



Alpine Children's Services, General Manager

2014 Report

Services Overview

A total of 287 families attended services provided by Alpine Children's Services (ACS), these being:

- Alpine Family Day Care - 13 families
- Alpine View Children's Centre - 122 families
- Lake View Children's Centre - 70 families
- Mountain View Children's Centre - 82 families

ACS worked collaboratively with the following services:

- 0-8 Years Network Groups
- Alpine Health including the Maternal and Child Health Services
- Alpine Shire Council
- Bendigo Bank - Bright Community Branch
- Child FIRST
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Department of Education and Employment, Workplace Relations
- Department of Human Services - Child Protection
- Gateway Community Health
- Local primary schools with comprehensive transition programs and support of the ACS Conference & Parent Evening
- Myrtleford Preschool
- SCOPE (additional support for funded kindergarten programs)
- Secondary and Tertiary Education Institutes
- Upper Murray Family Care

Achievements

- Development of the LVCC master plan culminating in a successful funding application to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Alpine Shire Council for the redevelopment of the centre
- Second ACS Conference was held in May with 50 ACS staff and 65 attendees from across the Hume region with seven presenters speaking on: sensory processing disorder, emotion coaching, indigenous curriculum and simplifying documentation.
- Parent Evenings:
 - 1) Warren Cann (CEO Parenting Network) and Niki Buchan (Inspired Early Childhood) presented at the major ACS Parent Night that was held in conjunction with the ACS Conference.
 - 2) Brendan O'Hara presented in Mount Beauty with families attending from across the shire. Brendan is an accomplished national and international lecturer and presenter on the importance of kinesiology in children's development.
- Continued involvement in the Seedlings Project (with funding from Sustainability Victoria) culminating in the project receiving the Premier's award for Sustainability - Community.
- Increased presence in the local media with over 20 articles published on a range of activities such as funding announcements, garden projects, children's week activities, conference and parent evening and grant announcements.
- Improved governance including:
 - 1) Extensive review of Family P&P
 - 2) Development of an ACS Code of Conduct to replace the Staff Handbook
 - 3) Introduction of ACS Risk Reporting to the ACS Committee of Management
 - 4) Introduction of new positions: Family Wellbeing Officers and Staff Wellbeing & Contact Officers
- Announcement of \$176k funding under the Long Day Care Professional Development Program across 2014 to 2106
- Successful negotiation of the ACS EA 2014-2016
- Development of a new ACS Strategic Plan
- Total of \$21.5k received in grants

Summary of current position in the National Quality Standard

- Alpine Family Day Care - 'Meeting' NQS
- Alpine View Children's Centre - not yet assessed
- Lake View Children's Centre - 'Exceeding' NQS
- Mountain View Children's Centre - assessed but waiting for report

Key Focus for 2015

- Improve communication across and within ACS
- Continue the development of outdoor learning spaces across ACS
- Review the possibility of including the Outside School Hours Care and Vacation Care Services within the scope of ACS
- Continue discussions with Myrtleford Pre-School regarding the management of the service
- Improve governance of ACS and quality of education and care through a range of professional development and training programs