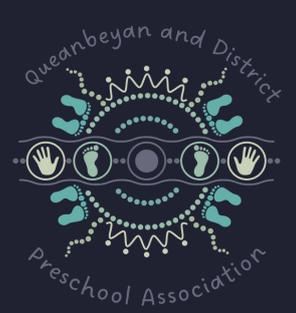




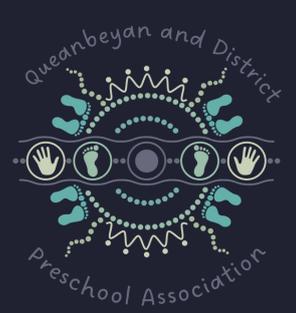
# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

QUEANBEYAN &  
DISTRICT  
PRESCHOOL  
ASSOCIATION



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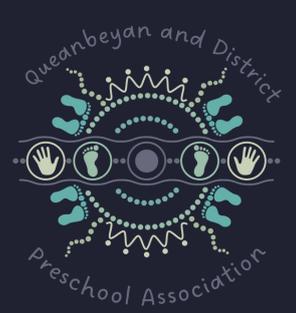


# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Queanbeyan & District Preschool Association acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land in which we play, live and learn, and guide the young leaders of tomorrow.

We recognise the traditional custodians' connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to First Nations peoples and their culture, and to Elders past, present and emerging.





# 2025 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name	Position
Jessica Hicks	Chair
Sam Crawley	Vice Chair
Sarah Clifton	Treasurer
Ivana Spasov	Secretary
Renee Mayer	General Member
Claire Farnsworth	General Member
Jessie Nicholls	General Member
Kendel Watkins	General Member
Ashleigh Daly	Executive Officer / Public Officer

# CHAIR REPORT

It is my pleasure to present the Chair's Report for 2025, a year marked by continued growth, strengthened practice, and significant achievements across all QDPA preschools. Our progress this year reflects the professionalism, dedication, and collaborative spirit of our educators, staff, and committee members.

Throughout the year, we continued to invest in high-quality learning environments, with substantial capital works completed across all services. These included major playground and landscaping upgrades, new digital entry systems, shade sails, internal door replacements, new furniture and flooring, and scheduled roof, fence, and bathroom renovations. These improvements have delivered more functional, safe, and inspiring spaces for both children and staff.

Our commitment to educational excellence remained strong, with the successful organisation-wide implementation of floorbooks, strengthening documentation practices and amplifying children's voices in their learning. Staff also engaged in high-level professional learning, with delegates representing QDPA at the Early Childhood Australia Conference in Perth, the Leadership Conference in Bali, and the Educational Leader Conference in Canberra.

This year we again provided wage increases above the award, as well as wellbeing days for staff—important acknowledgements of the vital work carried out across our services. Several policies and procedures were updated to ensure continued compliance and alignment with best practice, reinforcing our commitment to quality and consistency.

Community engagement continued to thrive, with a rich calendar of excursions and experiences including visits to Corin Forest, the Arboretum, Canberra Theatre, local river walks, nearby schools, and Warrigal Aged Care. Fundraising events such as our inaugural Disco, Bunnings sausage sizzles, Colour Fun Runs, obstacle courses, cookie dough and pie drives, and tea towel sales all contributed to additional resources and upgrades for our preschools.

We were also honoured to be nominated—and to win—at the Local Business Awards, a testament to the high regard in which our services are held by the community and the outstanding work delivered by our teams each day.

As we reflect on the past year, I would like to express my appreciation to our educators, administrative staff, leadership team, and committee members for their ongoing commitment and passion. Your collective efforts continue to strengthen QDPA's reputation as a high-quality early childhood education provider.

Thank you for your contribution throughout 2025. I look forward to the opportunities and continued growth the year ahead will bring.

Jess Hicks, Management Committee Chair

# TREASURER REPORT

For Financial Year Ending 31st December 2025

Queanbeyan District Preschool Association (QDPA) is pleased to report another stable financial year, ending 2025 in a strong financial position.

The financial accounts of QDPA for the period ending 31 December 2025 have been prepared in accordance with relevant accounting standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

The organisation recorded a total profit of \$152,259 for the 2025 financial year. QDPA's financial position remained sound in 2025, supported by government funding and careful financial management.

