

Dr Harry Little Preschool Association Inc.
Treasurers Financial Report to Annual General Meeting
For the period ended 30 September 2021

Dr Harry Little Preschool is a not-for-profit incorporated association. Being a not-for-profit organisation, the preschool receives government funding but unfortunately this funding does not fully cover our operational costs. We therefore rely on grants, fundraising and fee payments from families to cover the balance.

Any profits earned by the preschool are reinvested, to provide the best possible facilities, and ensuring our educational and teaching staff are able to give all children enrolled the best possible kinder year and a head start for primary school, whilst also leaving aside a provision for building works to maintain our beautiful, but ageing buildings.

The fees we charge to families ensure the ongoing operation of the preschool and are paramount to the preschool's cash flow. Fees are payable in 4 instalments, with the first of these falling due on Tuesday, 7th of December. We have a fees policy in place, and we encourage all families to read and understand this policy. A copy of our fees policy is enclosed in each enrolment pack. It is important that families pay their fees by the due dates listed on the invoices. If you are experiencing difficulties in making payments by the due dates and wish to discuss alternative payment options, please contact Simone our finance officer whose details will be included in the enrolment packs.

A quick overview of the 2020-21 financial result;

Bank Balances as at 30 September 2021

Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	124,712.67
Entitlements Account	88,875.33
Fair Bank Account	1,054.22
Main Trading Account	217,382.40
Petty Cash	727.78
Total Bank	432,752.40

For the 2021 financial year, the preschool's operations resulted in a net profit of \$170,671. The accounts are still being audited at the time of recording so I will provide an update on the night of the AGM if this number changes. The favourable result was predominately due to free kindergarten that occurred during the year, School Readiness Funding and COVID grants from the Department of Education as well as a reduction in capital expenditure planned due to the pandemic restrictions.

In 2021, Dr Harry Little Preschool elected to participate in the Victorian Government's Free Kindergarten initiative. Free Kinder forms part of the economic recovery support for Victorians during 2021 as Victoria recovers from the global coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic. As a result, families were able to save around \$2,000 over the 2021 calendar year for each child enrolled in our funded kindergarten programs. As well as reduced fees for those families that have children attending unfunded three-year-old programs. This initiative has helped to keep families enrolled in and attending their services and to attract new families, which has assisted us to remain financially viable during the current COVID environment.

In consideration of the Free Kindergarten initiative, the committee decided to roll over the voluntary fee in 2021 giving families the option to pay a voluntary fee if they are able to do so. This is completely voluntary in nature and any amount given is at the discretion of the individual families. We hope to put these funds towards several substantial capital works which are to be completed in 2022/2023, including;

- A building extension to extend the 3-year-old kinder hours and number capacity's;
- A new cubby house;
- Painting to the building exterior.

For the first year we received School Readiness funding. It is designed to give all Victorian children an equal chance to thrive by providing all kindergartens with extra resourcing to improve educational outcomes for children. This year we were able to support the cohort of children in our kindergarten program through high quality allied health professionals (including speech pathologists and occupational therapists) to support teachers/educators to address the needs and goals for children and their families. Resources were also purchased to support children's cultural needs and to experience a sense of belonging at Dr Harry Little Preschool.

Our staff have handled COVID with such professionalism. The staff in both rooms work collaboratively to cover shifts when another staff member is on personal leave, which means we do not have to rely on relief teachers coming into the centre. During the extended lockdown period in August, the staff swiftly embraced remote learning opportunities and employed temporary home learning support. Families were provided with learning material that would have been received in the classroom to continue their child's learning from home.

In terms of fundraising, our annual fair has historically been our major fundraiser, but our fair was cancelled in 2020 and again in 2021 due to COVID. We started to look at a number of other fundraising avenues in 2019 due to the reduction in available grant funding which put us in a great position to still raise some funds in the absence of our fair. We sent out Picture Plates for the children and families to complete, undertook a Mango Drive, a Krispy Kreme fundraiser, a Mother's and Father's Day fundraiser and had Mini Photo Sessions by Chris Epworth Photography. Majority of the profit from fundraising activities will go towards substantial capital works now that restrictions are easing. Though some of the profit has been used to purchase new equipment for the kinder, such as;

- New outdoor noticeboard to accommodate for parents to view notices at pick up/drop offs during lockdowns;
- New filing cabinet for Room 1;

We also had a number of capital purchases in 2020-21, including;

- New roof to part of the kinder,
- New ceiling in Room 2,
- Purchase of iPad for staff to use in the kinder sessions and for administration tasks,
- New bathroom and lockers in Room 2,
- Painting to the building interior.

Personnel Costs were over budget this year mainly due to the back pay since the approval of the Victorian Early Childhood Teachers and Educators Agreement (VECTEA) by the Fair work Commission. This new agreement recognises the hard work of the early childhood workforce and supports Dr Harry Little Preschool and other services to continue to deliver high-quality early learning.

Non-Personnel Costs we have seen increases in;

- Cleaning costs - have increased the frequency of cleaning of the rooms due to COVID which has increased our cleaning costs. This is partially offset by a cleaning grant received from the department of education of \$1,500 per term
- Gardening
- Repairs, including;
 - Annual maintenance items
 - Plumbing/Electrical work
 - Roof repairs
 - Ceiling repairs
 - Hazardous material removal

Through careful monitoring of the budget during the 2020-21 financial year, the preschool will remain in a strong financial position for the future. I would like to encourage families to become involved with the kinder, either by way of the Committee of Management, volunteering some time for fundraisers, working bees or kinder duty. Parent engagement is invaluable to the ongoing success of the Preschool.

A special thanks to Simone our finance officer - this has been a challenging year with the back pay and new funding grants for 2021. This has created considerable work to process salary increases to staff and of the completion of end-of-year acquittals. Both myself and the committee thank Simone for all of her efforts.

Finally, if anyone is interested in the treasurer position for next year, I strongly encourage you to send through your details. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as treasurer and being a part of this wonderful kinder community thus far. I would be more than happy to have a chat privately if you have any questions. You can send me an email at treasurer@drharrylittlepreschool.org.au

And that's all from me. Thank-you

Sophie Olsen
Treasurer