Snowtown Kindergarten Annual Report 2012

Vicki Reichelt
Director 14.2.2013

Nicole McCauley
Chairperson 14.2.2013
Context

Preschool Name: Snowtown Kindergarten  
Preschool Number: 6684
Preschool Director: Vicki Reichelt  
Region: Yorke Mid North

Snowtown Kindergarten is situated in the Wakefield Regional Council 150 km north on Highway one. The kindergarten is located across the road from the Snowtown Area School.

There is a mix of established farming families who live in Snowtown, Lochiel, Redhill and outlying areas and a transient population, mainly based in the town.

Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children – children are entitled to 600 hours of preschool prior to commencing school. As Snowtown is a designated rural centre, children acquire this over 6 terms prior to starting school.

The centre operates Thursday and Fridays excluding 3 non kindy days per term.

Quality Improvement Plan

National Quality Standard 1: Educational Programs and Practice

Highlights:
- Introduction of excursion to kindergym each term
- Children’s learning made visible to families through display boards
- Effective ESL (English second language) program
Achievements:

- Streamlined programming for children’s learning
- Children’s engagement and predictability of routines
- Children’s sense of belonging increased due to each child’s culture being included in the program
- 95% of children achieved their individual learning plan
- Children’s Oral Language enhanced due to intentional teaching

Next Steps:

- How can we continue to involve families in children’s learning?
- Are we providing quality information to families about children’s learning?
- Is the children’s PLOD (possible lines of development) evident enough in curriculum planning and evaluation?

Challenge

- Oral Language – What intentional teaching can educators do so that children are able to express themselves to enable them to build trusting relationships in life?
- How can we work smart with children’s learning documentation?

National Quality Standard 2: Children’s Health and Safety

Highlights

- Children and staff experiences and daily routines promote a healthy diet and lifestyle
- Children’s awareness of wellbeing showing growth through quiet time routine

Achievements

- Health & Safety Procedure developed and occurring covering all applicable processes aligned with “Staying Healthy in Childcare” and DECD policies and procedures
- Site policies formulated in collaboration with kindergarten community
- 44% of families strongly agreed and 56% agreed that “this preschool provides a safe and secure environment” indicated by the 2012 Parent Opinion Survey
Next Steps
- Develop morning fitness program for staff and children

Challenge
- Continue to work with families in keeping lunchboxes healthy
- Health and Safety issues for staff & children with children accessing kitchen

National Quality Standard 3: Physical Environment

Highlights
- Ongoing development of outdoor learning environment

Achievements
- Development of indoor learning environment upgrade plan

Next Steps
- Ongoing development of learning areas

Challenge
- Are educators creating learning environments based on children’s interests and capabilities considering continuity of learning?

National Quality Standard 4: Staffing Arrangements

Highlights
- A positive learning culture with open communication is role modeled to children
- 1 staff member completed Certificate III in Children’s Services
- 1 staff member completed Bachelor of Early Childhood Education
- 2012 staff reflection survey indicated all staff achieving professional growth
- 2 work placements students completed units of learning

Achievements
- All staff have completed mandated training and development
- 40% of families strongly agreed and 60% agreed that “teachers are enthusiastic in their learning” indicated by the 2012 Parent Opinion Survey
- All staff strongly agreed or agreed across all 9 areas of the DECD Principles of Improvement and Effectiveness – Self Review Tool: Level 2 scan

Next Steps
- Continuing Professional Development to improve practice

Challenge
- Do we have a lively culture of professional inquiry
National Quality Standard 5: Relationships with Children

**Highlights**

- Our children have a strong sense of belonging. 50% of families strongly agreed and 50% agreed that “my child is happy at this preschool” indicated by the 2012 Parent Opinion Survey.

**Achievements**

- A sense of belonging underpins educators interactions with children
- 44% of families strongly agreed and 56% agreed that “my child is motivated to learn at this preschool” indicated by the 2012 Parent Opinion Survey.

**Next Steps**

- How do we engage in children’s play? What role do we play?

**Challenge**

- High score on improvement data – RRR – relationship scale

National Quality Standard 6: Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities

**Highlights**

- A strong community culture exists at the kindergarten evident through 90% of families being actively involved in the centre (working bees, excursions, Governing Council, celebrations)
- 60% of families strongly agreed and 40% agreed that “I am well informed about preschool activities” indicated by the 2012 Parent Opinion Survey.
- 60% of families strongly agreed and 40% agreed that “Parents are invited to participate in decisions about their child’s education” indicated by the 2012 Parent Opinion Survey.
Achievements
- A strong sense of belonging within the kindergarten community
- 50% of families strongly agreed and 50% agreed that “I am comfortable about approaching my child’s teachers to talk about his/her progress” indicated by the 2012 Parent Opinion Survey

Next Steps
- Escalating our strong sense of belonging to the wider kindergarten community ensuring all children are accessing our centre

Challenge
- Making stronger connections with the wider kindergarten community ensuring all children’s and families needs are being met

National Quality Standard 7: Leadership and Service Management

Highlights
- Building a strong sense of community by putting children and relationships at the centre of all we do

Achievements
- Delivering a quality educational and care program through the re-structuring of the universal access model
- Change management with the introduction of the National Quality Framework
- 40% of families strongly agreed and 60% agreed that “I believe there is effective educational leadership within the preschool” indicated by the 2012 Parent Opinion Survey

Next Steps
- Drive continuous improvement through strengthening relationships with children, families and staff
- Maintain a positive culture
- Develop a comprehensive induction program

Challenge
- Shared Leadership through clarity of purpose and curriculum direction
**Intervention and Support Programs**

A Bilingual Program became operational part way through term 2. A Bilingual support worker was employed to support the program.