Key financial highlights include:

- Total trading income of \$5,156,494, primarily driven by government funding programs including Start Strong and NSW Government Fee Relief, along with parent fees and grants.
- Additional income of \$63,410 from fundraising activities and other sources across the preschools.
- Operating expenses of \$5,067,644, reflecting continued investment in staffing, training, preschool resources and facilities.

During 2025, QDPA continued to invest in both its workforce and preschool environments to support high-quality early childhood education.

Key developments included:

- Continued engagement of Nexia Australia to provide bookkeeping and financial management services, following the transition completed in late 2024.
- Regular maintenance and infrastructure works across all preschool sites to support safe and engaging learning environments.
- Investment in educator capability, with \$90,398 invested in staff training and professional development across the organisation.
- Ongoing implementation of the Asset Management Plan to guide strategic planning and future capital investment across all preschool sites.

I would like to acknowledge the committee and leadership team for their commitment to sound governance and responsible financial management throughout the year. Their stewardship helps ensure QDPA remains in a strong and sustainable position.

Thank you for your contribution throughout 2025.

Sarah Clifton, Treasurer – QDPA

# BUSINESS SNAPSHOT



96% staff retention rate



\$152,259 profit across the  
Association



\$48,262 in grants received



\$31,101 received in fundraising



\$397,140 in capital works invested  
back into preschools

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT - ASHLEIGH DALY

2025 has been another exceptional year of growth, reflection and forward momentum for Queanbeyan and District Preschool Association. Across our four preschools we have continued to strengthen governance, invest in our people, and deepen our connection with community.

## Strong Governance, Clear Direction

This year saw significant progress in strengthening our governance foundations. Sixteen policies were reviewed and adopted, ensuring alignment with legislative and regulated frameworks. We also developed and formally adopted a Committee Code of Conduct and a comprehensive Chart of Delegations, providing clarity, accountability and transparency across the organisation.

Operational reporting procedures were refined to ensure concise, meaningful information is provided to the Management Committee, supporting informed decision-making and maintaining compliance with regulatory requirements.

These improvements position QDPA strongly for continued sustainable growth.

## Investing in Professional Growth

Professional learning remained a key priority in 2025, reflecting our commitment to excellence in early childhood education.

Our educators and leaders engaged in high-quality professional development across Australia and internationally, including:

- Early Childhood Australia Conference in Perth
- Leadership and Management Conference in Bali
- International Childhood Trauma Conference in Melbourne
- National Childcare Summit in Sydney

We were also proud to host leading voices in the sector within our own community. CELA delivered foundational learning in Circle of Security. Louise Dorrat and Red Ruby Scarlett inspired deep thinking around inclusion, critical reflection and leadership. We concluded Association Training Day of 2025 with the engaging NQF The Musical performance at The Q, celebrating regulatory knowledge in an innovative way.

Additionally, Tash Treverton from Inspired EC facilitated professional learning on the Floorbook Approach, strengthening our commitment to authentic child voice and inquiry-based practice.

This collective investment in learning continues to elevate practice across QDPA and ensures the children in our care benefit from contemporary, research-informed education.

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

## Community Connection and Reconciliation

A highlight of 2025 was our inaugural Reconciliation Week community event, "Sea of Hands."

This marked a meaningful step forward in our reconciliation journey as an Association.

The event was opened with a beautiful Welcome to Country by Selina Walker. We were honoured to be joined by Mayor Kenrick Winchester, Deputy Mayor Esma Livermore, Tash Treverton from Inspired EC, and many families and friends from our QDPA community.

This event reflected our commitment to embedding respect, cultural understanding and authentic community partnership into our practice.

We were also proud to host our inaugural Association Welcome Picnic and an end-of-year celebration. These events reinforced that QDPA is not simply four individual preschools, but one connected community united by shared values and purpose.

## Strategic Growth and Capital Works

Consultation commenced in 2025 for significant capital works projects that will enhance our learning environments for years to come.

