

CENTRE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

I would like to thank everyone for coming to tonight's AGM at the Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre (AECCC) and to thank you for your support of myself as the director and of all that has happened in the Centre over the last year.

Staffing

The AECCC currently employs 15 permanent staff members, including educators, a kitchen manager and management staff. A Centre can only be as great as the staff that it employs. I would like to thank the staff for their incredible dedication to their work, through the good times and the tough times.

I would like to thank Lisa for her continued support and help in the management role. I would especially like to thank her for taking on my role when I was recovering from surgery earlier this year.

Thanks to Em, Jess – our babies team, Kylie, Mariama and Sylvia – our toddlers team, Sarah, Kate and Vic – our Wallabies team, Kim and Rachel our Kangaroos team and Chelsea our floater. And to our Kitchen Manager Kim, who works tirelessly to keep all of your children fed. We have also recently employed Karilyn on a short-term contract as our Kangaroos numbers are doing so well.

I am also thankful that we have some dedicated long-term casual workers – Jane and Tash. Both of these educators have recently been employed in short term contracts at other Centres. We wish them well. We also have some newer casual workers and ones that are currently studying. Thank you to Tracey, Alice, Jacinta, Vicki, Lilly, Tijana, Alex, Dilshani and Farkhanda.

As well as the role of educator in the day to day, there are other roles in the life of a childcare centre. The role of the Educational Leader is essential under the National Quality Framework. They are able to focus on the programming side of things, look deeper at critical reflection and mentor staff among many things. Kylie has eagerly stepped into this role. Kylie and I will work closely together to work towards the 'exceeding' rating that we are aiming for at our next assessment.

Kim, our Early Childhood Teacher in the Kangaroos has been using her skills and creating some brochures on various topics for the parents. We will have a number for you to access soon. If you have any topics that you would like information on and you think that other parents may too, please let Kim or myself know.

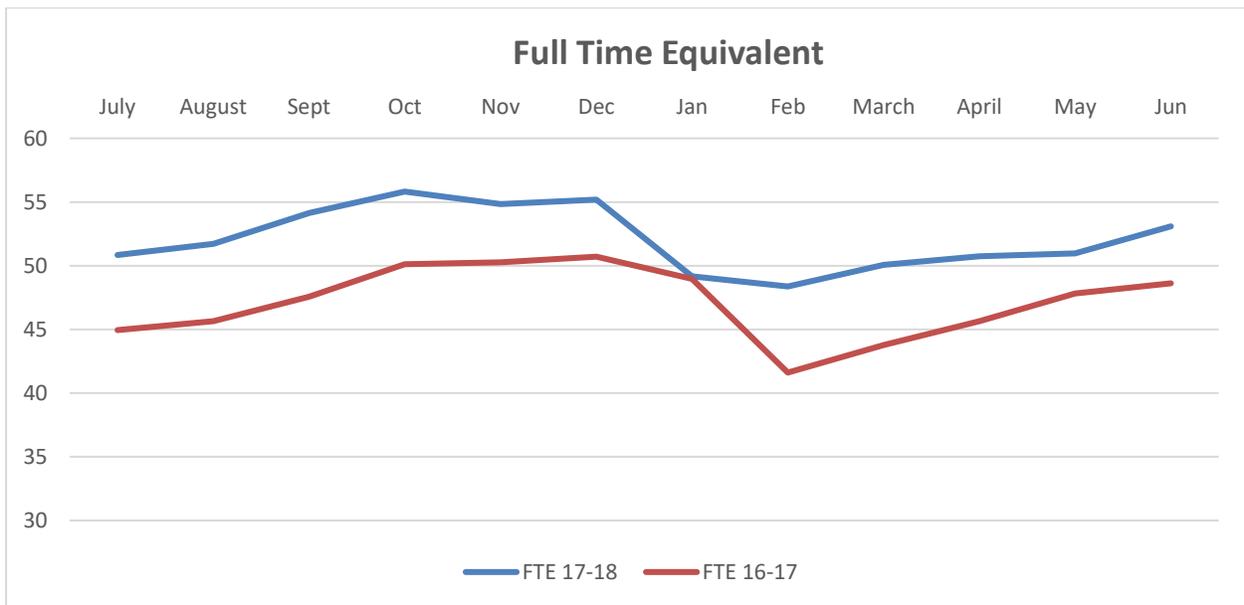
The Centre continues to have students from TAFE, universities and schools. This not only prepares the next group of workers for the industry but helps our educators to be able to teach others, thus honing their skills.

Last year our professional development funding from the government ceased. As part of our budget over the past year, staff have continued to receive professional development training in many areas e.g. Keeping Children Safe, Environments, Programming and Leadership.

Utilisation

The graph below shows the utilisation for the last two financial years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. You will notice in both lines there is a dip in January and February. Now that there is only one school intake, children from the Centre leave throughout January. The numbers then have to be built up again. There are two ways that we will be attempting to improve this reduction in numbers for 2018/2019. We will be contacting families of potential school leavers late in term three this year and asking for the date they will be leaving childcare. We have an extensive waiting list, with a large number of families that wish to start in January. We will then contact these families in October this year to organise transitions and start dates before January 2019.

Our FTEs for July and August 2018 are at 52.



Licensing and Compliance

The AECCC is currently regulated under National Quality Framework (NQF), Education and Care Services National Regulations and Education and Care Services National Law which is administered by Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) at a national level and Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board (EECSRSB) at the state level. The Centre was last assessed under the framework in September last year. The assessors praised the work that the staff had done in a short space of time and awarded our Centre with Meeting National Standards. Our goal over the next three years, before the next visit, is to Exceed National Standards.

The Centre's Food Safety Program was also audited by the Eastern Health Authority in July.

Renovations

Earlier this year the Board approved plans for internal renovations. Shape, a commercial fit out and refurbishment company, were engaged to complete the project. It was hard going at times especially for Em, Jess and myself, but we made it. The staff room, the office and the two sleep rooms, were overhauled. We now have a staff room that nobody wants to leave, a programming room where staff have the chance to spread out uninterrupted, two new sleep rooms and an office that every time I walk into makes me smile. We as a staff team are very thankful!!!

Social Inclusion and Fundraising

One of our working groups at the AECCC is the social inclusion and fundraising working group. The group, consisting of Jess, Rebecca, Jane and myself. We have continued to organise numerous fundraising events and social occasions. This year has seen us organise an Easter and Mother's Day raffle and two lots of Kytons, deliveries. Social events have included a trip to the zoo, the Christmas party, a parent information night and a special person's afternoon tea. We have also organised several fun events for the children including book week dress up – with "Find Your Treasure" theme and PJ/Teddy Bears picnic Day.

Board

This year the Board has consisted of Josh, Paul, Mitch, Daisy, Holly and Emily. I would like to thank them for their support of myself in my role. Their role is not an easy one, but this Centre has been in great hands throughout it all. Sadly, this year three of our members have decided not to renominate. I would like to thank Daisy, Mitch and Holly for their commitment to the Board over varying lengths of time.

We, as a Board and staff team, look forward to a continued focus on quality improvement and having input from our families. It makes such a difference to our childcare community when we have input from parents/caregivers and their families. Without your valued and continued support, we would not be where we as a Centre are today.

Sarah Rogers
Centre Director
September 2018