A Preschool support program operated throughout 2012 for targeted children.

Extremely positive results have been achieved in relation to the children’s individual learning plans.

We comply with Department for Education and Child Development’s Bullying and Harassment Policy and is an agenda item at Governing Council meetings.

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**Report from Governing Council**

**Snowtown Kindergarten Governing Council Chairpersons Report**

**2012**

I would like to thank all the members for their work over the past year. This year has proved to be one of a lot of activity for our kindy.

Fundraising activities for the year have included;

- Kindergarten photos. Thankyou Bernie for doing a lovely job again this year. Raised approx $250.00
- Seeds – Thanks Katrina. Raised $141.00
- Bike SA Catering – A big thanks to all involved. We managed to raise $1200.00. Allowing us to purchase a new cubby house for the kindergarten.
- Toy Catalogues
- Card Catalogues
- Street Carnival – Pavlovas & Lucky Dips.

Other highlights in 2012 were;

- A visit to Clare Kinder gym. Thanks to the parents for coming along and helping out.
- Working Bee to prepare and finish the soft edge border to finish soft fall. - Thanks to everyone involved.
- Introduction of the healthy eating policy.
- Painting of the interior of the kindergarten.
- New Futon. Thanks Sonya for organising.
- Mosaic poles put in our front garden. Thanks to Kayla Wakefield.

This year has seen Vicki Reichelt as our new Director. Vicki has used her experience from previous tenors to pass on to our kindergarten. We have also welcomed in Sharon Burford to the team. We have also had our familiar faces, ECW’s Rosie Zweck, Katrina Ebsary, and
support teacher Kimberley Henstchke. I would also like to take the time to thank Sam Bunting for donating her time as a volunteer.

We should be proud that our small Kindy has managed to achieve so much this year. I am grateful for the patience of the other governing council members for allowing so many apologies on my behalf. I wish you all the best for the next year.

Nicole McCauley

Chairperson

Snowtown Kindergarten Governing Council

## Student Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
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Enrolments have declined in the 3 years to 2012. Enrolments will decline further in 2013 due to the impact of Same First Day. Predicted enrolments for the future are unstable and reflect a transient population.
Attendance

Table 2: Attendance Percentages 2010 - 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Percentage</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 Centre</td>
<td>41.2</td>
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<td>81.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011 Centre</td>
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<td>118.2</td>
<td>107.7</td>
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<td>75.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010 State</td>
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<td>90.3</td>
<td>88.0</td>
<td>88.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011 State</td>
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<td>89.1</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>89.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012 State</td>
<td>87.4</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>84.4</td>
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We encourage parents to send their children to kindy on a regular basis. High attendance indicates the service in valuable to the community. 2012 attendance figures in comparison to state percentages indicate well above average attendance. Term 2 centre figures reflect the high level of illness. Attendance for 2011 term 3 & 4 appear inaccurate.

Feeder Schools

Table 3: Feeder School Percentage Data 2010 - 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site number - Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0742 - Snowtown Area School</td>
<td>Govt.</td>
<td>81.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>8496 - Horizon Christian School</td>
<td>Non-Govt.</td>
<td>18.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>100.1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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Snowtown Area School continues to be the primary feeder school for the Snowtown kindy community.
Client Opinion

10 families completed the 2012 Parent Opinion Survey being 91% of families.

Parent Comments - Quality of Teaching and Learning
My child comes home proudly showing his latest painting or creation and his learning record. Teachers make a big effort to scribe his comments.

Parent Comments - Support of Learning
We have been encouraged to write an individual learning goal for our children and I know teachers have goals too. Our children are supported to consolidate skills and learn new ones.

It is hard to know what happens when we only see small bits at the start & end of the day. It would be good to see more artwork/displays on the walls, for example, to see what they are doing & learning about. I know the kindy has the resources & learning activities, but I'm not sure if they get used & rotated enough.

Parent Comments - Relationships and Communication
Both formal and informal methods of communication are used at our pre-school. Newsletters, the whiteboard & sandwich board, Learning records, Governing Council & informal discussions are important methods of communication used at the kindy.

We've had our ups and downs, but things are going OK at the moment. Staff and parents are feeling the pressure of the amount of work there is to be done at the kindy, as all have other commitments and not enough time to donate to the kindy as we'd like.

Parent Comments - Leadership and Decision Making
The Director certainly knows what needs to be done for National Quality Standards.

Parent Comments - Other comments
Snowtown kindy should be a 3 day/week kindy (two days with the kids & 1 full day a week for admin planning, 2 days as it is currently is not enough for admin/planning without the children's hours suffering.

I still think the kindy needs to be a two day site with not so many admin days

Financial Statement

Refer attached