Planning began for the Harris Park Preschool bathroom renovations for the Echidna and Kookaburra classrooms, as well as a new roof installation at Mura Preschool. These improvements represent our commitment to maintaining safe, high-quality environments that support children's wellbeing and learning.

QDPA was again successful in securing Health and Development Grants, allowing us to continue our partnership with The Social Connectors. This collaboration provides allied health support and ongoing educator upskilling, ensuring early intervention and inclusive practices remain embedded across our services.

## Celebrating Our People

Our people remain the heart of QDPA, and 2025 provided many opportunities to celebrate dedication and longevity.

We proudly recognised the following staff milestones:

- Janet (Harris Park Preschool) - 25 years of service
- Carly (Mura Preschool) - 15 years of service
- Karman (Harris Park Preschool) - 10 years of service
- Michelle (Karabar Preschool) - 5 years of service

We farewelled Heather from Waratah Preschool as she entered retirement after her valued contribution to early childhood education. We also said goodbye to Ashley, Director of Harris Park Preschool, as she embarked on an exciting new chapter in England. We thank both for their dedication and the lasting impact they have made.

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

## Recognising Excellence

In 2025, QDPA was honoured to receive the Local Business Award for Outstanding Education Service. This recognition reflects the collective dedication of our educators, leadership team, management committee and families, who together create nurturing, high-quality learning environments for children across our four preschools. To be acknowledged by our local community in this way is both humbling and affirming, and reinforces our ongoing commitment to excellence in early childhood education.

We also extend our congratulations to Harris Park Preschool and Karabar Preschool on both achieving an Exceeding rating in their recent Assessment and Rating process under the National Quality Framework. This outstanding result reflects the strength of their educational programs, leadership, governance and commitment to continuous improvement. Achieving an Exceeding rating is a significant accomplishment and a testament to the professionalism, collaboration and reflective practice demonstrated daily by their teams. We are incredibly proud of this achievement and the high standards of quality education being delivered across QDPA.

## Looking Ahead

2026 is shaping up to be another significant year of growth and opportunity for QDPA. This progress would not be possible without the unwavering commitment of our Management Committee throughout 2025. Your leadership, stewardship and positive engagement continue to guide the Association forward.

A sincere thank you also to our Leadership Team; Jen, Jo, Carly, Ainsley and Narelle, whose commitment to continuous improvement is seeing QDPA grow and evolve in powerful ways.

And finally, to our team of educators: your dedication to high-quality early childhood education, your care for children and families, and your professionalism each and every day is the foundation of everything we achieve. Your work truly makes a difference in the lives of the children and communities we serve.

2025 has been a year of strengthening foundations, deepening connections and investing in the future. We look forward to building on this momentum together in 2026.

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT



# MURA PRESCHOOL REPORT - CARLY SMITH-BEESON

## Quality Area 1 – Educational Program and Practice

Floorbook Curriculum implementation continued to be a focus, and the team enjoyed ongoing work with Inspired Education to guide our pedagogy and practice. We held many floorbook collaborative sessions across the QDPA, which supported consistency in curriculum and approaches to play and learning for families and educators. We continued to have mentor sessions with Tash from Inspired EC to refine our understanding, practices, and methodology. Highlights included seeing children's agency and knowledge within the visual documentation. Family input was also high, with feedback and comments added to the book throughout the year. Our children enjoyed catching the local bus on several occasions, as well as going on local walks. Some highlights included visits to the National Arboretum, Googong Public School, Tidbinbilla, Lovegrove Park in Googong, and joining Ranger Mel and Emry along the river corridor to learn about nature, wildlife, and how to care for Country and our waterways. Some groups were lucky enough to spot a platypus and a snake. We joined Waratah Preschool for learning and games throughout the year, which tied in with learning on and about Country and demonstrated our Reconciliation Action Plan in action. Our families attended several in-house opportunities to spend time in our service for afternoon teas and other events. Harmony Week, Eid, Holi, Easter, Diwali, and Christmas were just some of the cultural events we marked at preschool. Our service participated in Reconciliation Week and attended the QDPA event as well as QDPA coffee mornings.

