Albert Waterways Children's Centre Philosophy

Our Vision

We believe in the significance of the early years in a child's development and therefore our aim is to provide children with exceptional beginnings. Through the programs that we implement, our goal is to provide children with strong foundations that will provide; a sense of who they are, of where they belong and the opportunity to evolve and flourish as learners and people.

To see our vision fulfilled our intention is to provide an environment that is rich in play opportunities where adults provide a safe space and act as the facilitators for children, providing respect, understanding, guidance, resources, and teacher knowledge to encourage the child's holistic growth.

In relation to Children, we believe:

- In creating a home like environment with a positive atmosphere where children feel nurtured and safe and can develop at their own pace.
- In the benefits of mixed age grouping that give children the opportunity to be, and learn, together, build new friendships and develop a sense of belonging.
- In extending and fostering child-initiated play.
- That children learn best from hands-on experiences based on their strengths and interests.
- That children should be provided with choices in their play to empower their sense of self and foster development of their individual learning journey.
- That children need repetition where they can practice and master their skills.
- In providing an indoor/outdoor program that fosters the 'whole child' (i.e. identity, wellbeing, communication, connectedness, active learning & cultural development).
- Children are competent and capable learners that should be always treated with respect.
- In building children's self-esteem throughout the entire program.
- That each child is unique with their own personality and learning style.
- In providing predictable routines that develop autonomy, resilience, and sense of agency.
- In creating an anti-biased curriculum and environment where individual needs are catered for and respected.
- In supporting children to feel proud of their cultural heritage and build confidence to share their culture and home language.
- In including children with additional needs and creating an environment where they feel safe, secure, connected, and have equal opportunities to thrive in all areas of development.
- In providing healthy and nutritious meals which meet current recommendations and supporting children to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- In fostering social responsibility towards the environment by cultivating a deep understanding of our natural surroundings through our program.
- In each child's early years holding valuable memories of joy, laughter, lasting friendships, and fun!

In relation to Families, we believe:

- In an open-door policy where parents are encouraged to support, share, contribute and enhance the program and their child's shared learning journey.
- In providing a daily visual program for parents to share, discuss and reflect with their child.
- In the educators sharing and discussing methods of behaviour management to ensure consistent care between home and the centre.
- In developing a partnership with families where they can seek further information on a range of programs within the community

- That parent and staff communication should be warm, open, productive, and respectful.
- In fostering the vital connection between home and centre, to assist children to feel a sense of connectedness, consistency and belonging whilst in the centre.
- In parental input within the centre management committee.

In relation to Staff, we believe:

- In the power of teamwork, we encourage staff members to collaborate as a cohesive unit, utilising the principles outlined in the centre's policies and philosophy to inform and guide their daily tasks and interactions.
- In the Circle of Security model to build secure attachments with each child in our care.
- The relationships staff build with children, and their families are warm, friendly, respectful, and supportive.
- In staff maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of children and families
- In staff using clear and open communication with children and families and other members of the community.
- In providing consistency and continuity of care for all children through staff retention and longevity.
- In encouraging staff to share their ideas, skills, and talents with each other and within the Centre.
- In staff proudly sharing their own cultural heritage with children, families, and other staff members.
- In staff continuously developing their skills through professional development opportunities.
- In staff always working within the Centres 'Code of Conduct' and Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics.

In relation to the local Community, we believe:

- In respectfully acknowledging our local Aboriginal mob, the Kombumerri people, and in valuing the wealth of knowledge that can be passed to us from Elders, past, present, and future.
- Sourcing professional input where needed for children, through Inclusion Support, various professionals, or referral pathways.
- In prioritising connections among children, families, and the broader community, recognising the immense value of community resources for the holistic development of each child.
- In respecting 'Country', honouring and preserving our local physical environments. By collaborating with the community, we strive to sustain these environments for the benefit of our children and future generations.

In relation to the Program, we believe:

- In implementing the Early Years Learning Framework and the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines through the Emergent Curriculum model.
- In embedding the frameworks throughout our daily programs as we strive to develop each child's sense of being, belonging and becoming through child initiated and intentional teaching activities whilst providing quality care.
- It is important for children to make their own decisions and choices, giving them the opportunity to use their voice and be heard during all experiences.
- In the importance of school readiness, effective transitions, and connections to our local school communities.
- In the importance of observing, documenting, assessing, reflecting, and adapting our approach towards each child's learning journey in a meaningful and relevant manner.
- In the importance of cultural celebrations within the centre and the learning value they have for our children and community. E.g. Harmony Day, Tanabata.

In relation to our Learning Spaces, we believe:

- In the value our large, natural outdoor environments that provide children with opportunities to explore, discover and learn.
- In providing large blocks of time for children to become immersed in their play.
- In offering children risks in safe, well supervised learning spaces.
- In utilising quality learning resources to enrich children's learning experiences; employing open-ended resources with multifaceted purposes; and offering a diverse array of resources to accommodate the needs and developmental levels of all children.
- In giving children real choices in the setting up of equipment and resources.

In relation to our World and Sustainability, we believe:

- In setting an example and educating children on the significance of sustainable living; and informing families about the importance of sustainability within the community for the well-being of our lands, seas, and air.
- In recycling, reusing, reducing, and rethinking our resources each day.
- In re-using and re-purposing unwanted items from within our community.
- In working with children, families, and community to grow and care for all plants including flowers, herbs, and vegetables.
- In educating and reminding children about the connection between food and plate.
- In providing children with the opportunity to feed, nurture and care for living animals.
- In composting fruit and vegetables to reduce greenhouse gases and using natural fertilising agents such as worm castings.

Policy Review Record

Date	Management Committee Name	Nominated Supervisors Name	Review Cycle	Next Review Date
Jan 2026	Nicholas Whiteway	Tamara Fallon	Yearly	Jan 2027