**MURRUPURTIYANUWU PRESCHOOL**

**SHOWCASING QUALITY EDUCATION AND CARE PRACTICES IN THE TERRITORY**

**STAFF COLLABORATION IN A REMOTE CONTEXT TO ENHANCE CHILDREN’S LEARNING**

**Consider the questions following the video to inform critical reflection on practices at your service.**

Melissa McDonnell I am Melissa and I am the preschool educator here at Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Preschool on Bathurst Island in the Northern Territory.

Jolene Kantilla My name is Jolene Kantilla and I have been working here at preschool for five years and doing my study of Cert three to become a teacher.

Elizabeth Puruntatameri My name is Elizabeth Puruntatameri, I’ve been working here for two years at preschool and I am an Assistant Teacher and I am doing study with Jolene.

Melissa McDonnell Both Jolene and Lilly have worked in the preschool collectively for more than seven years, so they have a lot of experience about the setting and they’ve also lived here their entire lives, so they know things that are happening outside of the preschool. Their able to bring that into the preschool to help the kids and help me understand as well what’s happening, why that particular child is upset today or that child is tired, so they have a really vast knowledge of everything that is happening and they bring it in order to assist the kids and make them have a better experience at preschool. Being a visitor here I have a lot of things that I need to learn as well and they are quite happy to teach me the things that I need to know, even teach me Tiwi words. People in the community are more willing to speak to Jolene and Lilly because they are from here and they feel more comfortable, I am still working on forming those relationships so having Jolene and Lilly pass that information on is vital to what we need to be achieving.

Elizabeth Puruntatameri Like when their sick at home and parents tell us at the community, then we tell Mel when we come to her and we tell her.

Melissa McDonnell The kids run through that gate like they haven’t seen everybody in forever, they love being here and think that’s because they are known so well and they know everybody, they feel comfortable, they belong here, its where their meant to be. Were lucky enough to have a cultural teacher so she will often come to us and teach us things about the land and dancing.

Jolene Kantilla We get more involved, like for Mel she involved us to come together and teach the kids.

Melissa McDonnell I wouldn’t say so much that I am mentoring them as their also mentoring me, so many things that I know have come from them and I hope that I can pass it onto them as well.

Jolene Kantilla We come together after on Monday, we always have afternoon meeting with Mel and decide which activities we do for the kids on the next day.

Melissa McDonnell So both Lilly and Jolene are doing a certificate three in Education and Care.

Jolene Kantilla Yes, sometime Mel does help us, but it is hard, little bit hard we find out and we call out to Mel like if we need help, Mel she’s always there to help us.

Melissa McDonnell We sit down every afternoon and we will go through the questions, work through each of them at a time, make sure that we understand what its actually asking as quite often the questions are hard to understand until you put it into a context and actually create a scenario and the girls know exactly what their talking about because they do it every day, it’s just a matter of putting that into words and that’s what we work on, how would we word that? How are we trying to… what are we trying to say? How are we going to write that down?

Jolene Kantilla Is for me my job, I like being teaching so in the future might become a real teacher, yeah when we take a place, we take over old ladies they have been here for a long time, some of the ladies they old and they still going, so in the future we can take their place.

Melissa McDonnell So the ultimate goal of the preschool is that both Jolene and Lilly will be the educators, they will be the ones who run the preschool and decide what happens, they’re able to take it where they want it to go, so my role is to foster that and help create that and they’re quite comfortable and competent and I have no doubt that they will achieve that.

**Questions:**

**How does the team collaborate to deliver an effective early childhood program?**

**How are the tasks and roles shared?**

**Discuss the level of engagement of the assistant teachers in this program.**

**How is the cultural and community knowledge of the teaching team used to enhance the program?**

**How does the teacher support and mentor the assistant teachers, and how do the assistant teachers support and mentor the teacher?**