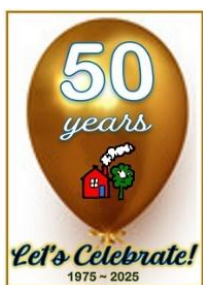


# October

## 2025 NEWSLETTER

### Important Dates...

- **Term 3 ends** - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September
- **School holidays** – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
**Preschool is closed**
- **Term 4 begins** – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October
- **Community Preschool Day of Action** –  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> & Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October – **Steps Vision Screening** from 9:30am.



**October 2025**

*'Like' us on Facebook:*

[www.facebook.com/springwoodpreschool](https://www.facebook.com/springwoodpreschool)

*Visit our Website*

for information & events:

[www.springwoodpreschool.org.au](http://www.springwoodpreschool.org.au)

## Preschool celebrates 50 years



*Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate 50 years of Springwood Preschool and made it such a memorable day! Thanks also to the businesses who supported our day;*

- ❖ Happy Tiers by Chantelle
- ❖ Matt Falloon & his trained balloons
- ❖ The Rotary Club of Springwood
- ❖ Rainbow Children's entertainment
- ❖ Captured by Cindy
- ❖ Katoomba Men's Shed

# Day of Action

## October 15th - Pink Day

Dear Families,

We would like to share with you some recent financial plans announced by the NSW State Government. According to media reports, the Government intends for community preschools to operate with the same hours and age range (0–5 years) as Long Day Care centres, but within the existing preschool structure.

However, community preschools are specifically designed, staffed, and accredited to deliver high-quality early education programs for children aged 3–5 years. While funding can easily transform preschools into all-ages Long Day Care centres, this shift could significantly impact the quality, staffing, and operations of our current model.

We believe that NSW must offer a variety of Early Childhood service types to meet the diverse needs of families. Early Childhood education is not a 'one-size-fits-all' model, and preschools play a vital role in our communities—as evidenced by our full enrolments.

We are asking for your support. Please consider writing to your local member and/or the Minns Government to share your thoughts on the proposed changes to the preschool model. These changes were announced without consultation or a clear understanding of community needs.

- Premier Chris Minns <https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/premier-of-nsw/contact-premier> (Scroll down to "Your details" and where it asks "Type of Inquiry" - select "leave a message" from the dropdown tab).
- Trish Doyle- local MP [bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

On Wednesday October 15<sup>th</sup> our preschool along with many other preschools we will attend a 'day of action' in Sydney. Preschool will remain OPEN however, and we will send a few staff to attend and represent the rest of us who will remain at work for a normal preschool day. We are asking on October 15<sup>th</sup> if everyone could wear 'pink' and we will decorate the preschool in support of the day.

If you would like to read some further information, I have attached a letter that I sent to the premier regarding our concerns and a summary of proposed changes.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

*Jessica Jefferies – Director  
Springwood Preschool*





# COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL DAY OF ACTION

## INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

*We will have a small team attend the rally while back at preschool we ask families to wear PINK on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 2025*



### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Without additional funding for wage increases, higher fees are inevitable.

#### Did you know?

- Community preschool teachers and educators receive up to 35% less wages than teachers and educators in Long Day Care (LDC) and public preschools?
- The high quality community preschool model is at risk. Community preschools can no longer find and retain staff.
- The NSW government will only offer increased funding if community preschools extend hours, putting more pressure on our model.
- Community preschools bring in 60% 'Exceeding Ratings' compared to 19% in Long Day Care. It is vital we protect our flagship model.
- Teachers and educators in community preschools have the same qualifications and registration as teachers and educators in public schools.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There has never been a more important time to take action and stand up for our high quality model.

- Talk to others about the issue
- Post on social media
- Attend the rally on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct
- Make signs and wear pink
- Write to your local MP or Chris Minns

"What do we want?"  
"Fund our preschools"  
"What do we want?"  
"Protect our Model"



**Support Community Preschool now.  
Without Fair Funding for Fair Wages  
our model is at risk.**

For more information contact Bridget  
on [bridget@springwood.org.au](mailto:bridget@springwood.org.au)



**START STRONG  
PAY FAIR**

Early Childhood Education & Care  
**ECEC**  
IEU the union for early childhood teachers

**IEU** Independent  
Education  
Union of Australia  
NSW/ACT Branch





17 September 2025

Dear Parent

IEUA (NSW/ACT Branch)  
GPO Box 116  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
The Briscoe Building  
485-501 Wattle Street  
ULTIMO NSW 2007

**Stand with community preschools: Start Strong Pay Fair Day of Action  
Wednesday 15 October**

We seek your support for our campaign advocating fair pay and recognition for the dedicated teachers and educators at your child's community preschool.

We know that community preschools are the preferred choice for many parents because they deliver high-quality education and care to children and have low records of safety breaches. Community preschools are three times more likely to be rated as Exceeding National Quality Standards than long day care services where only 18% are rated as Exceeding.

Despite this, teachers and educators working in long day care services are paid at least 15% above those working in community preschools. Community preschool teachers have the same qualifications as teachers in schools but are paid up to 30% less. These pay gaps make it increasingly difficult for preschools to attract and retain passionate, qualified staff.