## Quality Area 2 – Children's Health and Safety

2025 was a busy year in terms of sector-wide changes to child-safe policies, procedures, and legislation. The educational team reflected on our storage and use of images of children in our documentation and aligned our practices with these sector-wide changes. We also critically reflected on our Food and Nutrition Policy and revised our approach to traditional ideals around healthy eating.

Health and development checks occurred through the Brighter Beginnings program, and statewide eye testing was also conducted at preschool. QPRC responded to our request for new line marking, and additional car spaces—more appropriate for our families and their safety when dropping off and picking up children—were added. Mura participated in the national trial of the Preschool Outcomes Measures (POMS), focusing on children's development across two learning domains.

## Quality Area 3 – Physical Environment

Our roof leak worsened, and we scheduled repair works for January 2026. A new perimeter fence was also constructed in 2026. Our playground was beautifully constructed early in 2025, featuring monkey bars, bike paths, a covered deck, and a sandstone sandpit. This has provided us with more functional space for play and ensures that risky play is promoted following critical reflection on the benefits of active play and learning. Additionally, new shade sails were installed to increase the amount of shade in one of our garden spaces.

# MURA PRESCHOOL REPORT

## Quality Area 4 – Staffing Arrangements

Louise and Kawal both completed their Diploma of Education, and Christina Cake nears completion of her Bachelor of Education, with only two practicum placements remaining in 2026.

Our team continued to facilitate high communications through fortnightly teachers' meetings, weekly team meetings, and monthly whole-Mura team meetings. In addition, Christina joined other Educational Leaders from QDPA to network and discuss curriculum, with a focus on the planning cycle and documentation for children. The attendance of three representatives from Mura at the ECA Conference in Perth was a highlight. Several additional educators attended virtually, and presentations of knowledge were created and shared at staff meetings, ensuring the whole team was upskilled. We focused on slow pedagogy, PDA, nature pedagogy, and the insights of Stacy Bengé around how children develop literacy, drawing on her book *The Whole Child Alphabet*.

## Quality Area 5 – Relationships with Children

Mura developed the Fingerprints project book, showcasing ongoing reflections on our work with children.

We evaluated how we, as educators, develop and maintain respectful, responsive, and supportive relationships to promote children's wellbeing, learning, and development. This focus will continue. Mura engaged with the Sector Capacity Building Program and ASPECT as support providers to continue implementing inclusive practices and increase our capacity to include children with additional needs at the same level as their peers. This was achieved through many site visits, email and phone support, resources, and networking and training opportunities.

## Quality Area 6 – Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities

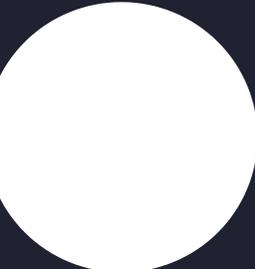
We partnered with St Benedict House (Annie's Place) to support our families and children with additional fresh foods available from the community basket. Our children baked goodies to deliver to Annie's Place for people to enjoy, and we also contributed to their Christmas Food Drive with a donation basket. Successful fundraising ventures—including cookie dough sales, Christmas raffles, pie drives, and picture plates—provided funds to purchase shelving units for our shed and additional resources.

## Quality Area 7 – Governance and Leadership

Our philosophy statement was reviewed and given pride of place on our entrance wall. It includes statements and drawings from our 2025 families as a visual representation. As Educational Leader, Christina continued to conduct mentor and coaching sessions as well as curriculum audits each term.

The year was another busy one, full of sector changes and events. I would like to thank the QDPA Directors for their ongoing support; I know we can always reach out to each other for ideas and support, as well as for our wonderful networking opportunities.

Thank you to the QDPA Management Board for their work behind the scenes to make our preschools reputable and amazing. Thank you to Ashleigh Daly for her active role in staying ahead of changes and requirements to keep QDPA the association it is today. I thank Narelle for her work for the Association and acknowledge that she is often the first voice families hear when looking to enrol their precious children with us. When people attend our service, they are unanimous in saying we have a good team and a beautiful preschool. This is a testament to the wonderful Mura educators, who are a passionate team. I thank them all for a successful 2025 and look forward to another wonderful year in 2026.



# KARABAR PRESCHOOL REPORT JENNY FARNHILL

As I reflect on 2025, I think about the children, families and Educators at Karabar and the wonderful relationships that were developed as we undertook this amazing learning journey together.

