

Jacaranda Preschool

CENTRE
INCORPORATED



Strategic Plan 2015-2019

education, nurturing, community, quality

Introduction: ☺☺☺

Jacaranda Preschool has provided an ongoing not for profit community service of quality early childhood care and education for children between the ages of 3 and 5 years in the Caringbah area since 1944, and in its current location since 1952. This tradition of high quality preschool care continues. In 2013 Jacaranda Preschool was assessed by the Australian Children's Education Care Quality Authority (ACECOA) and awarded the quality rating: Exceeding the National Quality Standards. This is an outstanding achievement by the director and staff for the children, parents and Community of Jacaranda Preschool.

The purpose of this document is to maintain these high standards of education by articulating Jacaranda Preschool's strategic direction for the next five years. Supported by the staff, parents and community, this strategic plan will provide a framework for ensuring the ongoing provision of high quality preschool education and enabling the allocation of resources and funds which will bring this strategy to life.



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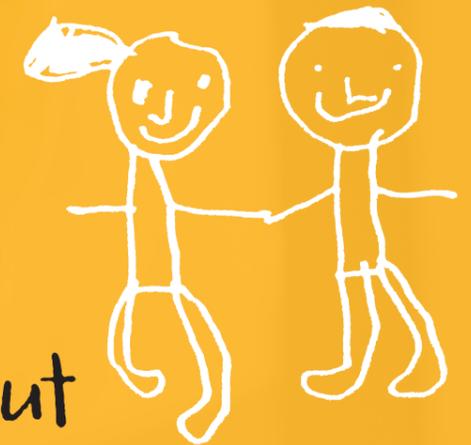
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OUR MISSION:

Jacaranda will provide the highest quality preschool education with a child-centric approach to teaching and learning.

About Jacaranda Preschool



OUR STRUCTURE:

Jacaranda Preschool is a not-for profit preschool. It is an Incorporated Association under the Incorporated Associations Act. The Constitution was Registered (Y2169812) May 5, 1995, amended in 2006 and reviewed regularly to ensure best practice.

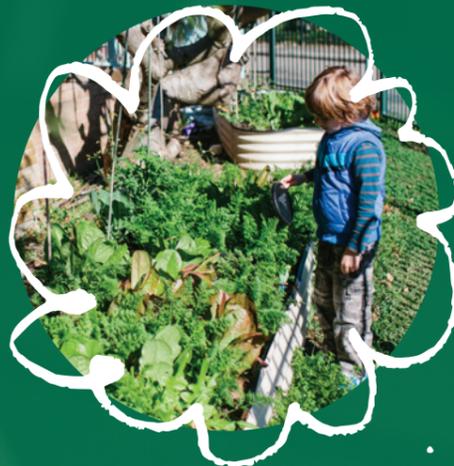
- a) A Membership of the Association (all parents and interested parties) is outlined in Part 2 of the Constitution of Jacaranda Preschool Centre Inc. "Interested parties" is anyone who is not a parent of the centre but shows an interest and wishes to be part of the Management Committee. These people still have to be nominated and elected to the Committee and need to pay a membership fee of \$1 per year.
- b) The Management Committee is elected by members of the association. The Committee consists of parents and members of the local community as outlined in Part 3 of the Constitution.

Our Preschool is a three unit preschool licensed for 60 children per day, offering early childhood education and care for 120 in the 3 – 5 year old age group over a 5 day week.



OUR PHILOSOPHY: JACARANDA PRESCHOOL...

- Provides a safe, happy, nurturing and evolving environment.
- Utilises an approved learning framework, to inform the development of the curriculum and educational program, which enables children to take ownership of their own learning.
- Embraces diversity, so that each child and family is supported to participate in the program.
- Provides a child centric environment which embeds healthy lifestyle choices in its program: promoting resilience in children, cultivating a strong sense of well-being, preparing children for life's transitions and supporting them to thrive in the present.
- Provides an environmentally responsible inclusive environment for children which promotes competence, independent exploration and learning through play.
- Is committed to ongoing learning and reflective practice through a qualified and well-resourced staff who display respectful and ethical behaviour.
- Appreciates how children engage with peers and educators as contributing learners to build and maintain sensitive and responsive relationships.
- Is a community preschool who values and works in a respectful partnership with families, the community and other professionals to enhance children's learning and well-being.
- Facilitates effective forms of communication between children, parents, staff and management to ensure a positive organisational culture with a commitment to continuous improvement in a professional learning environment.
- Is the children, parents and staff.





