2025 annual report to the Community

# Darlington Children's Centre

Darlington Children's Centre number: 3624

Partnership: Marion Coast

Preschool director: Kim Cook

Date of endorsement: 24/02/2026

Government of South Australia
Department for Education

# Context Statement

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

# Governing Council Report

**Governing Council at Darlington Children's Centre**

2025 was a highly successful year for the Darlington Children's Centre, with several improvements made across the site and a strong foundation established for 2026.

The year commenced with the renovation of flooring in the Kindy space, ensuring the area was bright and modern for children starting in Term 1. This update not only enhanced the main rooms aesthetically but also made cleaning and rearranging the environment much easier. We also arranged for a painting company to refresh the Kindy learning areas during the Term 2 holidays, further brightening and updating these spaces.

Significant progress was made towards our goal of improving the outdoor areas, including both the Kindy yard and the Community/Playgroup side. We are currently awaiting consultation with a landscaping company, who will develop plans informed by valuable feedback from the Governing Council, families, educators, children, and Kaurna consultant Jade Brook, with whom we have developed a strong partnership. Additionally, a grant application has been submitted to enhance the sunshade within the kindergarten space, and we were fortunate to receive a $500 donation from the Lions Club to support further upgrades to the Community space, which will include two new mud kitchens, ready in March 2026.

Financial management for the site transitioned to the Centralised Preschool Finance model, administered by the Department for Education. This will support ongoing improvements and provide an easy-to-use budgeting process for the Kindy staff team.

Throughout the year, staff invested heavily in professional development, regularly collaborating with local Kaurna woman Jade Brook and her company, Third Camp. Their insights have informed daily interactions and enriched the Kindy environment.

Fundraising was made accessible for families, with the McCue's Bakery fundraiser raising more than $300, and the highly successful Christmas Raffle in Term 4 raising over $200. We also held dress-up and special days for gold coin donations, allowing families to participate in fundraising without significant cost, especially during a period of high cost-of-living.

Congratulations to the Kindy staff for their dedication and achievements and thank you to all Governing Council volunteers for your time and commitment.

**Chairperson – Alison Riddell**

## Preschool Attendance

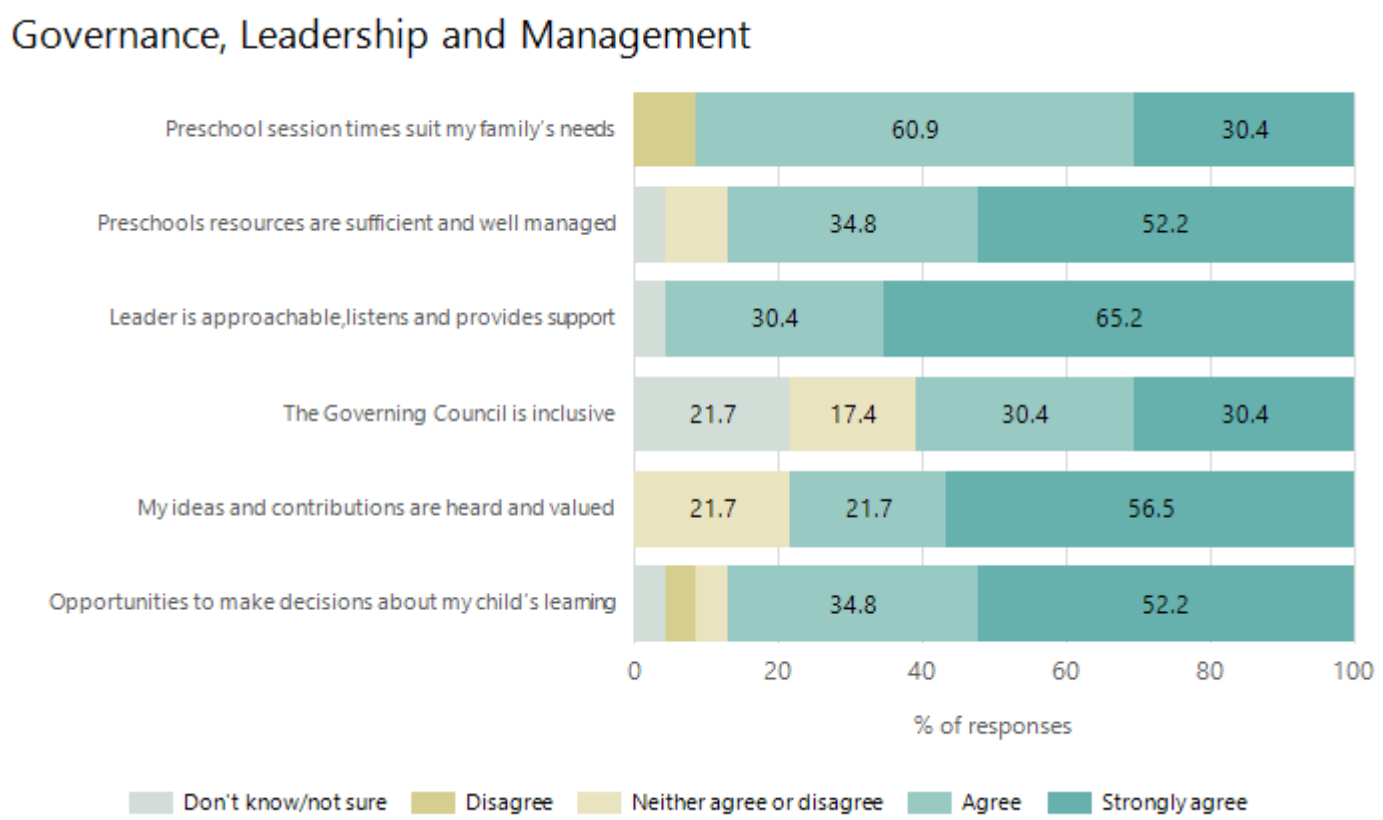
| | Term 1 | Term 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 2022 centre | 68.6% | 80% |
| 2023 centre | 86.4% | 78.4% |
| 2024 centre | 74% | 77.4% |
| 2025 centre | 79% | 82.4% |

