

# Three Faces of “Excellence”



Clarendon Children's Centre- Linda Davison

Jindi Woraback Children's Centre- Michelle Walker

Balnarring Pre School- Karen Anderson



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**FROM VISION TO ACTION**

# Acknowledgement to Country

We pay respects to the Muwinina People as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and acknowledge the Elders, past, present and emerging.



# Outline

- What is the Criteria?
- Service examples
- Looking at practice beyond Standard
- How each service engaged with their own community to promote quality early childhood education and care
- Question time...



To be awarded the Excellent rating, you must show that your service meets three criteria:

**Criterion 1** - The service exemplifies and promotes exceptional education and care that improves outcomes for children and families across **at least three** of the following themes:



Theme 1 - Collaborative partnerships with professional, community or research organisations

Theme 2 - Commitment to children that respects, reflects and celebrates culture and diversity, including place of origin

Theme 3 - Inclusive partnerships with children and families



Theme 4 - Positive workplace culture, organisational values,  
support of educators and sustained commitment to professional development

Theme 5 - Practice and environments that enhance children's learning and growth.



You must demonstrate:

- how your service is exceptional under each chosen theme
- how outcomes have been improved for children and families at the highest level



- To be exceptional, a service might implement unique, innovative or inspiring practices, programs and partnerships.
- Or, it might be that educators and staff are finely attuned to the particular and unique circumstances of the children and families who attend the service and adapt their practice to support and benefit these children and families.





You will need to clearly describe and explain what shapes and influences your practice and, importantly, how outcomes for the children and families who use the service are significantly improved because of the service's targeted practices, programs and partnerships.



**Criterion 2** - The service demonstrates leadership that contributes to the development of a community, a local area, or the wider education and care sector



**Criterion 3** - The service demonstrates commitment to sustained excellent practice through continuous improvement and comprehensive forward planning



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# Jindi Woraback Children's Centre

Date first awarded : September 2014

Date re-awarded : October 2017

131 place

Not-For-Profit community based

Situated on the grounds of  
Victoria University

Rated  
**EXCELLENT**  
by ACECQA



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Examples of exceptional practice at the service include:

Developing our own curriculum framework called 'Foundation in Early Learning Development' (FiELD) which is specific to the service's community and is a result of combining New Zealand's Te Whariki and The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). It aims to support educators to develop a curriculum which is contextually relevant to the setting, as well as reflecting the values and purpose of education within the early childhood setting.



- Our Place, Our Desire, Our Ambition
- Focusing on Aboriginal World View
- Pillars of Practice
- Focal Points



- Brain Development & Mindfulness
- Early Intervention & Inclusion
- Environment & Sustainability
- Indigenous Education & Cultural Diversity
- Relationships & partnerships



- Innovative, relevant & contextual teaching
  - Ambitions for children
- Educational records & documenting learning





As a leader in the sector, Jindi Woraback Children's Centre shares its practice, programs and curriculum with other education and care services locally, nationally and internationally.



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This is achieved through the implementation of tours at the service and it's 'Open Educator Expo' to share, network and support the professional development of others.



In addition, based on the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data that identified strengthening the early childhood workforce would improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families, the director created and runs the Brimbank Early Childhood Professional Services Support Group. The group provides a place where early childhood professionals can network, share ideas and strive for continued improvement.



A strong commitment to early intervention, inclusion and supporting children with additional needs to fully participate in the service's programs through the service's 'Little Champs Program'. This aims to support each child's development, their health and wellbeing for lifelong learning and support families to link with external services.





Supporting educators to attend a variety of high quality professional development opportunities to support their daily work with children with additional needs. For example, the service funds educators to develop their skills and knowledge to become trained Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) therapists and Auslan (Australian Sign Language) trained to support children with a hearing impairment.



# Balnarring Pre-School

Date awarded: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017



Balnarring was recognised for its practice and environments that enhance children's learning and growth, its collaborative partnerships with professional, community or research organisations and its commitment to children that respects, reflects and celebrates culture and diversity, including place of origin.



A sequential development program that aims to develop children's perceptions and understandings of themselves and the world around them.



Opportunities for children to connect to the land and investigate the natural environments through a Beach and Bush program.



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A strong commitment to acknowledging that they live and learn on Boon Wurrung Country and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and culture through the values, beliefs and practices embraced at the service.



A strong collaborative partnership with a local primary school and early learning centre and two local Elders to facilitate ongoing learning, share knowledge and experience about the culture of Boon Wurrung and its traditions.



# Bundjil's Nest Project



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# Clarendon Children's Centre

Date first awarded: 25 July 2015

Date re-awarded: 4 July 2018



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A 40-place, community-owned service located in South Melbourne.

Our second Excellent rating from ACECQA was awarded in June 2018 with particular mention of:

## Theme 1

- Engagement with early intervention services & professionals
- Collaboration with local government
- Participation in research projects with Universities and other organisations



## Theme 2

- Auslan Bi-lingual program
- Food of the World
- Celebrations to support inclusion and equality
- RAP



## Theme 3

- Action research projects
- Information sharing and consultation processes with families
- Support for children's agency and inclusion of children's voices



## Theme 4

- Distributed leadership within the educator team
- EBA
- Professional development opportunities
- Supporting educator wellbeing





## Theme 5

- Healthy eating/Roaming Kitchen/Cooking
- Auslan Bi-lingual program
- Community Meals program
- Sustainability
- Action research
- Routine outings and excursions





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Question time?



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