



# Adelaide French Australian School

Community response



## Origin of the project:

- In recent years there have been previous attempts to set up a bilingual French school in Adelaide – the local interest in bilingual French education is long standing and strong.
- Recent success stories of Australian public schools opening a French stream reinforced the sentiment that Adelaide should not lag behind the other Australian capital cities.
- On 23rd February 2015 25 people attended a workshop to seek guidance from Eric Soulier, Head of Culture, Education, Science & Technology from the French Embassy.
- At the end of this workshop, participants felt inspired to act quickly to assess the potential of a school.



## Origin of the project:

- Interested local French and Australians met the ambassador in March and were encouraged in their quest for a bilingual school.
- A parent committee was formed from the local French community to develop the project.
- The parent committee investigated models in Australia, undertook some site visits and evaluated options in terms of suitability for Adelaide.
- The parent committee commenced a consultation to assess the demand starting with a survey.



## Survey – Objectives:

- Assess the interest for a French bilingual educational program in the Adelaide metro community,
- Get to know the numbers of potential schoolkids and their age spectrum,
- Locations of interest for parents willing to enroll their kids in the future.

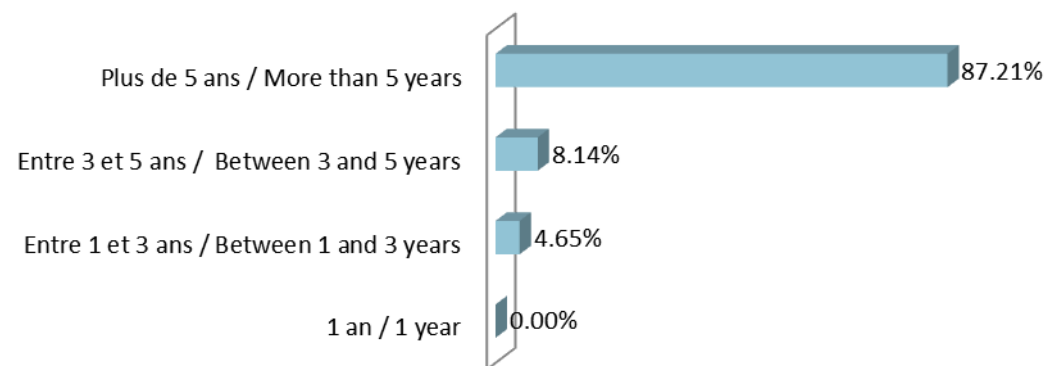
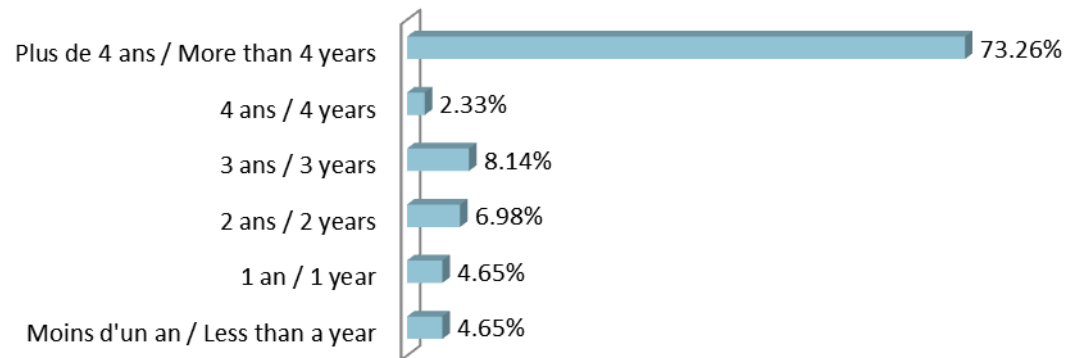


## Survey – Basic principles

- Survey conducted on March:
  - One month duration,
  - Targeted to the local French parents and others with an interest in French language and curriculum,
  - Promoted through emails, Facebook, a new website, fact sheets to French speaking community and organisations (Alliance Française, SAFTA)
  - Participants completed survey on website.

