

2024 annual report to the Community

# Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten

Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten number: 3696

Partnership: Fleurieu



Preschool director:

Jo-Anne Peat

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Date of endorsement:

29/01/2025



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education

# Context Statement

Information about Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten is available on the centres website, as well as the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website.

## Governing Council Report

On behalf of the Victor Harbor Kindergarten community, I thank the outgoing 2023 Governing Council for their dedication and hard work. The year 2024 has seen remarkable success, primarily due to the expertise of Director Jo-Anne Peat (Jo) and her team of educators and assistants. During our regular committee meetings, the 2024 Committee has effectively collaborated with Director Jo and Ashlee Wray (Ash) to achieve significant outcomes for the children and the broader kindergarten community.

One of our notable achievements this year is installing a new shade structure, which provides a sun-smart outdoor area for the children. We have also engaged with the local Member of Parliament, David Basham, and the City of Victor Harbor to advocate for changes in on-street parking options. We aim to maximise the roadside areas closest to the kindergarten entrance, limiting the need for families to cross the road. While we await the correction of the Loading Zone signs to the Passenger Loading Zone, our ultimate aim is to establish a "quick drop-off and pick-up" zone directly in front of the kindergarten entrance gate. A new handout titled "Parking Suggestions" was created to highlight the recommended on-street parking options for families.

Mid-year presented a significant challenge when we faced the rejection of crucial funding essential for supporting children's needs at our kindergarten. I wrote to the Minister for Education on behalf of the Governing Council, expressing our concerns and disappointment regarding the children's requirements (letter attached). The letter created constructive discussions with area managers and kindergarten directors, highlighting shared concerns within the community. One notable outcome was Mr Martin Westwell, the Chief Executive of the Department for Education, visiting the kindergarten, which underscored the importance of our advocacy. The committee engaged in thoughtful deliberations about whether the issues outlined in our letter to the Minister were interconnected with the impacts of COVID-19 and the challenges new families face due to limited support from the Child and Family Health Service (CAFHS) during the pandemic.

As we look ahead, there is an increasing demand for support for children with diverse needs, including those experiencing learning difficulties, behavioural challenges, and toilet training. With the introduction of three-year-old kindergarten, we recognise the complexities this could bring to our site in Victor Harbor. I encourage the new committee to maintain our advocacy efforts for additional resources and support. If direct communication with the department does not achieve the goals, collaborating with the local member of parliament may be a beneficial strategy. Working together, we can ensure that all children receive the support they need to thrive.

The policy addressing sickness and trauma has been revised to create a more precise and user-friendly document. This new policy supports staff in communicating with families about illness and attendance at kindergarten. We have also developed a handout titled "When is Too Sick for Kindergarten?" to accompany the more detailed policy. The handout emphasises the importance of keeping children at home when unwell. We encourage families to help their children manage symptoms hygienically when they are sick. Consistent language and practices, such as encouraging children to blow their noses properly at home and in kindergarten, can lead to better health outcomes for children and staff.

Effective communication with families was another topic of discussion. We agreed on the importance of prominently displaying recent handouts and notices near the pick-up area to ensure that all families are well-informed. Allowing children to remind their family members to check for notices in the pigeonhole at the end of the day during mat time may also be an effective method. Staff sometimes experience frustration when having to reiterate information that has already been communicated through notices.

The committee was informed about unacceptable behaviour by children towards staff and other children. The committee reviewed the Behaviour Policy. The Director sent a letter to all families outlining the kindergarten's commitment to collaborating with families to address behavioural challenges. The Governing Council is responsible for ensuring that all policies are adequately written and updated as necessary. These policies play a vital role in supporting the Director and staff when communicating with families.

We organised working bees in the middle and end of the year, where staff, a few committee members, and their families came together to perform general maintenance and cleanup of the facilities. During these events, we replaced the sleepers surrounding the garden bed near the water play area and utilised a skip bin for waste disposal. Participants agreed that the working bees fostered a sense of connection among staff and families, and I encourage the committee to continue holding these events in the future.

