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## Statement of Philosophy

Cootamundra Preschool has been providing quality early childhood education to the Cootamundra community for over fifty years. We recognize the important role we play in the community in which we live and work and understand the importance of staff and the management committee making decisions that reflect a long-term commitment to the viability of our service. Our service is an active participant in the National Quality Framework.

We believe children are capable and competent and are active natural learners. We aim to provide a play-based program where children are free to make choices about the way they use resources thus encouraging dispositions and skills for learning. We want our preschool environment to be one where each child can develop socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically as individuals. Our educational principles and practices and the learning outcomes we work towards for each child are informed and guided by the Early Years learning Framework.

We acknowledge the Wiradjuri as the traditional owners of the land on which we play and learn. We recognize the importance of diversity and inclusiveness in our society. We realise the importance of the rights of the child, social justice and humanist values. We aim to treat each child and family with dignity and respect – exploring, acknowledging and valuing our similarities and differences. We aim to provide an environment in which all families feel welcome and comfortable and are free to be actively involved in their child's learning and development at preschool.

As educators we aim to treat children, families and each other with respect and warmth and to be caring and empathetic members of our community. We believe that by modelling positive behavior we guide the children's understanding and appreciation of the rights and responsibilities, needs and feelings of themselves and others. We encourage and model thoughtfulness about sustainability and protecting and preserving the environment in which we all live.

We believe in promoting healthy choices in life. We encourage children to be mindful of, and to become increasingly responsible for, their own health and wellbeing.

We believe preschool is an important step between home and school. Through our routines and practices we aim to provide opportunities for children to develop social, emotional, physical, thinking and communication skills to help them make a smooth and successful transition to school.

Date reviewed by staff: 21/05/2018

Date reviewed by committee: 23/05/2018

Next review date: 23/05/2019