# Survey – Families and children

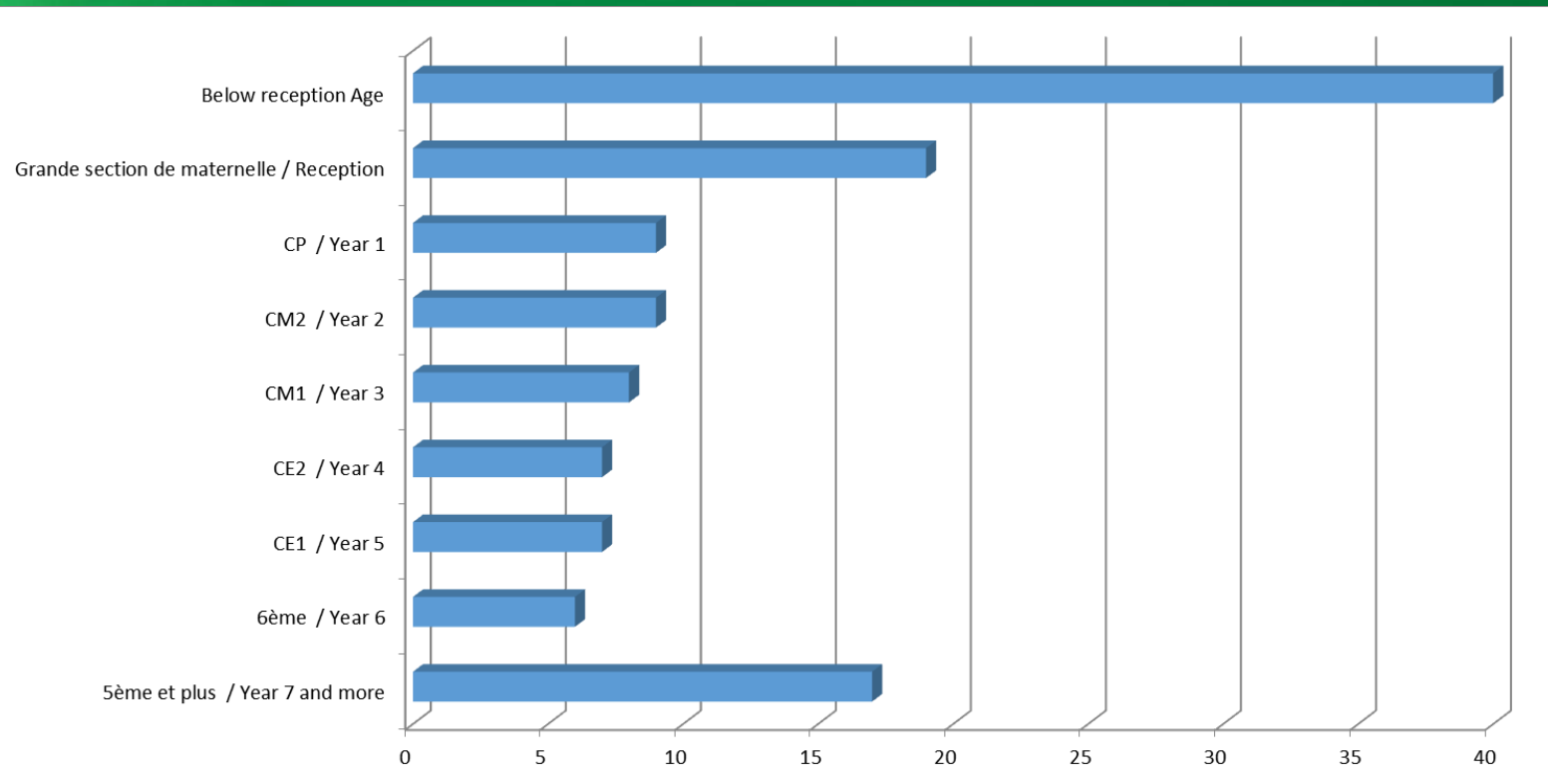
- 87 families answered, mostly settled long ago in Australia and willing to stay in Adelaide for the longer term.
- Total of 124 children.
- “How many years have you lived in Australia for?”
  - “For how many years do you intend to stay in South Australia?”





# Survey – Families and children

- Distribution of children per Primary School class of age as forecasted for Jan 2016.