At the end of this year, we bid farewell to Gaynor, a highly valued staff member who has dedicated 25 years to the kindergarten. Gaynor has taught and cared for our three children, now aged 19, 16, and four. I want to thank her for creating a nurturing environment that allows children to explore, get dirty, and engage in play-based learning, particularly outside in the garden. Her contributions have left a lasting impact on every child who has attended the kindergarten.

I am confident that the efforts of the 2024 Committee, along with the unwavering support and expertise of Director Jo and her team, have laid the groundwork for the continued success of the Victor Harbor Kindergarten community.

My family and I would be pleased to continue to support the kindergarten where required.

Merry Christmas

Kate Basham

**Chair Governing Council**

**Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten**

## Preschool Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2021 centre	86.7%	74.6%	88.6%	76.1%
2022 centre	87.2%		76.9%	76.1%
2023 centre	85.7%	73.3%	71%	73.8%
2024 centre	83.3%		78.4%	

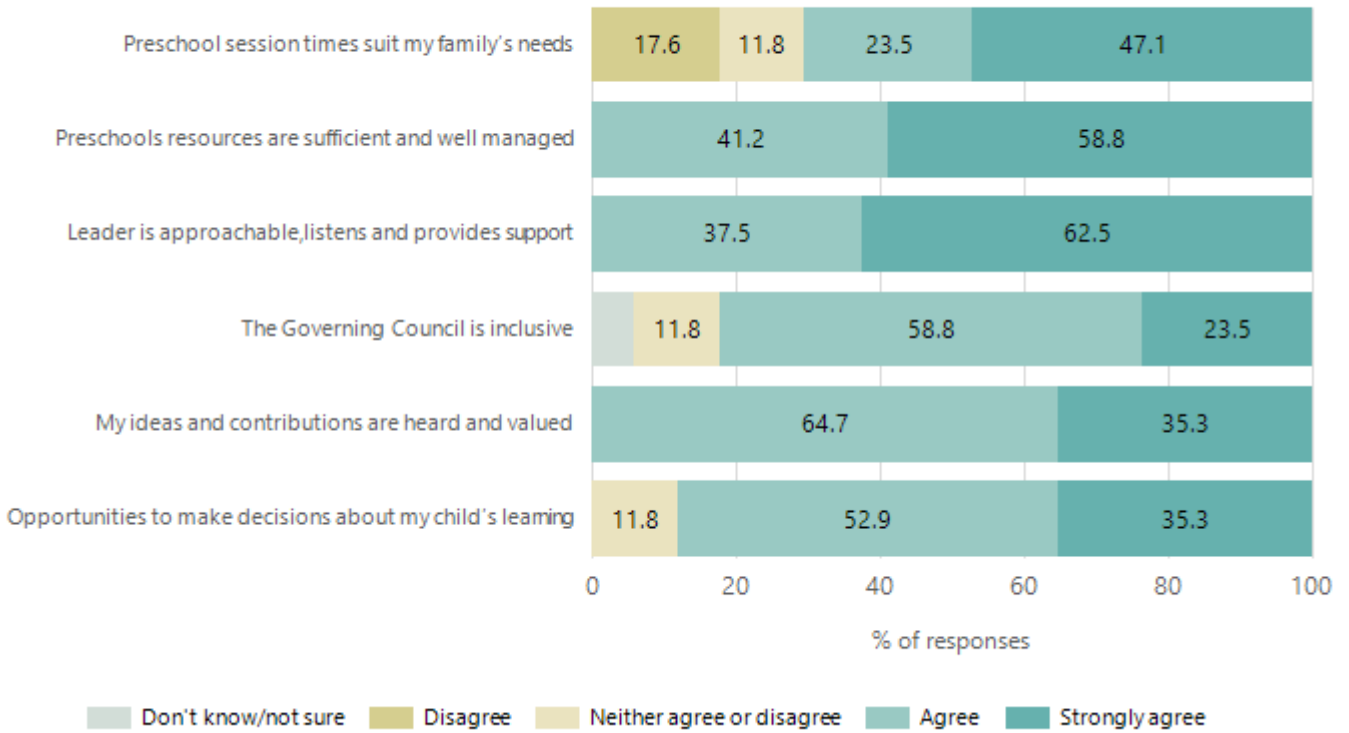
Based on attendances recorded in the two-week reference period each term. Data for eligible enrolments as described in the department's Enrolment policy. Attendance rates may differ to previous reporting with the transfer from calculations based on deemed attendance to actual attendance using booked hours divided by attended hours. Data Source: Department for Education Attendance Data, Semester 1 Report 2024. A blank cell indicates there we no students enrolled.

