



Taikurrendi Children and Family Centre Annual Report 2013

*Taikurrendi comes from the Kurna language meaning
'to be mixed, together.'*



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Context

Preschool Name: Taikurrendi Children and Family Centre

Preschool Number: 5987

Preschool Director: Catherine Cavouras

Region: Southern Adelaide

Na marni meyunna 'welcome everyone'

We would like to acknowledge the land on which our preschool is situated on is the traditional lands of the Kurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today.

Taikurrendi Children and Family Centre [*pron Tie-ka-rendi*] is co-located on site with Christies Beach Primary school, and was officially opened by Federal Minister for Education, The Hon Peter Garrett AM, MP on 13th June 2013.

It is one of four Children and Family Centre's established by the Department for Education and Child Development [DECD] in partnership with the Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership [IECDNP], the Australian and State Governments. Its committed focus is on supporting Aboriginal families with young children to improve early childhood outcomes.

Taikurrendi Children and Family centre offers a range of education, care and health services for families and community in the local area. Some services that are available include preschool [capacity 56], occasional care, health programs and visiting specialists.

The 2012 Australian Early Development Index [AEDI] Community Profile for this council area shows that:

- 2.3% of children identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander,
- 5.5% of children were not born in Australia
- 3.1% of children had English as a second language
- 92.9% of children reported to have been in non-parental early childhood education and care in the year before school
- 93.6% attended preschool in the year before school.

Brief history

- 2009-2013 Design consultation/construction- community consultation was engaged early in the process to ensure Aboriginal voice was incorporated in the design and intent of the building. Through a number of early community meetings an Engagement Group was formed that included representatives from DECD, Christies Beach PS, Aboriginal community members and Allied health representatives from Families SA and Health SA. It is this group that supported the inclusion of Aboriginal cultural elements in the design and ensured the learning environment reflected current ideas in early childhood education that lead to quality practice, positive learning outcomes and cultural immersion for all. The construction of Taikurrendi undertaken by ISIS Group Australia played a significant role in delivering a building that has the community heartbeat. High levels of communication, collaboration and consultation by the builders with the community were significant factors ensuring the design and cultural elements were included and the quality of their work evident. This partnership was very unique to our site and stands out as industry leading practice.
- 2013 Community- The southern community has been waiting a long time for a site like Taikurrendi- a proposal by Community leaders some 15 years ago began the conversation.

Now a reality it is testament to the courage that Aboriginal leaders have and their unyielding commitment to advocate for the whole community. Taikurrendi is a place to come together and already partnerships in Health, Families SA and DECD have facilitated appropriate delivery of services to the Aboriginal community and local community in a respectful and responsive way.

- Taikurrendi preschool currently has 60% Aboriginal and Torres Strait (ATSI) enrolments and current workforce is 70% ATSI. Through the community development program governance, vision/ mission statements and MOU's are being developed to embed Aboriginal voice and participation.

- 2013 Milestones

Feb

ISIS building handover

Service approval granted

April

Preschool operating part-time with 13 children enrolled

June 13

Official opening

Occasional care program starts-6 sessions.

May

South Australian Master Builders Award for Building Excellence

Carla Rinaldi visit

Term 3

Preschool enrolments increase to 24

Term 4

Preschool transition starts with 24 additional enrolments.

2013 Staff team

Director of Education and Care

3 Early Childhood teachers

1 ECW

2 ATSI ECW Trainees

Finance/admin officer

Occasional care ECW

2 Support ECW

Staff ATSI-7

Enrolments ATSI- 24



Quality Improvement Plan

Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Quality Area 3: Physical environment

Quality Area 4: Staffing arrangements

Quality Area 5: Relationships with Children

Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with Families and communities

Quality Area 7: Leadership and service management

A significant element of the QIP that we worked towards in 2013 was establishing a culture within the site that underpins the way we work with children, families and the community. As a site we worked together to :

- Develop Taikurrendi Children and Family Centre Vision, Values and Philosophy Statement
- Determine Taikurrendi Children and Family Centre strength based practices.
- Establish Taikurrendi Children and Family Centre professional standards and ethical practices that grow Taikurrendi's site culture

Taikurrendi Children and Family Centre

Our Vision

Taikurrendi Children and Family Centre is a safe place for every child and family, where culture will develop and thrive. Partnerships and relationships are created as we lead new ways and opportunities through staff, children and family's education and learning. We will always aspire to reflect a socially just environment that values the identity of our community.

Our centre values are:

- **Relationships and Friendship** – are at the foundations of our work with children, families and our community
- **Belonging** - all children, families and staff are culturally safe, connected and embraced.
- **Kindness** – everyone will be treated with kindness and it is what we expect from our staff, children and families
- **Courage** – We encourage our children , families and staff to be courageous as we strive together in education with innovation and creativity.