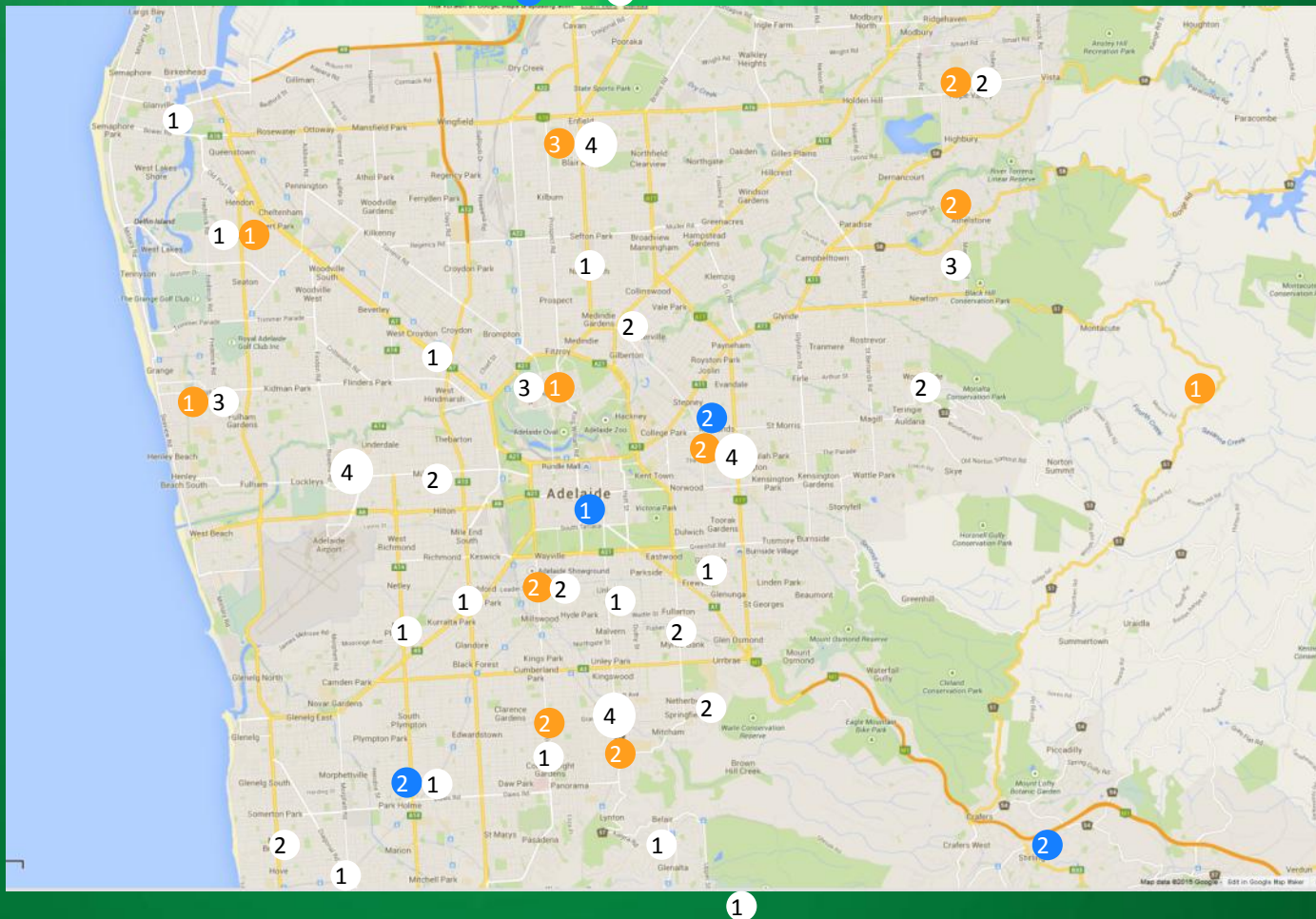






# Families and children's location (Jan 2016)

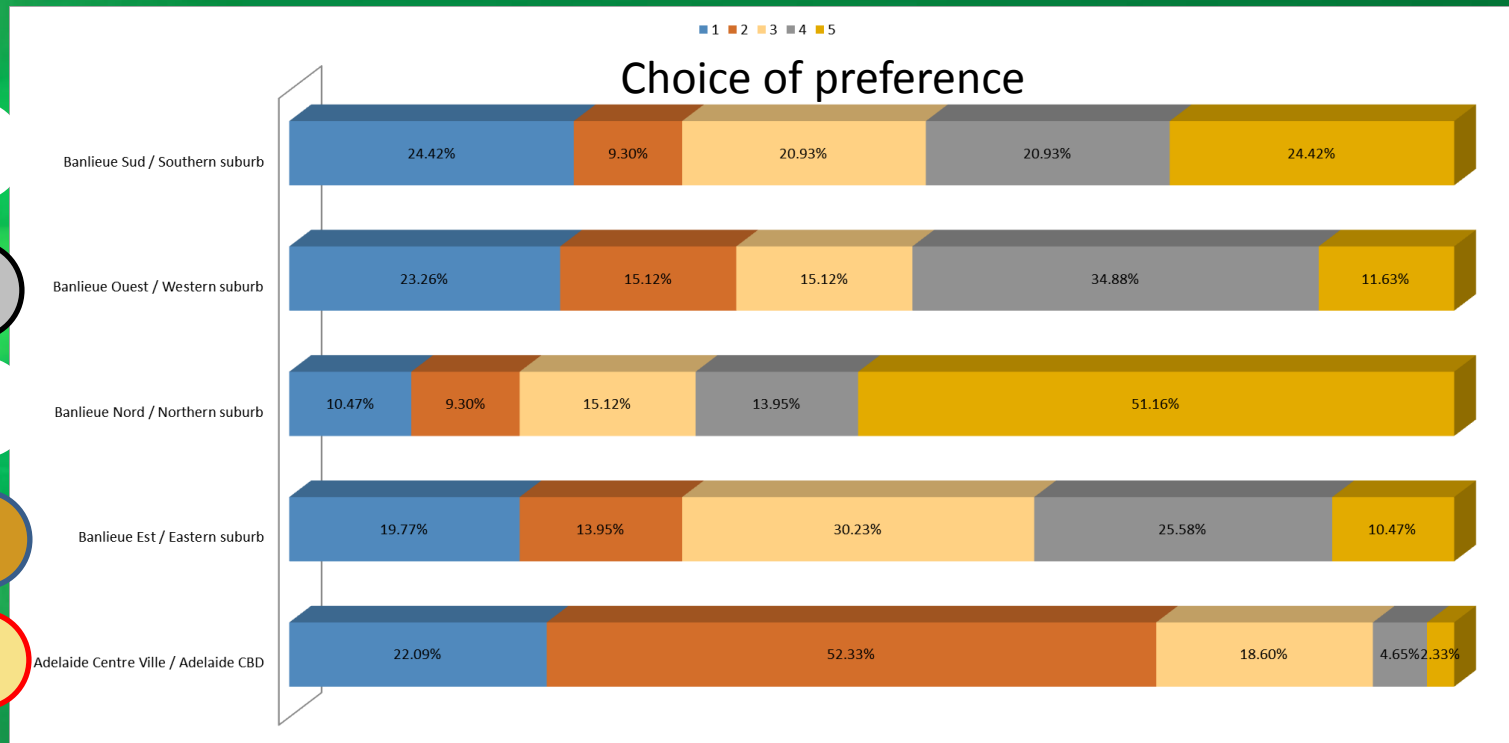
- X Reception
- Y Year 1
- Z Less than 4 yo



# Survey – Families and children

- Location where parents would prefer to have a state school with bilingual program (1<sup>st</sup> choice in blue and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice in brown).

- 4<sup>th</sup>
- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 5<sup>th</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 1<sup>st</sup>