## Attendance Comment

In South Australia, preschool attendance is not compulsory, but it is strongly encouraged. Preschool gives children the best opportunity to develop skills, which prepare them for school. These benefits include establishing positive routines and habits, friendships and connections as well as developing communication, problem-solving and creative skills. All children are entitled to access a preschool program over 4 terms the year before they start school.

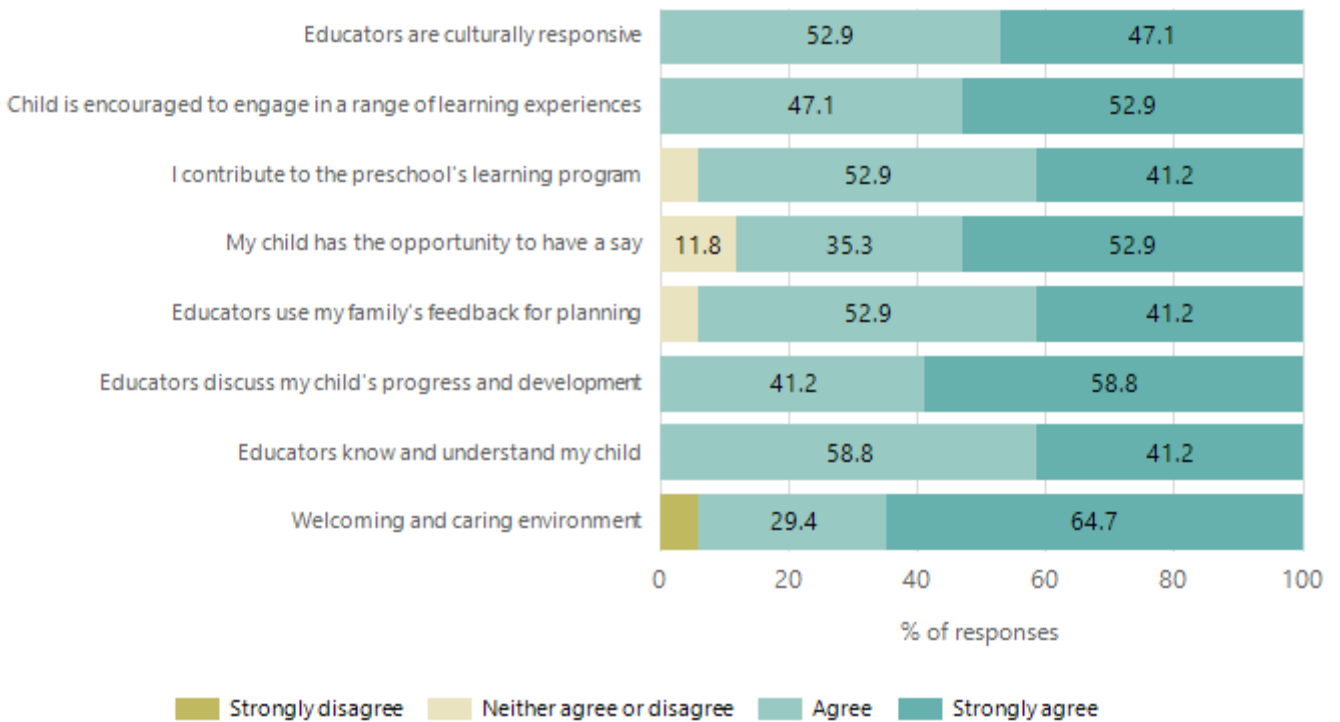
# Preschool Family Opinion Survey

## Governance, Leadership and Management



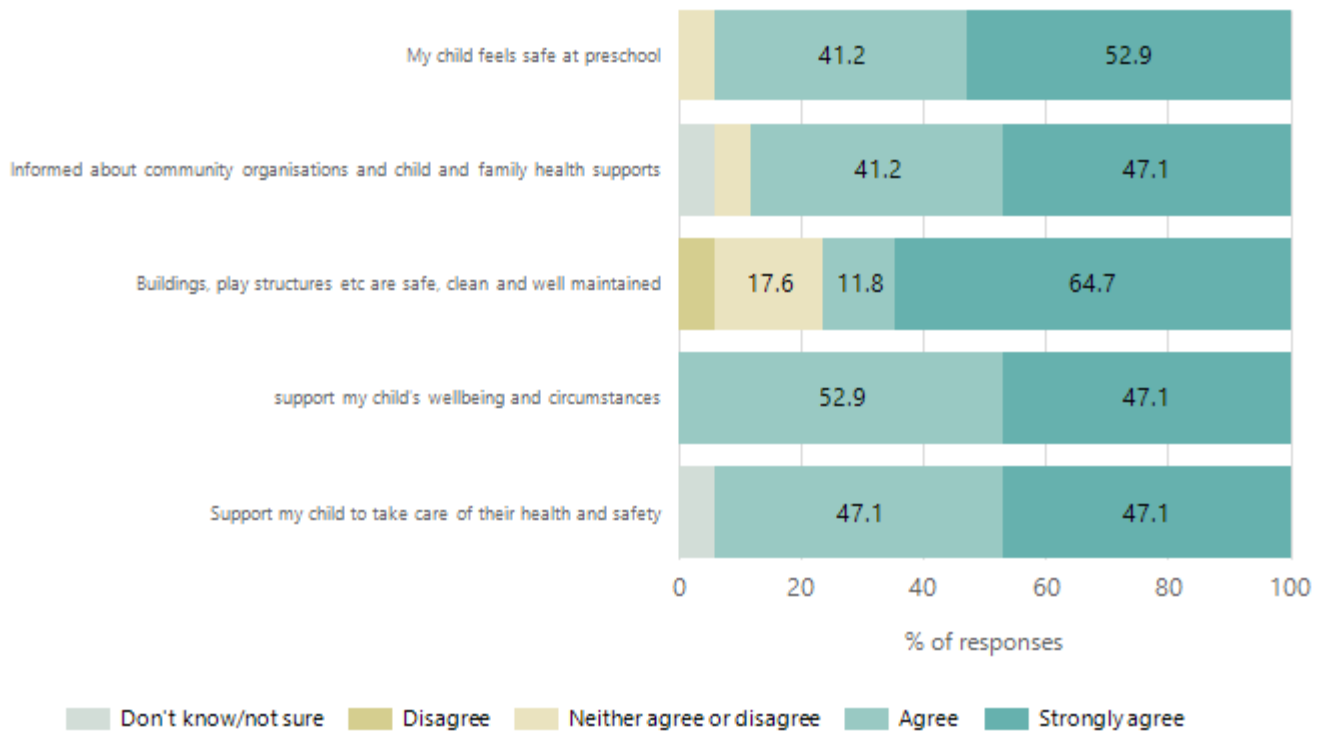
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