Based on preschool sessions attended during a two-week reference period in Term 1 and Term 3. The table represents the proportion of hours attended out of total hours enrolled (booked). Data Source: Department for Education attendance data.

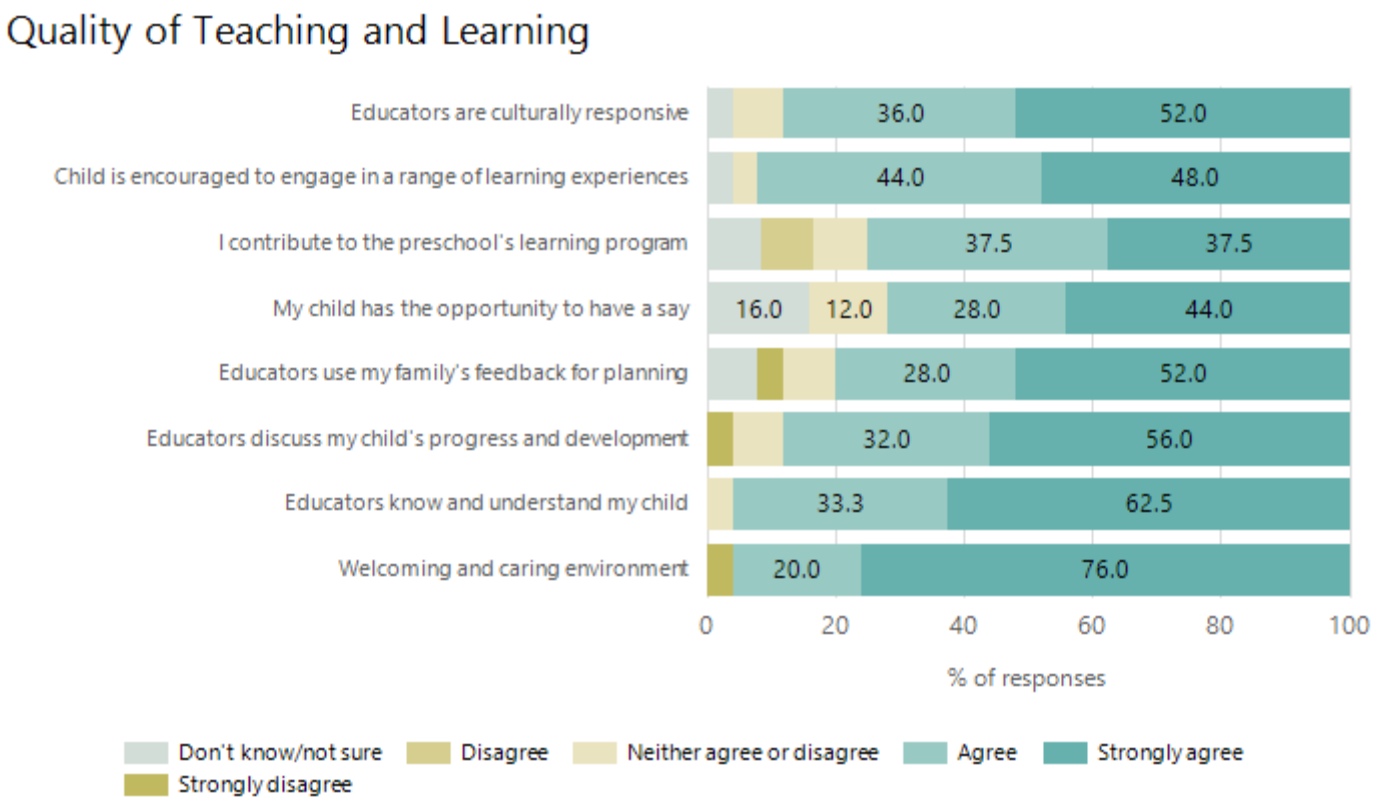
## Attendance Comment

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.

# Preschool Family Opinion Survey




Data Source: 2025 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2025.