**Quality Area 1 – Educational Program:** The Floorbook Approach was implemented as our programming and documentation framework, with Educators completing professional development through Inspired EC to strengthen practice. We hosted and attended the Educational Leader Network Group meeting and attended the termly meetings across the year. Educators participated in two research projects which were the ACER Preschool Outcomes Measure and AERO Intentional Teaching Project.

**Quality Area 2 – Health & Safety:** Educators completed a variety of professional development and reflection on the Childsafe Standards. We held a Child Safety Parent Information Night. Health and Development Checks were conducted through the Brighter Beginnings program. The NSW Advocate for Children and Young People created a video on the Rights of Children which featured children from Karabar Preschool. The Advocate also visited our preschool and took part in some story sessions with the children.

**Quality Area 3 – Physical Environment:** Our playground space saw the installation of new rope play equipment designed to promote physical skills alongside risk taking and challenge. We were successful in the Community Grants Program from QPRC in the development of an outdoors family connection space. We were successful in our grant application to the NSW Community Partnerships Program and received funding to replace our flooring.

**Quality Area 4 – Staffing:** Shannon Charman completed her Cert III qualification; Bethany Mortlock enrolled in her Diploma in Early Childhood.

**Quality Area 5 – Relationships with Children:** Educators continued to utilise strategies such as an extended orientation process; Wellbeing Checklists, Primary Carers, Small and Whole Group Learning Approaches, the SAFE Series of books and Healthy Harold to promote relationships and children's wellbeing. We love that we know our incoming preschoolers so well right from the start and believe that this is a key practice in building positive relationships.



# KARABAR PRESCHOOL REPORT

Quality Area 6 – Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities: We enjoyed many ventures out into the local and extended community from walks up to the oval for games to excursions to Jerrabomberra Wetlands; the National Zoo and Aquarium; St. Gregory's Primary School; and the National Museum. We hosted a variety of in-centre events for families across the year including cultural celebrations that reflected the backgrounds of our families as well as a variety of other important community celebrations.

Selina Walker (Ngunnawal Emerging Elder) joined us at preschool conducting an art/Ngunnawal language program. We participated in the Early Adopters Aboriginal Cultural Safety Framework program.

Quality Area 7 – Governance and Leadership: Educators participated in a variety of professional development across the year including the ECA Conference; Floorbook Approach; Childsafe Standards; Child Protection; Critical Cartography; ECEC Roadshows and a variety of webinars hosted by peak organisations. Executive Officer, Ashleigh Daly, completed a variety of Compliance Audits across the year. Our Service Philosophy, Reconciliation Action Plan and Childsafe Self Assessment were all reviewed and formally updated with consultation with all relevant stakeholders. We undertook Assessment & Rating in June 2025 and received a rating of 'Exceeding' in the areas assessed, which confirmed our ongoing rating of Exceeding that was achieved in our previous Assessment & Rating.

Thank you:

- \* to the amazing team of Educators at Karabar Preschool – I love what we do and achieve every single year through with passion and dedication;
- \*to the Management Committee for all their efforts across the year. I continue to value the fact that we are a community based organisation and recognise the commitment made to our preschools by the people who undertake these roles;
- \*to each of our preschool Directors for the wonderful support that they provide to me – that we are able to provide to each other through the wonderful relationships we have;
- \*to Narelle Westerhof for all her efforts and support across the year in more ways than I could possibly think of or mention.

I would like to sincerely thank Ashleigh Daly for her ongoing support of me in my role as Nominated Supervisor of Karabar Preschool, and of all services under the QDPA banner. I love the direction QDPA has taken under her leadership and am confident we will continue to achieve great things through her guidance and vision.

# WARATAH PRESCHOOL REPORT JOANNE CRAMMOND

In 2025, Waratah preschool received a much-needed refurbishment of the outdoor area during the January school holidays. Improvements included new paving throughout the yard and Verandah enhancing wheelchair access while also creating a bike path, along with new gardens, plants, rock walls, large stepping stones, and a dry riverbed. Patchy grass was replaced with artificial grass, and tanbark was installed in high-traffic areas. The metal swing frame was removed and replaced with large wooden logs to support natural play.