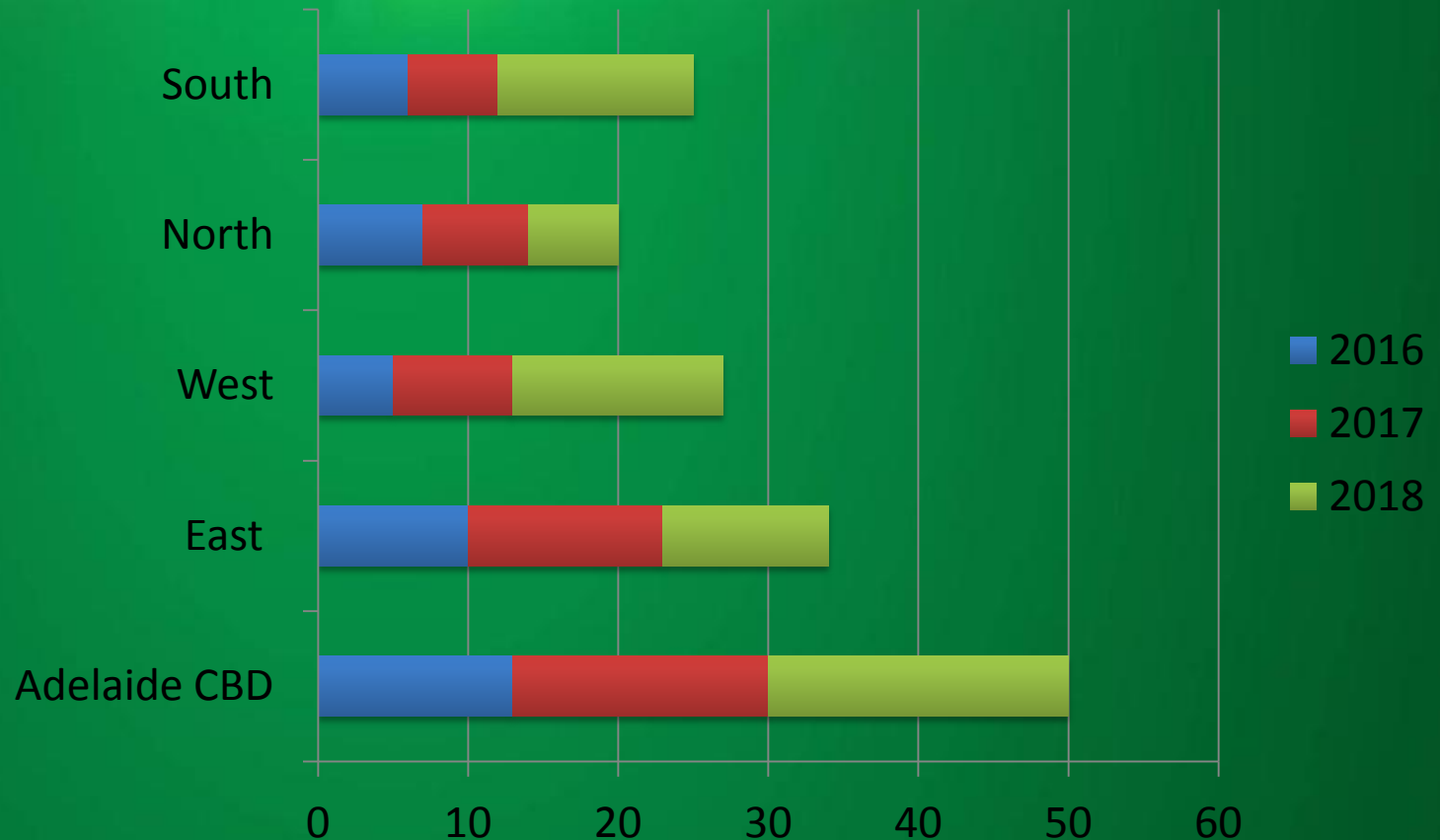


Rank by cumulating 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice



## Survey - Projection in upcoming years

Reception - Number of children pa per location





## School with French – Australian models

- Name: Telopea Park School – Lycée Franco-Australien de Canberra
- Location: Canberra, ACT
- French introduced in : 1984
- System: Public school
- Model type: bilingual-harmonised French-Australian curriculum
- Kindergarten-Year 6 (bilingual) – Y7-10 (French-English) to French Baccalauréat or 7-10 comprehensive English
- Enrolments: **1200**



## School with French – Australian models

- Name: Tingalpa primary school
- Location: Brisbane, QLD
- French introduced in : 2016
- System: Public school
- Model type: bilingual-harmonised French-Australian curriculum
- Years: Rec. (2016) – Rec. to Year 3 (2017)
- Enrolments: Rec. (24: 17 Australian – 7 French)  
354 total



## School with French – Australian models

- Name: Killarney Heights Primary School
- Location: Sydney, NSW
- French introduced in : 1999
- System: Public school
- Model type: Team teaching with both French and English instructions
- Years: Kindergarten - Primary
- Enrolments: 230



## School with French – Australian models

- Name: Caulfield Junior College – L'École Française de Melbourne
- Location: Melbourne, VIC
- French introduced in : 1998
- System: Public school – Private section
- Model type: bilingual-harmonised French-Australian curriculum
- Years: Kindergarten - Primary
- Enrolments: 200



# Benefits from bilingual curriculum

## For the students:

- Facilitates cross-cultural communication and relationship development;
- Improves acquisition and use of languages
- Improves problem solving, mental flexibility and task switching;
- Ability to participate in global employment market;
- Enhances intercultural understanding and global awareness;
- Brain development and increased cognitive skills;
- Achieving higher ATAR on average





# Benefits from bilingual curriculum

## For the school and local community:

- Facilitates business investment,
- Improves reputation of the school, reinvigorates school and staff,
- Attractive stream for students and parents,
- Boosts enrolments for schools under maximum capacity or declining numbers,
- Cultural benefits for all,
- Studies show that real estate tend to benefit from such a school.