Mt Compass Preschool Centre
Annual Report 2015

It is our pleasure to present this Annual Report to the Governing Council of Mt Compass Preschool Centre, families of our preschool children and the Educational Director of the Fleurieu Partnership, Mr Richard Costi.

2015 was our year of walking !! Gradually building up our confidence, stamina, interest, and safety practices. We enjoyed family participation in these walks and the enthusiasm of children to discover their own communities and use these experiences to build numeracy and literacy understandings and skills.

Jay Elmslie, Director
On behalf of staff

Claire Ryan, Chairperson
on behalf of Governing Council

General Context

21 children were attending the Preschool by the end of 2015. We were able to offer all families one set of preschool sessions of 5 full days per fortnight. This gave great consistency within the group of children present, the program they co-created and the families accessing the preschool. There was also a consistency of staff during 2015. The Director, Teacher, Support Workers and Regular Relief Teacher remained the same over the course of the year.

Governing Council Report

Governing Council meetings were regularly attended by 8-11 parents, staff and community members including 2 playgroup representatives. The Council provided active support, feedback and input into the work of the centre. The highlight of the year was the design and completion of a new mound, slippery dip and water course. This will be a great active learning environment for children to play and learn in for many years to come. The project was financed partly by funds raised over two years by the Governing Council. The annual Mt Compass Quiz Night, our major 2015 fundraiser, was very successful! The work of the Sub Committee saw families getting together and forming strong bonds. The event itself was a fun night and raised much needed funds as well as engaging the broader community in preschool business.
This was a home/preschool program involving family participation. Children were introduced to physical skills...not to mention the really cool medal the children received on completion!!

Staff attended Work Health and Safety (WHS) Training. Partnership funding was used to update the WHS system and carry out tasks as required.

Educators also updated their Child Protection Curriculum training and designed and implemented a new approach to delivery the program over the course of the year.

Staff completed a Mindset Survey and Numeracy Audit in the second half of the year. This data will be more fully analysed and acted upon in 2016 as part of our identified action to include all staff (casual, non teaching, teaching) in workplace development.

**Where to in 2016?**

In term 4 we trialled a developmental music program. We can see great potential for children to build early literacy and numeracy understandings and concepts through music, beat, rhythm and notation. This will be followed up in 2016.

We will also work with the growth mindset and numeracy data collected in 2015 with the aim of developing a deeper understanding of learning processes and early childhood pedagogy across the site.

**Familiarisation with the Indicators of Preschool Literacy and Numeracy**

All staff attended professional development training focused on the Preschool Numeracy and Literacy Indicators. A full day training was delivered by the Primary Maths Association at the beginning of the year. In June a second full day was organised by the Fleurieu Partnership Results Plus team and the Early Years Leader. Professional reflection and discussion about the Indicators were part of staff meetings throughout the year. Educators developed a recording format to assist during this year of familiarisation. This was shared with other sites across the Fleurieu Partnership.

**Criminal History Screening (CHS)**

A personnel folder is maintained by the Director for every staff member (voluntary and paid) that records criminal history screens and expiry dates. Certificate information is also maintained on the Eduportal data base. All new staff are inducted using the appropriate DECD induction check-lists which include the status of CHS. Prospective governing council members are required to complete CHS, this is recorded in the Governing Council Folder. All visitors to the centre that require CHS are requested to supply certification prior to coming on site.
Support Programs and Intervention

During the course of 2015 7 children received support from the DECD Educational Psychologist and/or the DECD Speech Pathologist. This represents one third of the total preschool enrolment. These programs were managed by the Director and the DECD Special Educator in consultation with families. All children had a Learning Plan in place to plan, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions. Interventions were found to be supportive of each child’s learning and development. In all cases a meetings were held with intended schools and preschool educators and families to assist in the smooth transition of the children and their families into the school environment.

There was one participant in early entry through the Aboriginal 3 year old program. The literacy and learning goals were met, a happy transition has been into the preschool community ready for a second year of preschool in 2016. Early entry was attended by one child with special rights, goals set were met ready for the 2015 eligible preschool year.

Parent Satisfaction Survey

This year we planned to use two surveys, one in the beginning of year and another as year progressed. We did this, and the second results are in the table above. There was not a significant difference between the results and we found the level of satisfaction amongst respondents remained high for the year. Each year we also receive unsolicited feedback in the form of comments, cards and letters. In 2016 we will consider how we might use these comments. We will also request feedback from the governing council—this could be recorded in a more formal way too.

Enrolment

A decrease in enrolments in 2015 reflect changes in the population of the town and surrounding district. This ebb and flow of enrolments has been noted over longer cycles of time.

In 2016 we are expecting another increase in enrolment.

Attendance

Attendances returned to previous levels in 2015 after a year of lower attendance in 2014 due mainly to the low attendance of several individual children. Our attendance was between .4 and 6 percentage point above the DECD average.

Educators strive to kept in regular contact with families and work in liaison with Mt Compass Area School (where appropriate) to provided additional support and flexibility to families in an effort to maintain and improve attendance.

Feeder schools

What this data tells us is that in 2015 a greater percentage of children transitioned to a DECD school than they had in the two previous years. Most of the children transition to Mt Compass Area School and this has increased by nearly 10% over the last three years.