The train was extended to provide additional play opportunities, and a new sandstone sandpit was installed. Two new shade sails replaced the old torn existing ones, and pole protectors featuring the QDPA designs were added. A new table and chairs with Indigenous artwork were also installed under the Verandah. These upgrades have significantly enhanced the outdoor environment.

Improvements to the inside of the building included the installation of a new evaporative cooler and a new gas heater.

Waratah Preschool remains deeply committed to embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within our curriculum and learning environments, ensuring that respect for culture, identity, and connection to Country is reflected in our daily practice. Throughout 2025, we successfully progressed several actions within our Reconciliation Action Plan, strengthening our commitment to meaningful reconciliation. In recognition of these efforts, we were honoured to be nominated for the Narragunnawali Awards, acknowledging our ongoing dedication and growth in our reconciliation journey.

Building on the foundations established in late 2024, the early months of 2025 saw us continue our work with the Aboriginal Cultural Safety Framework, further guiding our approach to creating a culturally safe and inclusive environment for all children and families. The Teaching Director also engaged in targeted professional development to deepen their understanding of Aboriginal culture, ways of learning, and ways of being, ensuring this knowledge informs leadership and pedagogy within the preschool.

As part of our visible commitment to reconciliation, new flagpoles and flags have been installed at the front of the preschool, proudly acknowledging and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

# WARATAH PRESCHOOL REPORT

We were also honoured to receive permission to rename our preschool rooms using local Ngunnawal language names that reflect animals significant to our area. Maliyan, meaning Wedge-tailed Eagle, and Malunggun, meaning Platypus, strengthen children's connection to Country. This also aligns with our adoption of the platypus as a symbol within our preschool, further promoting respect for the rich cultural heritage of our community.

During the year, we developed meaningful connections with the children and educators from Harris Park Preschool. Together, both classes embarked on an excursion to the snow, creating a shared and memorable learning experience. Following this excursion, we continued to strengthen our relationship by meeting on the oval for play experiences and walking to Harris Park to spend time together, enjoying morning tea and exploring their outdoor environment.

We also built connections with Googong Public School through visits to the school library and shared play experiences on the outdoor equipment with the kindergarten children. These experiences supported a strong sense of community and helped foster positive relationships and confidence as children engaged with new learning environments.

This year, I was fortunate to participate in a range of professional development opportunities in Newcastle, Bali and Perth and Melbourne which further expanded my knowledge and strengthened my capacity as both a Teaching Director and Educational Leader. These conferences and workshops deepened my understanding of contemporary pedagogical practices, effective leadership approaches, and regulatory responsibilities. They provided valuable opportunities for critical reflection on our service's practices, refinement of my leadership skills, and the introduction of new ideas to our team to enhance teaching and learning outcomes for the benefit of children, families, and educators.

Our intergenerational program with Warrigal Aged Care continued successfully last year and remains a valued and embedded part of our annual calendar. Through our regular visits, children engage in meaningful experiences with older community members, building respectful relationships and developing empathy, communication skills, and a strong sense of belonging. These ongoing connections provide rich opportunities for shared learning, storytelling, music, and collaborative activities, ensuring the program continues to be thoughtfully integrated into our yearly planning and curriculum.

I would like to thank the Executive Officer, Committee Members, Admin Officer and fellow Directors for your continued support in my role, your guidance and teamwork are appreciated. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our preschool and for helping to make it a welcoming and supportive place for staff, children, and families.

# HARRIS PARK PRESCHOOL REPORT

## AINSLEY WELFARE & ASHLEY HUGILL

2025 presented us a year filled with many opportunities for learning and growth for all within the Harris Park Preschool community. The introduction of many new projects, initiatives and overall ways of doing successfully incited the establishment of new connections between Harris Park and services within our internal, local and wider communities.

The multitude of partnerships that we fostered served as one of our biggest accomplishments, as these supported us in maintaining our commitment to providing meaningful opportunities for all children we work alongside. Such partnerships included local public schools, sporting facilities, shops, Ciao Café, Queanbeyan Library, The Art Society & the Queanbeyan Show. Further to this, the provision of a diverse range of excursions also presented rich learning experiences for our children.

