanding facility not only for the immediate Keithcot Farm community but the wider Golden Way Partnership!

Where possible we are linking the Building construction to the DECD Preschool Numeracy and Literacy Indicators Throughout 2016 our Centre has continued to participate in the Allied Health in Children's Centre's program. This program provides Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy one and a half days / week. Tamara our Speech Pathologist and Daniela our Occupational Therapist complement the role of our Educators by sharing their specialised knowledge in identifying children at risk of developmental delay and supporting families in promoting children's optimal development. Our Community Development Coordinator supports families who attend the Centre, and the wider Community. She plans and facilitates a wide range of information sessions throughout the year. These include topics relating to child development and being a parent. For example- Fussy Eating, Sleep Solutions and Understanding your Child's Developing Brain. Our Community Development Coordinator works closely with Educators, parents and allied health team to ensure that the programs are reflective of the needs of our community.

## Report from the Governing Council

Let me start by expressing a large and warm thankyou to the staff at Keithcot Farm Children's Centre. The care, love and nurturing you all provide for the children is a class above. Also to Anne Whittleston, Jenny Reid and Laura Francis, well done on your leadership, guidance and support you provide to all of our Centre community.

Our Committee

The Governing Council comprises 15 members including 5 staff and our regular meetings provide the core operations of our Centre. Thank you to all members, especially Saskia Koopman for her always accurate and complete compilation of the minutes, Sue Hall with the aid of Mark Hawkes in their tireless passion and commitment to the finances which allow us to maintain the high level of staffing and programs at our Centre and Scott Crandley for his update of the Centre's website.

Leading Issue

As we can all see, works have begun on our much anticipated extension to the Centre, adding additional space to facilitate Health/Families and Community programs. It will include great improvements to the existing building, extending areas to include additional work areas/offices, group spaces, meeting rooms and a new reception area.

Through most of 2016 the leadership team consisting of Anne, Jen and Laura met with Anthony Donato and Gary Shrubsole (Architects), Sam Miceli (DPTI) and Karen Erlandsen (DECD) to design the new facility.

We are anticipating the work to be completed by July 2017.

Fundraising:

Easter Raffle : \$324

Olympic Games Day : \$618

Fundraising/ Building Maintenance Levy: \$5,560

As 2016 draws to an ever approaching close I would just like to thank the Keithcot Farm Children's Centre for the honour to stand as chairperson for the Governing Council and I wish all within our Centre a happy and safe festive season.

Lee Gregson

Chairperson KFCC Governing Council

## Quality Improvement Planning

National Quality Standard (NQS) is the indicator against which we self-assess our performance in delivering quality education and care as well as plan future improvements to our integrated service.

The whole staff team representing our Birth to School Entry Programs, Community Development, Allied Health and members of our Governing Council regularly review the progress of our QIP.

Our first priority focused on critical reflection on children's learning and development.

Critical reflection is regularly used to implement our program. Regular program planning meetings; program review meetings and whole staff meetings provide opportunities to reflect on our current pedagogical practices. We have identified strengths, shared effective practices and identified areas for individual, group and whole staff improvement. The DECD Numeracy and Literacy Indicators are used as a tool by all Educators to enhance the focus for observations / noticings and guide planning for all children. We recognized the need to improve the quality of the questions we ask children as well as the quality of the conversations we have with children. Tamara (our Speech Pathologist) provided PD in relation to Levels of Questioning. Tracking and monitoring individual children has highlighted the need to move away from large formal teacher led groups to smaller, targeted, differentiated learning opportunities that personalize and extend each child's learning, engagement and disposition to learn. We introduced an Emergent Curriculum philosophy, based on children's current knowledge and understanding. Our Building Project enabled children to formulate questions and conduct investigations with the guidance of Educators supporting their sense of agency and self-efficacy and developing a culture where mistakes are valued and seen as learning opportunities. At the end of Term 2 and again near the end of the year each Preschool child receives a summary of their learning based on the Early Years Learning Framework. Collated data of the whole group identified trends and priorities to engage and intellectually stretch children's learning. All Preschool children are screened using the Screen of Phonological Awareness (SPA) in their first and final term. This includes listening skills; understanding of rhyme and awareness of sounds in words. This data informed the need to develop a Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy (SPOT) Group – with a focus on foundation skills needed for overall learning and literacy and numeracy development : listening and following instructions; phonological awareness (ie) rhyme and syllable awareness; fine motor skills – drawing , writing, cutting; maintaining attention.