OUR VALUES:
Education, Nurturing, Community, Quality

Jacaranda Preschool is a Community Based Not for Profit Preschool, which has been an integral part of the Caringbah community since 1944 and in its present premises on Jacaranda Road since 1952. Jacaranda is committed to providing priority placement to the following groups, which include:

- children who are from low income families (due to hardship, crisis, illness etc.)
- children or parents with additional needs eg: physical or intellectual disabilities, including mental illness.
- culturally and linguistically diverse families.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.
- children in their final year before school.
- children who may be at risk.

Our centre has a philosophy of aspiring for early childhood education to be available to all children. Thus our policies are structured to ensure that our children are able to access and stay within the centre program.



The Strategic Plan

OUR VISION:

Jacaranda Preschool will lead the way as an advocate for all children and families, celebrating their strengths to enjoy today and learn for tomorrow by providing quality child centred education through a community preschool programme.

Jacaranda Preschool's Vision and Strategic Plan was developed collaboratively by the director Louise Murfet, teachers, educators and parents and endorsed by the Jacaranda Preschool Committee of Parents and the Community in August 2014. This strategic plan has been developed in alignment with the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, Education and Care Services 2013, Education and Care Services National Regulations, National Quality Framework, National Quality Standards (www.ACECQA.gov.au)

STRATEGIC THRUSTS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	KEY ACTIONS
<p>1. To provide the highest quality preschool education for our children in alignment with Quality Area 1 (QA1) of the National Quality Standards and with a child-centric approach to teaching and learning</p>	<p>1.1 To provide consistently high quality preschool education for every child at Jacaranda Preschool with a child-centric approach to teaching and learning.</p>	<p>a. Curriculum decision making contributes to each child's learning and development outcomes in relation to their identity, connection with community, wellbeing, confidence as learners and effectiveness as communicators per QA 1.1.1.</p> <p>b. To support every child in their individual path to "being, belonging and becoming."</p>
	<p>1.2 To provide Universal Access for children in their final year before primary school. As per legislation, Jacaranda Preschool will ensure that 4 year old children have priority access to preschool in the year before they attend school.</p>	<p>a. To prioritise placements to 4 year olds (over 3 year olds).</p> <p>b. Jacaranda Preschool will continue to provide the best possible preparation for a smooth and positive transition into primary school.</p> <p>c. Continue to engage with local primary schools to ensure Jacaranda Preschool offers best practice in school readiness and to identify any opportunities for improvement.</p>
	<p>1.3 To provide Children with a diagnosed Additional Need with priority of service and a high quality education by focusing on specific learning outcomes for these children and ensuring that staff are confident, thoughtful and informed in their interactions with children with additional needs. (Source: SCAN program overview DEET NSW). As articulated in QA5 "The dignity and rights of every child are maintained at all times."</p>	<p>a. Tailored learning programs to ensure that each child's needs are met and that they can participate effectively in a quality early childhood education program. The education program will be developed in consultation with the child's family and with the assistance of other relevant professionals.</p> <p>b. "Access to inclusion and support assistance is facilitated" per QA6.3.3. This will be at no extra cost to the families of additional needs children: funded by the centre and when possible via additional government or philanthropic funding.</p>