From our participation in the Reconciliation Walk, Sea of Hands event, Floriade and a local Remembrance Day Service, to activities we attended at locations such as Birrigai and Corin Forest, our children were empowered to connect with culture and the wider world around them with curiosity and a deepening respect for diversity.

Opportunities for our community to come together were also derived through the fundraising events we hosted, including our Easter Raffle, Breast Cancer Fundraiser, Obstacle Course and our Tea Towel Fundraiser. We also focused on strengthening our internal relationships with other QDPA preschools by beginning excursions to, and hosting visits by, Waratah Preschool. This provided further opportunities for knowledge to be shared and practice to be strengthened in the interest of benefitting both children and staff's development and sense of belonging.

Another stand-out for 2025 was our 'Earn and Return' initiative, which led to the creation of our very own 'community street library'. This process saw our children, families, educators and local businesses, such as Ciao Café, working together as we sought to collect bottles and deliver letters to our neighbours informing them of our goal. We remain especially grateful for the work of one of our parents, who volunteered to build and donate the library itself.

With the money raised from recycling bottles, we purchased books to fill our library; officially creating a lasting resource for everyone within our community to access. Additionally, the impact of this initiative quickly extended beyond our preschool, earning recognition from platforms such as 'Earn and Return', who shared our story in an article, and WIN News, who featured our story on television.

However, whilst these achievements and community partnerships reflected and reinforced our shared commitment to sustainability on a broader stage, the most significant outcome came from the demonstrations to our children of the power of collaboration, community spirit and sustainability. These displays were vital to fostering a shared sense of purpose, cementing this project's alignment with the overarching pillars of Early Childhood Education - 'Being, Belonging and Becoming'.



# HARRIS PARK PRESCHOOL REPORT

In 2025, we strived for continuous improvements in our understandings and provision of 'child safe environments'. Thus, significant upgrades were made to our doors and alarm systems to support children and staff in feeling more secure and remaining safe whilst at preschool. Renovations of the staff room were also undertaken by the Harris Park leadership team in an effort to create a calm space in support of educator wellbeing.

Reflections also saw improvements to our physical environment which included the installation of new risky play equipment & the expansion of our mud kitchen. Reshaping our outdoor routines and reducing strict rostering for children's daily routines allowed children to become more deeply engaged in their play, follow their own rhythms and ultimately build confidence in their decision-making abilities.

Critical reflections were also engrained throughout our explorations into new ways of documenting children's learning. Introducing the concept of 'Floor Books' has helped to ensure that children remained positioned at the heart of what we do, and the decisions that we make. Our commitment to meaningfully embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives also remained strong, with our practices primarily guided by ongoing engagements with the 8 Ways of Learning Framework and our Reconciliation Action Plan.

2025 also saw our team achieve successes on both individual and collective levels. Whether that was the completion of a qualification, appointments to and successes within new roles or growth in area that had previously presented challenge (just to name a few), we remain proud to acknowledge and celebrate these achievements, and the commitment behind them.

Perhaps our biggest achievement as a team for 2025 came following the partial assessment and rating we underwent, with Quality Area 5 (Relationships with Children) and Quality Area 6 (Collaborative Partnerships with families and communities) being assessed. We are incredibly proud to have achieved Exceeding in both areas, maintaining our overall exceeding rating for Harris Park. We recognise this as a reflection of the commitment each member of our team shows to developing strong relationships with all children and families each and every day.

2025 has been a year of incredible achievements. From the successful introduction and implementation of new ways of documenting, to exciting excursions and innovative projects, the children of Harris Park Preschool have been given opportunities to grow, explore and thrive. We can confidently say that our children, families and community continued to remain at the heart of everything we have done this year, with our collaborative approaches resulting in a year filled with joy, discovery and connection.

We wish to thank Ashleigh Daly, Narelle Westerhof and the Directors of Waratah, Karabar and Mura Preschools for their ongoing support, as well as acknowledge their genuine dedication to ensuring the success of all within the QDPA community. We look forward to seeing what 2026 will bring!



# CONTACT US

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