The Second priority of our Quality Improvement Plan focused on Continuity of Learning and Transitions. Our connections with the Community, including our local feeder schools has continued to strengthen particularly through our whole of Partnership work with "Results Plus" and each of the Portfolios including Lead the Learning; Support the Learning and Grow the Learning. Staff participated in shared Professional Development Opportunities with Educators from Keithcot Farm Primary School and other sites in our Golden Way Partnership. Children regularly access a range of outstanding Keithcot Farm Primary School resources. These planned experiences enhance continuity of learning across the sites and children's understanding of school routines and expectations. Children are recognised as powerful learners as they confidently transfer skills to a new setting. SPA data is shared with our feeder schools identifying those children with strong skills and those with age appropriate and beginning skills.

## Enrolment

Year	Enrolment by Term			
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2014	90	87	91	91
2015	79	83	83	83
2016	80	80	78	

Based on person counts in the two week reference period each term. Excludes pre-entry. Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems.

## Enrolment Comment

A large proportion ( %) of our children feed from our long Day Care program into our DECD preschool program. Some of these children live outside our catchment area, however their parents have requested a seamless streamlined approach where they can continue accessing our integrated Centre for their child's eligible year of preschool. Many families access Long day Care in conjunction with preschool.

## Attendance

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2014 Centre	85.6%	85.1%	85.7%	87.9%
2015 Centre	92.4%	86.7%	86.7%	85.5%
2016 Centre	91.3%	88.8%	89.7%	
2014 State	90.0%	88.9%	86.1%	87.1%
2015 State	90.5%	88.7%	86.3%	86.3%
2016 State	89.6%	88.7%	87.7%	

Based on attendances recorded in the two week reference period each term, and calculated to an average unadjusted daily attendance (deemed attendance). Attendance percentages are based on the calculated deemed attendance (integer), divided by the number of enrolments. Excludes pre-entry. Note: Figures have been revised for previous years, using integer deemed attendance not decimal. Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems.

## Attendance Comment

On the whole our attendance reflect the state averages however in 2016 our attendances were marginally above the State averages (as documented in the above table).

We have a philosophy @ Keithcot Farm Children's Centre where the needs of families are given priority over fixed groupings. Families are given a choice of 5 half days; a combination of half days and full days (with between session care); a combination of Preschool and LDC. Rather than imposing fixed groupings with minimal flexibility we believe that our more flexible approach (within 15 hours for Preschool) or longer with LDC - will support rather than hinder children's regular attendance.

## Destination Schools

Feeder Schools (Site number - Name)	2014	2015	2016
0322 - One Tree Hill Primary School	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%
1201 - Gulfview Heights Primary School	2.4%	1.3%	1.3%
1847 - Keithcot Farm Primary School	73.8%	70.5%	63.2%
1848 - Golden Grove Primary School	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%
1858 - Greenwith Primary School	0.0%	1.3%	2.6%
8006 - St Francis Xavier's Regional Cath Sch	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%
8027 - Pedare Christian College:Junior Sch	3.6%	1.3%	1.3%
8226 - Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%
8421 - King's Baptist Grammar School	14.3%	16.7%	30.3%
8439 - Tyndale Christian School	1.2%	3.9%	1.3%
9115 - Prescott Primary Northern	1.2%	2.6%	0.0%
9757 - Our Lady of Hope School	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Destination Schools Comment

