

The Port Lincoln Children's Centre celebrated their EXCEEDING rating under the National Quality Standards on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 with a luncheon. The celebration was held at the centre to thank the community for the support they have received over the years for the children and families at Port Lincoln Children's Centre. PLCC received an EXCEEDING rating in the 18 Standards and 7 Quality Areas which is an exceptional effort by everyone and well deserved.

Chairperson Sarah Davey welcomed everyone to the luncheon and stated " As a long standing member of our Management Board and now as the Chairperson, I am extremely proud to be a part of this centre. The relationships our staff foster with our children and with our community are fantastic to be involved with. *Firstly I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we have gathered on today. I pay my respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the nation. I would also like to acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait People present here today, especially to acknowledge the Nunga children here today as they are our elders of the future.* We have invited you to attend this celebration today because your support has helped our Centre to be recognised and acknowledged for the commitment and dedication to making a difference for our children at Port Lincoln Children's Centre and we are justifiably proud of this. Providing a high quality early childhood centre for our children is our goal. By giving our children a strong early foundation is how we work toward seeing generational change for our people. The intervention programs that are implemented here at the children's centre, with the support services and community connections are valued by us. We have the highest number of Aboriginal children attending our centre and to achieve this rating is a testament to the respect we have for our children, families, community and each other. Achieving this rating from the National Quality Standards has made us even more determined and motivated to achieve even higher for our children and each other. With my fellow committee members, we have supported the Centre's goals and priorities and are honored to be a part of the celebrations. We will continue to make decisions that provide our children with fun, safe, inspiring play spaces and learning opportunities. Just one look at our indoor and outdoor facilities and you can see what an amazing learning space it is for our children and how engaged the children are in their learning. It is obvious that the learning that happens for our children shows how dedicated our staff are to making a difference in improving outcomes for our children and community. Congratulations to Joanne and all of the staff at Port Lincoln Children's Centre for working so consistently hard to achieve this EXCEEDING rating"

Nadine Bilney, Aboriginal Family Literacy teacher, also shared with attendees how staff worked together to share our practice and programs with the Gloria Debba, Authorised Officer on the day of assessment. During the assessment and rating visit, some of the children had the confidence and initiative to approach Gloria and shared their learning folders with her. The feedback that we received was about how our Quality Improvement Plan was reflected and put in to action on the 'floor' when educators are working with children. The staff were proactive to share intervention programs with Gloria which has been an integral part of our learning program for the children.

Port Lincoln Children's Centre would like to say a special thank you to the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service Healthy Kids Clinic Carmel Barry, Deb Flavel and Tamika Miller, DECD Speech Pathologist Amy Jolly and Allied Health Occupational Therapist Joseph Jones because it is the ongoing specialised support our children receive on a regular basis that has enabled their learning to grow over the year.

The attendees had a scrumptious lunch provided by Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Council, Gidja Club and Port Lincoln Children's Centre. Many thanks To Heather, Brooke, Kimberly, Amber and Emily the food was enjoyed by all. We celebrated with a cake made by Hages Bakery

Thanks also to Bakers Delight who donate bread on a weekly basis which is used to provide sandwiches 5 days a week for children. We have contacted the Mens Shed previously, who made an outdoor kitchen for the children as well as repurposing a clothing stand which is now an outdoor storage unit. Thanks also to the Work for the Dole gang at Mallee Park who have assisted us in the past with events. The Aboriginal Family Support Service, Uniting Care Wesley, Save the Children, West Coast Youth Services, and Family Violence have all supported and helped our centre in some way to ensure community connections and relationships are ongoing.

Port Lincoln Children's Centre staff and Management Committee value our connection to our Aboriginal community. As a whole centre we attend Aboriginal community events and celebrations as often as we can, the children and educators

enjoy walking with the community in the NAIDOC March each year, we are proud of our history in this community and how far we have come as an early childhood centre. We have a high number of Aboriginal staff who willingly share their ways of knowing, doing and being with others. We value and respect our educators as all come with different backgrounds, cultures and lifestyles, we work to our strengths which has been beneficial for our children as each educator has a unique set of skills and experiences to offer.

We invite and encourage all early childhood services to visit our centre. We take our 3 year old kindy children to visit Lock Early Learning Centre annually, the 4 year old kindy children visit Tumby Bay Kindergarten, Cummins Child Parent Centre and Poonindie Early Childhood Centre. Our children also visit Lake Wangary Preschool Centre and Kirton Point Children's Centre. These visits are reciprocated and we continue to build and maintain relationships with each other.

During Reconciliation week this year our kindy children visited Tumby Bay Kindergarten and Cummins Child Parent Centre. Toybox Community Child Care Centre children came to visit the childcare children at PLCC. We were able to share some books with them with a focus on Aboriginal Culture. We celebrated National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's day this year with visits from Lake Wangary Preschool Centre, Poonindie Early Childhood Centre and Kirton Point Children's Centre. Even though the weather was wet and windy the children enjoyed interacting with each other, singing songs together and having a bbq lunch.

The Port Lincoln Children's Centre staff are committed to ensuring all children attending childcare and kindy have the opportunity to be themselves in a safe environment that allows for exploration, investigations, imagination, risk taking. We have an outdoor play space which is amazing, the children enjoy helping in our garden and love spending time in our Bike track area. We provide many experiences in and around the community for our children

Port Lincoln Children's Centre is one of the DECD preschool that received an EXCEEDING rating in the Port Lincoln Partnership, Far West Partnership and Central Eyre Partnership. Congratulations to all sites as we continue to provide high quality education and care programs for all children across Eyre Peninsula.

The Port Lincoln Management Committee, staff and families are proud of the achievements of Director Joanne Smith. Joanne has won the Inaugural Aunty Josie Agius Award at the Public Education Awards Ceremony in Adelaide on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017. This award follows 2 National awards won by the Indigenous Pedagogical Leadership group that Joanne has been involved with around researching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, doing and being in the early years. The IPL won the Most Outstanding session award and the Poster display award at the National Australian Council for Educational Research Excellence in Professional Practice Conference in May 2017 and the Australian Council Educational Leaders Early Childhood Conference Award for Leadership in August. 2017 has been a wonderful year of validating our ways of professional practice for our staff, children and community.