Our guiding principles:

- Every voice needs to be heard through active listening
- We can learn from each other as we share knowledge and experiences
- We are committed to showing Respect to all staff, children and families
- We want to be open minded to new ideas, and actively seek feedback about our service
- We expect staff ensure that confidentiality is an an important quality of our centre
- Trust is the foundation of a good team when working with children and families
- We will deliver our programs and services with clarity and be transparent in our work practices
- Being kind to each other and our ourselves when we experience conflict and disagreement

Developing these underpinning principles was critical to the process of determining how the centre operates and the practice that supports engaging community in education and sets a framework to reflect on practice and work towards improvement.

Intervention and Support Programs

Family Services Coordinator [FSC] Report: Anna Becker

My position as Family Services Coordinators is to provide support for parents surrounding family relationships, understanding how children develop, grow and learn and the significance of relationships, the importance of caring for children to be safe, healthy and happy and information surrounding parenting strategies.

My role includes facilitating group programs, such as Circle of Security and Bringing Up Great Kids with a focus on parenting, relationships, social and emotional wellbeing and trauma. Service Coordination in providing counselling, connecting families to the most appropriate services, providing follow up, advocacy and working in partnership with the family and other services and to provide information about available services and supports. I currently work 0.6 FTE.

Snap shot of 2013:

- Co-facilitated three Circle of Security programs with Taikurrendi CDC and Allied Health staff.
- Co-facilitated Bringing Up Great Kids parenting program with Taikurrendi CDC and Allied Health Staff
- Chaired the Southern Trauma Network Meeting
- Joining Hands and Minds
- Facilitated the Community Playgroup for two terms.
- Ngartunna Patpangga Steering Committee
- Family Contact Playgroup Working Party
- Provided one on one support to 6 families on an on-going basis.
- Provided one off consults to a number of families
- Developed and facilitating school holiday programs
- Assisted in the facilitation of SOLE Mum's Playgroup
- Assisted in the Deadly Families Cooking Together program

Community Development coordinator [CDC] Report: Susan Roberts [not available at time of Submission]

The Community Development Coordinator [CDC] focuses on building community capacity to support families to provide the best opportunities for every child as an integral part of the Children's Centre model. The CDC develops and promotes partnerships across a broad range of local services and organisations and establishes interagency programs to meet the needs of the community. The CDC builds networks for families, giving them a stronger voice and building community. They encourage and support parents and families to actively participate in all aspects of the Children's Centre. The CDC worked at 1.0FTE.

Allied health report: Martine Carpenter [Speech Pathologist] and Johanna De Kort [Occupational Therapist]

Allied Health staff provides services to Children's Centres but remain Health employees who report to the Manager of Southern Primary Health and receive professional support from Heads of Discipline from Southern Primary Health.

Allied Health roles are viewed in a Health Promotion and Community Development context and therefore only provide minimal direct clinical services. Children requiring ongoing clinical services are referred to appropriate local services e.g. GP plus Super Centre Noarlunga, GP Plus Morphett Vale and DECD

- What worked well in Allied Health service delivery at Taikurrendi in 2013
 - Contracts for allied health were confirmed and extended for 12 more months until 31st of December 2014. All staff currently employed in the role will continue on in.
 - The ongoing spirit of positive and collaboration between staff at the centre.

- Playgroup - again an increase in numbers of young children in the birth to 2 year age groups. This means greater capacity for early intervention in the critical birth to three ranges.
- The collaborative work with the family services coordinator in running parenting programs such as COSP and BUGK was also a highlight in both the increased collaboration between staff at the site and the ability to provide a targeted service to parents. It was also exciting that the Occupational Therapist is now qualified to run the COSP program.
- What did not work well/ areas for improvement
 - Limited time for leadership meetings where everyone is able to meet together, reduced compared to the previous terms. This is primarily due to the part time nature of staff roles within the centre. Continue to explore flexible ways of sharing information and ideas and reviewing past and planning for future programs. This has included consulting with staff who can't be present at the meeting to get their ideas and documenting information so that it can be easily shared such as posters on butchers paper that are actively discussed in timely ways outside of the meeting.
 - Space- Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist have limited space in which to store program notes and materials and have no designated desk, drawers, files or lockers.
- Recommendations for next school term
 - Explore new ways of providing playgroup in the community room due to preschool using the preschool area full-time and therefore no longer accessible to playgroup families.
 - Negotiate options for storing program notes and materials and obtaining a chair, designated desk, drawers, files or lockers.
 - Student participates in relevant programs such as run elements of group activity reflecting on groups.
 - Access to internet intermittent. Follow up with director to explore options for more consistent internet access.
 - Training- consent given for Occupational Therapist and Speech Pathologist to attend three day Bi- Cultural Awareness Safety and Inclusion Workshop
 - Speech Pathologist would like to attend Bilingual training in February and will follow up appropriate channels to enable this.
 - Prioritise days at particular centres to coincide with other allied health and the Family Services Coordinator [FSC] and Community Development Coordinator [CDC] to enable optimal capacity to jointly attend leadership meetings, run program such as Circle of Security Parenting and Bringing UP Great Kids, to maximise use of time and resources and have support by FSC/CDC/Allied Health and Vice versa this also enables continuation of programs.
 - More sensory motor activities for younger children at playgroups.
 - Try to work with more children individually in the kindergarten

