Ballara Park Kindergarten at Warradale is 10km south west from the GPO and close to seaside suburbs. It is in a middle socio economic area, although there are families with varying economic circumstances. The majority of families are of Anglo-Saxon heritage, with an increasing number of families from varying cultural backgrounds using the centre. Currently most children come from 2 parent homes, with many having 2 working parents. A high percentage of families are return parents, having brought older siblings to the centre.

There has been a consistency in the staff team with the permanent teacher and 2 ECW working there together for over 5 years. The current permanent director has been here for 3 years, and although on leave at present, the current acting director has worked at the centre on and off for over 10 years. The Support Worker has been working at the centre regularly for 3 years.

The Kindergarten offers full day sessions with children attending either on a Monday/Wednesday, or a Tuesday/Thursday. At present we have 72 eligible 4 and 5 year old children attending, 36 per session, which is our maximum capacity under NQS. There are 33 children attending a pre-entry program on Friday mornings. Projected enrolments are expected to maintain this high level of enrolments and, as such, we operate under a Priority of Access Policy. At present we can only accept families in our designated boundaries, or children who have had siblings attend. We maintain a waiting list for children that we cannot accommodate at this stage. 37 children are leaving at the end of the year to go on to school.

We have 8 children receiving support under the Preschool Support Program, and anticipate similar numbers next term. 7 children come from ESL homes. There is one GOM child.

The children access a variety of schools, predominantly the local public schools, Warradale Primary and Paringa Park Primary as well as the nearby Catholic school, Christ the King. Other schools include Glenelg Primary and Brighton Primary.

From term 1 2012 Ballara Park Kindergarten will be offering 15 hours per week of session time under Universal Access. After consultation with families, including pre-entry and playgroup families, the opinion survey showed a 75% preference for these additional hours to be offered over 2 extended days. Session times will be from 8.30 am to 4pm. It will not be possible to offer a pre-entry program next year, but happily it appears that the parent community will be able to facilitate the continuation of the playgroup.

Key Directions and Targets 2011
Excellence in Learner Achievement
- Improvement in literacy outcomes
- Improvement in gross motor skills
Comparing data from the initial screening that children receive in their first term of preschool with the results from the screening in their final term showed that all children made some improvement in their Literacy knowledge. 20% of children had significant improvement, 72% good improvement and 8% slight improvement. Gross motor comparative data revealed an increase across board of children’s gross motor skills.

Improved Learner Engagement and Wellbeing
- Meeting children’s learning and wellbeing needs
- Embedding the Early Years Framework into all planning, practices and routines
The Early Years Framework underpins the curriculum planning and interactions with children. It is the basis for recording observations and individual learning plans, as well as writing summative reports.

Improved Community Learning Opportunities
- Improvement in community learning opportunities through increased communication to parents
All families receive an Information Book concerning the operation of the centre and another regarding the Educational Program, when making enquiries about the centre. Parents receive verbal feedback regarding their child’s assessment and development in the first and fourth terms of attendance, as well as informal discussions throughout their year at kindergarten.
Programming details, using the EYLF, are displayed near the entrance for families to view, and are updated as additional learning experiences develop. A white board at the door is used to notify parents of any additional information. Staff make themselves available to discuss and converse with families at every opportunity.

The Governing Council priorities for 2011 were the renovations of the Kitchen, and Office areas.
Over the last 3 years there has been an active parent fundraising community. In 2011 the parents and community were involved in 11 separate fundraising events. The success of these events over the 3 last years has resulted in a capacity to renovate the kitchen, including the purchase of an oven. This will allow staff to expand cooking activities for children. The archaic furniture in the office was with replaced with user friendly desks and an efficient shelf and storage system.
ENROLMENTS AND ATTENDANCES:

The current capacity under NQS is 36 per session, 72 in total. At present the centre is working at capacity with 72 children enrolled. Projected enrolment figures for the following 3 terms show a likely continuation of high numbers.
CLIENT OPINION:
Parent Survey

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