STRATEGIC THRUSTS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	KEY ACTIONS
2. To ensure our teachers and educators are engaged in professional development & fully supported in the classroom to help them become the best they can be. Jacaranda Preschool will promote a "positive organisational culture and build a professional learning community" per QA7.	2.1 To support and offer Continuous Professional Development for staff. This "commitment to continuous improvement" per QA7 will improve teaching performance, increase effectiveness and relationships in the classroom, promote networking within the industry and keep educators up to date with the latest developments and industry best practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ensure each new staff member completes a comprehensive induction b. Develop individual training plans with staff which may include attending conferences, training courses, staff development days, personal research and project/team work. c. Provide opportunities for staff to share learnings with each other
	2.2 To provide a consistently high level of education and care for children by having a higher than the required 2:20 teacher to child ratio in each classroom (per QA4). Educators are more likely to be responsive, purposeful and thoughtful when staffing arrangements allow them to direct their full attention to their work with children (adapted from the <i>Early Years Learning Framework</i> , p14 – 15.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The minimum staff consisting of a trained ECT, an Educator with minimum Diploma qualification and a trainee studying at least Cert 111. b. This exceeds the required adult to child ration (2:20) and will ideally be delivered through the employment of 3 trainees to raise staff numbers in each room. c. Attract high quality, high potential trainees by being known for providing quality training, professional development and a positive, professional and friendly workplace.
3. To remain an integrated and engaged part of our local community through "collaborative partnerships with families and communities." per QA6.	3.1 To actively promote family and community engagement. Jacaranda Preschool is a community based preschool and as such we will ensure "that families have opportunities to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions" per QA6.1.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jacaranda Preschool will continue to engage with families through its website, induction sessions, fundraising events, parent-teacher interviews, journals, midyear meetings, participation of parents in the development of the curriculum, celebrations, documentation, transition to school. b. Jacaranda Preschool will build our ties with the community through fundraisers, networking (iiihub etc), visits from local businesses (dentists etc), community groups, Aboriginal Elders and Emergency Services. c. The Director will network to advocate for early childhood preschool education.

STRATEGIC THRUSTS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	KEY ACTIONS
4. To continue to embed sustainable practices into service operations. Per QA3.	4.1 To continue to follow and encourage environmentally sustainable practices to support the children to become environmentally responsible and respectful.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jacaranda Preschool will work towards less paper use by optimising electronic methods of communication to families. b. Continue to promote environmentally responsible practices with the children through the use of a vegetable garden, water tank, worm farm, no food packaging/ nude food policy, use recyclable material for art & craft. c. Investigate solar panels to improve carbon footprint and reduce electricity costs.
	4.2 To sustainably manage our teaching and learning environment, providing the best possible facilities for teachers and children per QA3. We will optimise the current physical environment with a view to upgrading to a new building in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We will continue to invest in upkeep and continuous improvement within our current location so that all outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, furniture, equipment, facilities and resources are suitable for their purpose per QA 3.1. This will include creating an Inclusion Support room as a dedicated space for learning and development. b. To work with council on a plan to move to a new building in the medium term.
	4.3 To continue to manage Jacaranda Preschool in a manner that is affordable for parents and financially sustainable .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Management Committee, Director and staff will continue to ensure that Jacaranda Preschool is financially viable and that 'appropriate governance arrangements are in place to manage the service' per QA7. b. That additional needs children capped at 10% or 9 – 10 children at any given time to ensure each child is supported without unduly impacting on fees across the board.

we love Jacaranda Preschool because...

... I like reading.

Oliver

... I like playing with my friends.

Austin

... I like learning lots of things.

Zachary

... I like reading the books and doing painting on the easel.

Lara

... I like my teachers.

Isabella

... I like playing outside.

Ella

... I like the lego, blocks and building roads.

Ashton

... I like playing with my friends making Wombat Stew.

Maddison

... I love my teachers and painting.

Isabella

... I like playing with my friends all day.

Xavier

... I like to play puzzles.

Nash

... I like the ipad.

Noah

... I like playing in the playground in the sandpit.

Lachlan

... I like craft.

Hannah

... I like to play in the playground.

Charlie

... I like making stuff and playing.

Savannah

... I like painting and making things.

Naome

... I like eating with my friends.

Zac

... I like being the leader.

Grace

... I like drawing and craft.

Pippa

... I like to make something.

Aileen

... the teachers are nice to me and going to YMCA.

Jack

... I like playing outside in the sandpit.

Marina

... I like playing with my friends.

Suzie

... I like playing with Lego.

Christian

... I like coming two days.

Georgia

... I like playing with my friends under the trees.

Finn

... I like riding bikes outside.

Zane

... I like sitting in the boat in the playground.

Taia

... I like the piano.

Sami

... I like going outside.

Caity

... I like playing with the puppet show.

Bonnie



Jacaranda Preschool word cloud





Jacaranda Preschool Centre Incorporated
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