Report from Governing Council

As of Dec 2013 Taikurrendi CFC did not have a Constitution to form a Governing Council. Children Centre's project team [DECD] were in the stage of drafting an approved Constitution. The Director formed a Parent Advisory Group to support accountability requirements and appropriate consultation processes. Together with the Leadership team [Director, FSC and CDC] and Partnership Group decisions across a range of operating requirements were made pertaining to procurement, staffing and finance.

Student Data

Enrolments

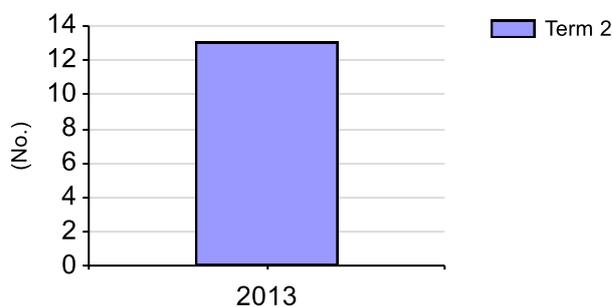


Table 1: Enrolments by Term

Enrolment by Term	
Year	Term 2
2013	13

Preschool began operating on a part time basis from the beginning of term 2. Due to the delay of construction and Service Approval granted a few weeks prior to the beginning of term 2 the process of enrolments and a degree of uncertainty as to whether we would be fully operational may have contributed to low initial enrolments.

Subsequently during the term we initiated an enrolment drive and community awareness campaign about our site and the services we would be undertaking. This significantly increased our enrolments overtime term 4 (36) and transition group (24)*these would be starting in 2014.

Attendance

Figure 2: Attendance by Term

Attendance Percentages 2011 - 2013

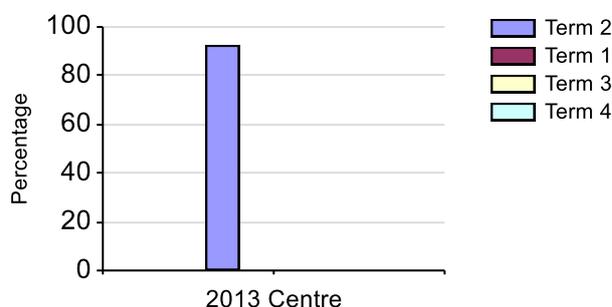


Table 2: Attendance Percentages 2011 - 2013

Attendance Percentage				
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2013 Centre		92.3		
2011 State	89.9	89.1	88.4	89.6
2012 State	87.4	85.9	84.5	85.5
2013 State	88.7	88.0		

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 1: Figures have been revised for previous years, using integer deemed attendance not decimal.

Note 2: Data for Term 3 and Term 4 2013 will not be reported. It is not comparable with previous years due to the transition to the Same First Day enrolment policy for preschools in 2013 creating a break in series.

Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems

Preschool attendance in term 2 higher than State average reflecting, positive engagement with families and their commitment to accessing a quality program for their children. Also added to this is the 'new' building aspect and families and children enjoying being part of the inaugural preschool group. A huge emphasis was to ensure that the preschool development would be driven by children and their families which included resourcing and program development.

Feeder Schools

Table 3: Feeder School Percentage Data 2011 - 2013

Feeder Schools		
Site number - Name	Type	2013
0921 - Christies Beach Primary School	Govt.	90.9
1071 - Moana Primary School	Govt.	9.1
Total		100.0

Based on the percent of children currently enrolled who will attend school in the following year, where the expected school is known.

Due to rounding totals may not add up to 100%.

Source: Term 3 Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems

Most families choosing Christies Beach Primary school [CBPS] for a number of reasons

- Taikurrendi co located on site with Christies Beach Primary school
- Positive Transition program supported by both sites
- Siblings currently attending CBPS families choosing to access for convenience
- Positive view of the site in the community particularly the ATSI community because of CBPS embedded Aboriginal education and community engagement programs.

Client Opinion

In 2013 we held a range of family and community feedback sessions to support consultation regarding procurement of resources, governance and service delivery.

While no formal surveys were undertaken perception data and communication from families suggested a high level of satisfaction with the preschool learning program and educator practice. A strong indicator of this was attendance at preschool events and parent engagement in consultation forums and programs.

Financial Statement

Jane Juckers , Finance and Administration Officer:

Contact Director for comprehensive Financial statement if required.