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## **Media release** for immediate distribution

### **C&K Bribie Island achieves excellence in early childhood**

C&K Bribie Island Community Kindergarten has been awarded the highest rating of 'Excellent' by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA).

The kindergarten, on Cotterill Ave, Bongaree, is one of only five early childhood education and care services in Queensland to have been awarded the prestigious rating.

Director Narelle Dawson said the kindergarten was ecstatic to receive the rating by ACECQA.

"It's amazing and overwhelming," she said. "It's difficult to put into words how special it really is."

Applying for 'Excellent' was a rigorous six-month process for Narelle and staff that involved analysing all aspects of the kindergarten's practices, including their environment, curriculum and partnerships with the community.

"We spent a lot of time putting ideas on paper and really delving into everything we do here at the kindergarten," Narelle said.

Narelle admits it was a big commitment but worth it.

"The process allowed us to reflect on our practices and recognise the value in what we do as educators and what a significant impact this can have on children's development."

Narelle said she believed the kindergarten's reciprocal relationships with individuals and groups in the community helped them achieve 'Excellent'.

"For example, we employ a young male adult with Cerebral Palsy and Asperger syndrome. This is a great opportunity for him but it's also a great opportunity for the staff, children and families," she said.

"Chris helps us find new ways of communicating with the children. He's also very intuitive, we learn a lot from him. Having Chris here exposes the children to difference and provides them with a role model."

The kindergarten has partnerships with a number of local and international groups including the Wallum Action Group, the Golden Age Day Respite Centre and a kindergarten in the Solomon Islands.

Narelle said the service has worked hard to incorporate Aboriginal culture into the kindergarten in meaningful ways, collaborate with families and children and increase their sustainable practices.

C&K CEO Michael Tizard said it was a huge achievement for the kindergarten.

“I congratulate C&K Bribie Island who is the first C&K service to receive this rating,” he said.

“Recognising and celebrating quality early childhood education and care is extremely important.”

“Educators like Narelle and her team ensure children receive the essential elements needed for optimal development.

“It is pleasing to see them recognised for their commitment and I hope it encourages everyone working in the early childhood sector to strive for excellence in everything that we do.”

For more information on C&K Bribie Island Community Kindergarten contact the service on 3408 1788 or [admin@bribiekindy.com.au](mailto:admin@bribiekindy.com.au).

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