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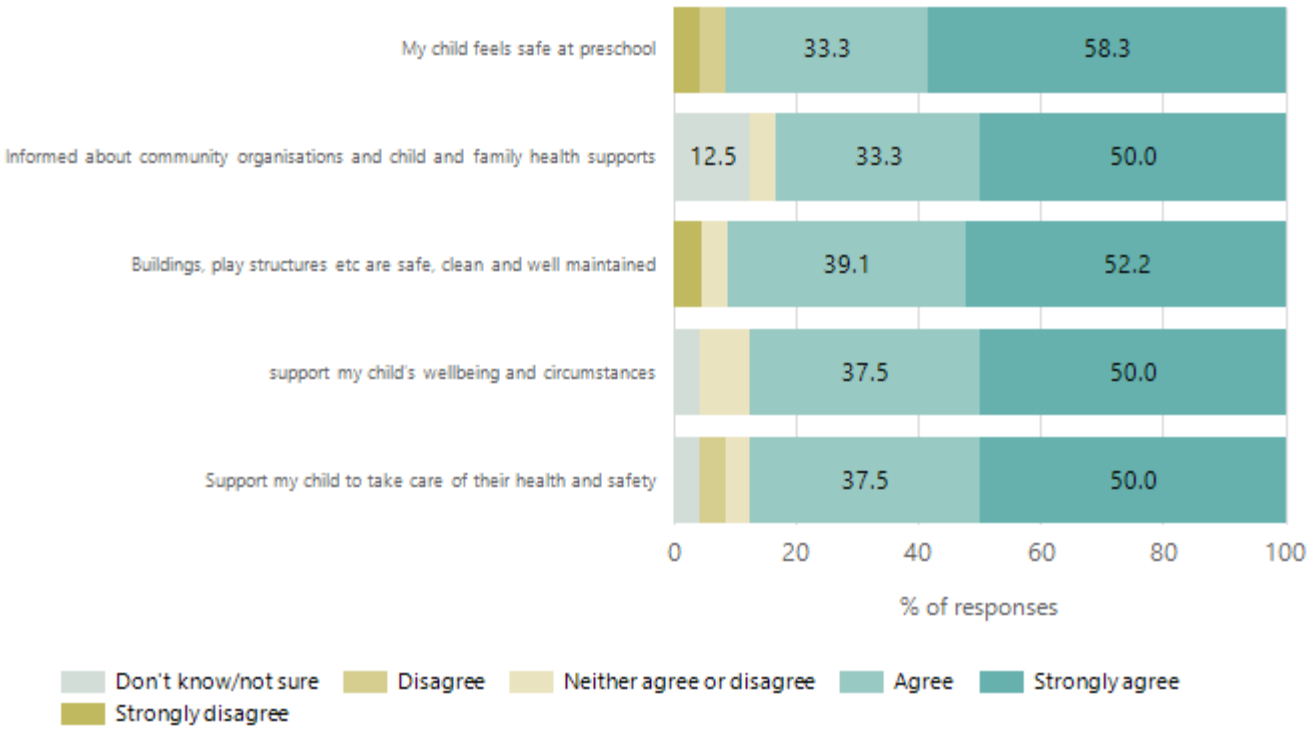
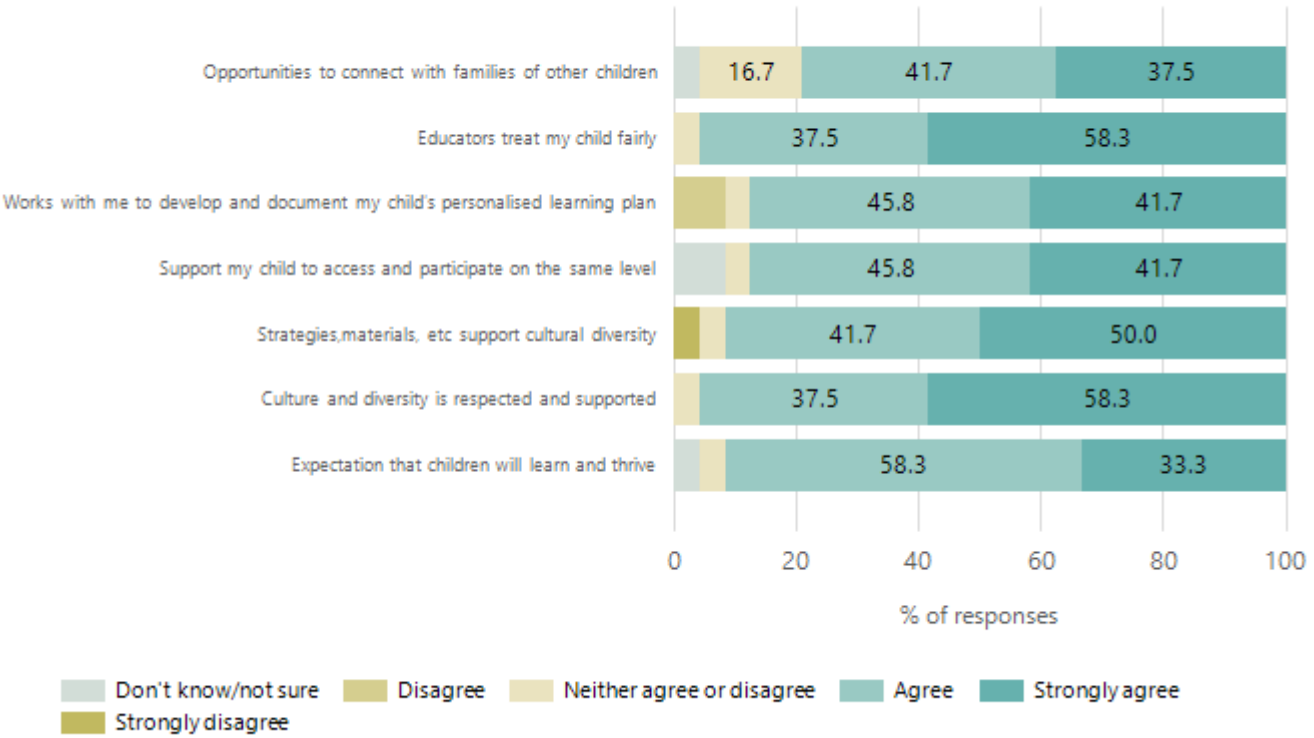
## Safety, Health and Wellbeing




Data Source: 2025 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2025.

## Support and Inclusion




Data Source: 2025 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2025.

## Destination Schools

| Feeder Schools (Site number - Name) | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0565 - Blackwood Primary School | | 3.3% | |
| 0637 - Brighton Primary School | | | 3.7% |
| 0666 - Darlington Primary School | 7.7% | 45.0% | 37.0% |
| 0933 - Warradale Primary School | | 3.3% | 3.7% |
| 0984 - Seaview Downs Primary School | 3.1% | 8.3% | |
| 9074 - Stella Maris Parish School | 6.2% | 13.3% | 18.5% |
| 9999 - Unknown | 78.5% | 21.7% | 28.4% |

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, 2025.

# 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 |
| Postgraduate Qualifications | 1 |

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collections as on the last pay date of June 2025. 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 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 4.0 |
| Persons | 0.0 | 5.0 | 0.0 | 9.0 |

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collection as on the last pay date of June 2025.

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 | 0 | |
| Grants: Commonwealth | 0 | |
| Parent Contributions | $28,531.42 Kindy | $4,269.52 occ care |
| Fund Raising | $616.00 | |
| Other | $500 | Lions club donation |

Data Source: School supplied data.