## Quality of Teaching and Learning



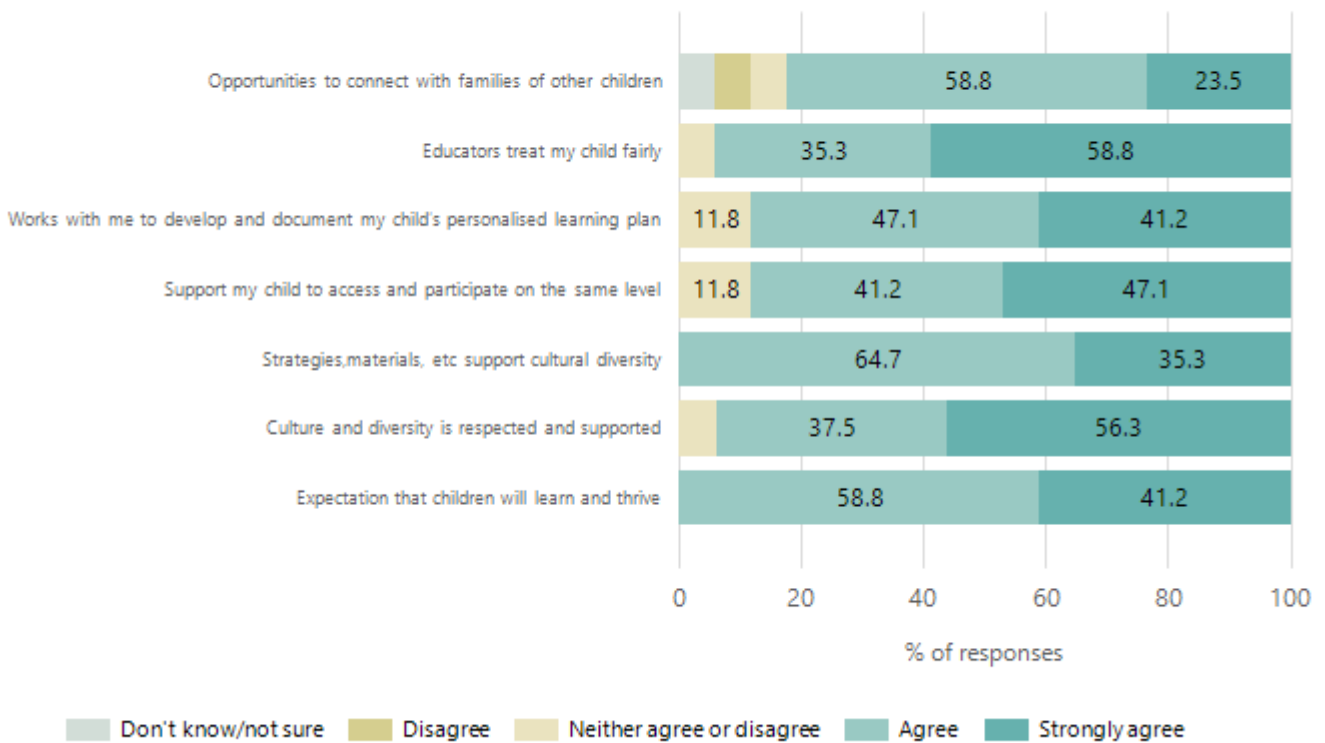
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

## Safety, Health and Wellbeing



Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

## Support and Inclusion



Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

# Destination Schools

Feeder Schools (Site number - Name)	2022	2023	2024
0453 - Victor Harbor Primary School	78.6%	47.0%	64.1%
9012 - Encounter Lutheran College			3.1%
9999 - Unknown	19.6%	50.0%	32.8%

Note: The data is collected in term 3. It does not reflect actual schools enrolled in by existing preschool children. A blank cell indicates there was no data for students enrolled.

Data Source: Department for Education Destination Data Report, 2024.

## Highest Qualifications held by the teaching workforce and workforce composition

All teachers at this school are qualified and registered with the SA Teachers Registration Board.

Qualification Level	Number of Qualifications
Bachelor's degrees or Diplomas	4

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collections as on the last pay date of June 2024. As self-reported by staff in the system.

Please note: Data includes staff who are Actively employed and on extended paid leave. Please note only the highest qualification of the Teaching staff is reported. Excludes any number of other certifications earned.

### Workforce composition including indigenous staff

	Teaching Staff		Non-Teaching Staff	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Full-Time Equivalents	0.0	3.1	0.0	2.6
Persons	0.0	4.0	0.0	5.0

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collection as on the last pay date of June 2024.

Please note: Data includes staff who are actively employed and on extended paid leave. "Indigenous category" is self-reported by staff in the system.

## Financial Statement

Funding Source	Amount
Grants: State	\$602,088.92
Grants: Commonwealth	N/A
Parent Contributions	\$26,226.285
Fund Raising	N/A
Other	N/A

Data Source: School supplied data.