



BIG FAT SMILE BUNDANOON DISTRICT COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL EXPANDS WITH NEW BUILDING

Big Fat Smile Bundanoon District Community Preschool are expanding with a new building in time for Term 1 2018. The Preschool has been a valuable part of the Bundanoon community since 1981, and has a reputation for delivering high quality family-centred early childhood education. Big Fat Smile is one of the most respected providers of early education, care, recreation, cultural and inclusion services in Australia.

The new building was made possible through a Department of Education grant, as well as generous donations from Wingecarribee Shire Council and numerous local businesses and organisations.

The new building will allow four and five-year-old children to participate in a comprehensive transition to school program, with the younger children (two-and-a-half to three-year-olds) experiencing a focused educational program in their current building. The new, improved centre calls upon Big Fat Smile's decades of experience in developing early education centres with learning environments that assist children to achieve their full potential during their early years.

Ms. Jenni Hutchins, Big Fat Smile CEO, says the expansion will enable more children to experience the exceptional skill and knowledge of Big Fat Smile's educators and the quality environments they offer.

"It is a wonderful addition to the Bundanoon District Community Preschool. Our staff are committed to the community and ensuring that we offer a service integrated with other services and supportive of the community's needs. This centre highlights Big Fat Smile's commitment to the Bundanoon District and community.

"Big Fat Smile's vision and purpose is to ensure quality care available to all children and families in our community. We are committed to maintaining and offering this exceptional standard of care and providing intentional positive interactions with the children and families of Bundanoon," says Ms. Hutchins.

Director of Big Fat Smile's Bundanoon District Community Preschool, Ms. Deni Harden, has been working at Bundanoon District Preschool since 2001, and in 2011 was awarded a National Excellence in Teaching Award. Ms. Harden says she understands the importance of providing quality education and care to the families of the community.

"We believe in providing children the time, space and experiences to joyfully explore, discover and learn about themselves and their place within our community.



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Our highly skilled and trained educators can provide extra support and imaginative learning experiences which promote the development of valuable life skills.

“My experience over the years has been extremely rewarding on many levels. As a team we are privileged to have been able to nurture, inspire, mentor and work in partnership with families and educators in teaching and developing our future leaders,” says. Ms. Harden.

Bundanoon District Community Preschool offers a play-based, nature focused curriculum which enhances each child's creativity and curiosity. The high-quality program builds each child's capacity, preparing them to be a brave and competent learner, as well as a contributing member of the community. The program includes numerous excursions, and their strong focus on multicultural and Aboriginal learning is reflected in their art experiences, music, dance, gardening and cooking, as well as their unique Nature Quest Outdoor Learning Program.

The community and media are invited to attend the Centre's Welcome Picnic for all past, present and future families of the community, on Saturday 24th February from 4pm to 7pm. The event will conclude with the Centre's traditional annual lantern walk.

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Further Information including interviews contact LBPR:

- Interview opportunities are available with Jenni Hutchins, CEO Big Fat Smile, and Deni Harden, Director of Bundanoon District Community Preschool upon request.

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About Big Fat Smile

Big Fat Smile believes in a braver, brighter, more creative world. It's their reason for being.

They engage highly qualified, passionate educators so that every child has the best start to life and learning. Quality is central to everything Big Fat Smile does, with 100 per cent of centres assessed in 2014 and 2015 achieving the coveted 'exceeding' rating under the demanding National Quality Standard.

Headquartered in Corrimal, Big Fat Smile employs more than 700 staff at 42 early learning and school age care centres in 11 local government areas across the Illawarra, Sydney Metropolitan Area, Southern Highlands, Wollondilly and Tablelands.

For more information, visit: <http://bigfatmile.com.au/>.