

Governing Council

While the Department for Education and Child Development makes many decisions affecting the provision of quality care and education at Pooraka Community Kindergarten there is an important place for community input. The role of Governing Council is to provide good governance, be advocates for the parent community in partnership with and under advisement from the Director.

- The constitution adopted in 2004 describes who is eligible to be a member of the Pooraka Community Kindergarten community and thereby eligible for Governing Council. There are limits on who can be considered and for how long but as a general rule all parents/guardians of enrolled children are eligible.
- Voting rights are only given to those persons who have applied for membership and been accepted by Council as such.
- Visitors are encouraged and warmly welcomed. Meetings are held at the centre at an agreed time/date. Meetings follow agreed protocols but are described as friendly and informal.
- Meeting dates and agenda items are advertised through the newsletter and noticeboard. Any parent can make an agenda item.
- Meetings are held twice per term at a time and date chosen by the group. The Annual General Meeting is held once per year, around March/April.
- Examples of the work of governing councils are: adoption of the reviewed Behaviour Management Policy 2012, fee review 2012, endorsement of the Philosophy Statement prepared by staff 2012, Recipe book 2011 and guiding the decisions around the outdoor area upgrade in 2010.
- Many governing council members say they learn a lot from their involvement and have no hesitation to recommend it to other parents.

The Department for Education and Child Development website has good information regarding the role and operation of Governing Councils. The address is www.decd.sa.gov.au. Training for governing council members is offered by negotiation with the director and central office. It is not necessary to undertake any training before or after joining governing council.

Created October 2012

Reviewed may 2015