

## CENTRE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

I would like to thank everyone for coming to our AGM at the Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre (AECCC) today. It may be the last one as the 'Adelaide Eastern Community Childcare Centre Inc'., depending on how our vote goes today. I would like 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.

Thanks to Em, Jess – our babies' team, Kylie, Mariama, and Sylvia, our toddlers team, Chelsea, who has been part of both our Toddlers and Wallabies team, Sarah, Kate (for part of the year), Vic and Tracey – our Wallabies team, Kim, Rachel and Karilyn our Kangaroos team. Deb has also joined us on a part-time basis this year. And to our Kitchen Manager Kim, who works tirelessly to keep all of your children fed.

Mariama welcomed a new addition to her family in April, Zinab who has started with us this month. Chelsea stepped into the role whilst Ama was away.

This year we said goodbye to Kate. She has been back to visit and is looking really well.

I am also thankful that we have some dedicated long-term casual workers –Alice, Jacinta, Tijana and Dilshani. We also have had some new casual workers start with us this year. Thank you to Maddy, Neha, Angela, Lucy, Serine, Payel, and Siobhan.

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 has been teaching us, leading us in critical reflection, researching constantly and mentoring educators in their work. Thank you, Kylie.

Kim, our Early Childhood Teacher in the Kangaroos, has been using her creative skills in various roles. She painted our temporary sign onto the cloth that has been hanging on the fence. Kim has begun taking photos of our nature play area which will feature on our new website. Kim has continued to develop brochures for parents and now has a number completed. She will be displaying them for parents soon. Please let her know if there are any topics that you think she could develop a brochure on. Kim will also be making a sign for our community garden. Thanks Kim.

An important part of the National Quality Framework is the emphasis on sustainability. Em and Kylie have begun working on this area. You would have received an email a few weeks ago from them about their aims. You will begin to see subtle changes as the year continues. You may not realise but even the plates etc that will be used at the party are eco-friendly.

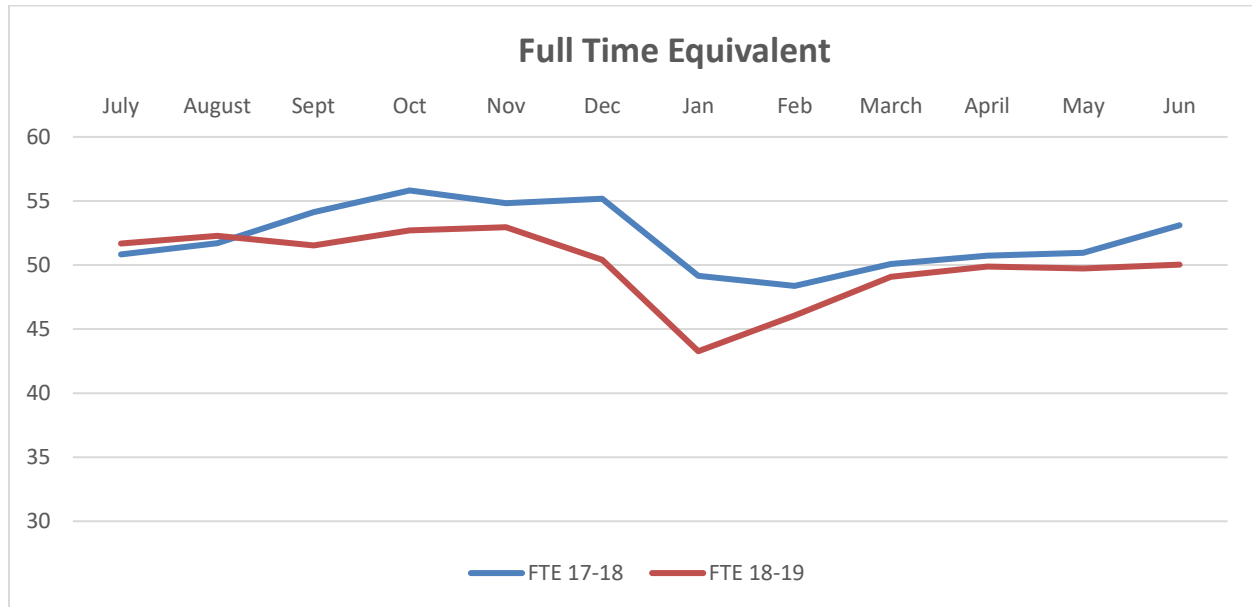
The Centre continues to have students from TAFE, universities and schools. This not only prepares the next group of workers for the industry but helps our educators to be able to teach others, thus honing their skills.

As part of our budget over the past year, staff have continued to receive professional development training in many areas e.g. First Aid and CPR, food safety, NQF, programming, health, critical reflection.

## **Utilisation**

The graph below shows the utilisation for the last two financial years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019. 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 December and January. The numbers then have to be built up again. As most of you would know there have been numerous new centre's built in Adelaide, with more to come. Talking to other directors this has been the toughest year to maintain Centre utilisation. Unfortunately, some Centre's have even had to closed. We are very thankful that although it took longer to build our numbers back up after the school leavers, we have been able to maintain our budget and exceed in some months.

Our FTEs for July, August and September 2019 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 2017. We as a team are continually working on ways to improve the quality of our service. We are well on the way to achieving the goal of Exceeding National Standards. Thanks to our National Quality Framework sub-committee of Em, Jess, Kim and Kylie, who have been working on our Quality Improvement Plan throughout the year.

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

## Renovations

This last year has been a year of change to the physical look of the Centre. In July/August last year the Centre undertook indoor renovations to some of the rooms, which I talked about at the last AGM. The last 6 months has seen an incredible transformation outside. Later today you will hear from Kylie about the whole process, so I won't 'steal her thunder'. I would like to take this opportunity to thank some people. I would like to thank Kylie. Her commitment and passion to the idea and implementation of the nature play has been inspirational. Thanks to Nick, one of our Board, who has been instrumental in the planning and throughout the building works. Thanks to Paul for his wisdom and liaison throughout the process. Thanks to the educators. It was tough at times, but you showed patience and understanding to each other and the children in your care. Lastly, I would like to thank the families. You and your children have adapted to all of the changes so well. Thank you for making the process easier.

Earlier this year, we applied for a grant from the Burnside Council to create a community garden. We were successful in winning that grant and the garden was planted in June this year. Kim will be working on some signage to make it clear that it is a community garden. With the addition of the eggs from the chickens, it will be a 'one stop shop'.

## **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, and myself from the staff team and two wonderful parents Rebecca and Kate. 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 a delivery of Kytons. Social events have included a dolphin cruise, the Christmas party, and a parent information night. We have also organised several fun events for the children including book week dress up – with "My Secret Power" theme. This year we have tried to be more mindful of others in our community. We have raised money for 'White Balloon Day and the Greatest Morning Tea. Thank you to all of those who donated to these worthy causes.

## **Board**

This year the Board has consisted of Josh, Paul, Emily, Nick, John, Jason and Elliot. Jess has been our staff representative this year. 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. This year one of our members has decided not to renominate. I would like to thank Elliot for his commitment to the Board over the last year.

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 2019