Keithcot Farm Primary School continues to be our major feeder school providing families with a one stop approach to Long Day Care; Out of School Hours Care; Preschool and Primary school.  
When our redevelopment is complete (July 2017) all of these destination schools will be able to access Community Development and Allied Health services @ KFCC

## Client Opinion Summary

Each year the Parent Satisfaction Survey is sent to parents/caregivers across our site to help us gain feedback about the Children's Centre and the services that we provide. It is an opportunity for families to express their views around what they value about the Children's Centre and its programs and to offer constructive and innovative suggestions about how we can continuously improve the quality of our service.

We do not use the DECD Preschool survey as it is not inclusive of all our programs.

The survey we offer has questions based on the National Quality Standards.

\*A rating of 6 ('Strongly Agree') represents the highest scale rating, with 1 ('Strongly Disagree') the lowest.

Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice = rating 4.8

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety = rating 5.1

Quality Area 3: Physical Environment = rating 5.0

Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements = rating 4.8

Quality Area 5: Relationships = rating 5.4

Quality Area 6: Partnerships with families and communities = rating 4.8

Quality Area 7: Leadership and Service Management = rating 4.6

Overall the responses to the 2016 Parent Satisfaction Survey indicated a continuing high degree of satisfaction in each Quality Area of the National Quality Standard. There were however a number of families particularly in our Preschool Program who suggested that an opportunity to have a more formal interview to discuss their child's progress could be an improvement.

This recommendation will be implemented in 2017!

## DECD Relevant History Screening

An essential element of a safe learning environment is that the adults working and volunteering in that environment pose no threat to the wellbeing of the children. One of the ways in which we establish the suitability of employees and volunteers to work with our children is to conduct history screening checks either through the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) Children-Related Employment Screening check and or through the South Australian Teacher registration Board.

DCSI Child related employment screening in 2016 included Staff Governing Council members and volunteers.

## Financial Statement

	Funding Source	Amount
1	Grants: State	\$576,928.27
2	Grants: Commonwealth	\$406,191.87
3	Parent Contributions	\$582,997.65
4	Other	\$22,835.04

## 2016 Preschool Annual Report: Improved Outcomes Funding

Improved Outcomes Category (where applicable to the site)	Briefly describe how the 2016 funding was used to improve the relevant DECD Standard of Educational Achievement * outcomes (where applicable):	Outcomes achieved or progress towards these outcomes:
Improved outcomes for numeracy and literacy	<p>Professional support for staff to implement Numeracy Indicators with Lisajane OConnor. Levels of Questioning facilitated by our SpP to improve literacy outcomes along with Documentation of Children's Learning through Semann and Slattery,</p> <p>Our Community Development Coordinator has delivered a range of events, information sessions and courses for parents and families with a child development focus. Many have been facilitated by our O.T. and SpP. We have also seen a number of parents re engage in our Community programs, as they become relevant for the changing developmental milestones of their children.</p>	<p>High % of children who are consistent in Literacy and Numeracy outcomes</p> <p>Information sessions are planned and promoted across our Golden Way Partnership.</p>
Improved ECD and Parenting Outcomes (Children's Centres only)	<p>15 children referred to Support Services and PSS was provided to 7 children in preschool and 3 children in LDC. Support includes the provision of additional staff to implement individually designed programs planned in consultation with families, our Allied Health Staff, Educators and others who engage with the child.</p> <p>Allied Health, DECD Support Services, Gowrie Inclusion Support provide consultation, program advice, assessments and professional development for our Educators.</p>	<p>Children were supported to transition into mainstream schools and a special options unit. Identified children in our LDC program will receive continued support in 2017.</p>
Improved outcomes for children with additional language or dialect		

\* The DECD Standard of Educational Achievement is defined as children and young people progressing and achieving at or above their appropriate year level.