Funding for community preschools is solely derived from the NSW Government. The recent government announcement on *Expanding Quality Access* program will not assist most community preschools, like your preschool, that are facing a staffing crisis. Without additional funding, community preschools may be forced to:

- significantly increase fees, thereby placing financial pressures on families
- cap enrolment numbers to ensure adequate staffing to maintain safety standards
- have long waiting lists for children to be enrolled into the preschool.

The union is urging the NSW Government to provide additional funding so that community preschools can address this crisis - without passing the costs to families. We are calling for a Day of Action on Wednesday 15 October by closing the preschool for the day or part of the day. There will be a rally at the top of Martin Place starting at 11:30am.

To support teachers and educators at your child's community preschool, you can join the Day of Action by wearing pink and:

- attend the rally or participate in the preschool's Day of Action event
- write a message of support to your local state MP seeking them to stand up for fair funding for community preschools
- share your preschool's Day of Action on social media to spread the word.

Thank you for standing with us. Your support will help continue to build strong, inclusive, and sustainable preschool communities.

Yours sincerely

**CAROL MATTHEWS**  
**Secretary**

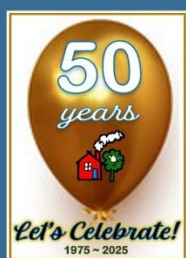




# 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday book library

It's not too late to donate 😊

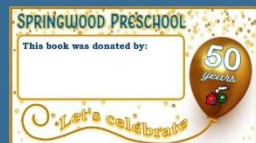
*If your family would like to donate a book to our Community Library to commemorate our preschool's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday, please feel free to bring it in next term and have a 50 year Celebration label placed in the cover with your family's name to acknowledge your support and contribution.*



## Help us build our Community Library today!

**AS PART OF OUR 50 YEAR CELEBRATION THE  
KATOOMBA MEN'S SHED HAVE BUILT A COMMUNITY  
LIBRARY FOR OUR PRESCHOOL**

We invite families to donate the first new books to add to our library. Our 50 year celebration labels will be placed in each book to acknowledge your families contribution.



## Steps Vision Screening

**On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> & Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October  
from 9:30am, the team from Steps Vision  
Screening will be at Preschool.**

Children who are eligible for screening will receive a permission form early in term 4. Please complete and return it by the day of screening. This includes if your child has had the screening elsewhere, you can indicate on the form that they have already been screened.

The youngest of our 4 year olds who will return to preschool in 2025 may not receive an envelope as they will have the opportunity to be screened next year, but if your child has turned 4 by these dates and you don't want to wait until next year then please see the office and collect a permission form.

### What is StEPS?

The StEPS program is an initiative of NSW Health and offers all 4 year old children free vision screening.

### Why would my child need their vision screened?

- Children rarely complain of eye problems.
- Children may not realise they can't see well.
- Some children can see well with one eye but have very poor vision in the other eye.
- Children's eyes may look OK and parents/caregivers might think that their child can see well but some children might still have a vision problem.
- The only way to tell if a child has a vision problem is to have the child's vision tested one eye at a time.



### Did you know?

- If a child has a 'lazy eye' it may lead to severe vision loss or blindness in that eye if not treated.
- If a child has a vision problem, the earlier the problem is detected and treated the better the vision outcome.
- If parents wear glasses or had vision problems as a child their children are more likely to have vision problems too.
- After eight years of age some childhood vision problems cannot be treated and the child will have poor vision for the rest of their life - glasses won't help.
- Low birth weight babies and children with neurological problems are at a greater risk of developing eye problems.

### Does my child need their vision screened?

NSW Health advises all children to have their vision screened before they start school and strongly recommends that all 4 year old children participate in the vision screening program.

### How can my child access the StEPS program?

Your local Area Health Service will target preschools and child care centres to offer all four year old children a free vision screening. To have your child's vision screened you will need to complete a consent form and return it to your child's preschool/daycare centre. You can also have your four year old child's vision screened for free through your local Child & Family Health Service. Contact details for your local Child & Family Health Service are on the back of this pamphlet.



### How will I know if my child has a vision problem?

Every parent/carer of children who have a vision screening will be informed of the results of their child's vision screening assessment. Should a vision problem be detected you will be contacted by your local Area Health Service and asked to have your child's eyes fully tested by an eye health professional. As children's eyes continue to develop until approximately 8 years of age it is important to ensure every child's vision develops normally throughout these formative years. The StEPS program is a vision screening program and does not offer a full diagnostic assessment. If you have any concerns about your child's vision you are recommended to have your child's vision tested fully by an eye health professional.



# TIPS TO SUPPORT A POSITIVE TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

## TALK POSITIVELY ABOUT SCHOOL

Share excitement! Use positive words when speaking about school to build your child's confidence and curiosity.



## DRIVE PAST THE SCHOOL

Make the school feel familiar. Point it out, talk about what happens there, and get your child used to the idea of going.

## CONNECT PRESCHOOL TO BIG SCHOOL

Talk about what's similar (friends, playtime) and what's new (bigger playground, new teacher). Familiarity eases nerves!

