

19 September 2025

Ministerial visit showcases SDN Milperra's quality service



SDN Milperra proudly hosted a special visit from Senator Jess Walsh, Minister for Early Childhood Education and for Youth and Member for Banks, Zhi Soon, alongside SDN CEO Kay Turner.

The visit included a roundtable discussion with educators and a tour of the centre, showcasing the commitment to child safety, exceptional quality, and inclusive practices that have earned SDN Milperra its 'Exceeding' rating.

It was an opportunity for the Ministers to gain firsthand insight into the realities and costs of delivering high-quality early childhood education, particularly for children with additional needs.

SDN Milperra's Acting Director, Sheridan Hewson, shared how the centre supports a diverse demographic, including 14 children with diagnosed disabilities.

The team works closely with local paediatricians, interagency teams and therapists to ensure every child receives the support they need. The discussion touched on the challenges of funding and the importance of intermediate support to maintain quality service delivery.

Sheridan spoke about the centre's strong partnership with Milperra Public School, where the centre is located, which includes shared activities like library visits, musical performances, and a robust transition-to-school program.

Zhi Soon, newly elected and a long-time advocate for education, brought insights from his extensive public service background, including his time on the NSW Board of Studies.

As part of the Thriving Kids initiative, the Ministers asked what role early learning providers can play in shaping better outcomes for children. Sheridan and Kay spoke passionately about SDN's commitment to inclusive education, staff development, and open collaboration with families and schools to ensure every child thrives.

The visit highlighted the work being done at SDN Milperra and across SDN centres to support children and families with diverse needs. A big shout out to Acting CD, Sheridan Hewson and team.