

Best Start

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BEST START BROADMEADOWS ACTION PLAN

Broadmeadows Best Start Extension Project



Mission Statement

“optimising the health, development, learning and well-being of children living or participating in the Broadmeadows Community”

Objectives

- To improve access to universal services for vulnerable groups, especially culturally and linguistically diverse and indigenous communities;
- To support universal services to identify and support vulnerable children and their families;
- To strengthen and improve seamless pathways from universal services to appropriate secondary or tertiary services; and
- To provide opportunities for and support the development of neighbourhood cohesion and connectedness in order to achieve more child and family friendly communities.

These objectives are guided by the Victorian Government aims and objectives for the **Best Start** project. The aim of **Best Start** is to improve the health, development, learning and well-being of **all** Victorian children from pregnancy through transition to school (taken as being from 0 to 8 years). With the objectives of:

- Providing better access to child and family support, health services and early education;
- Improving the capacity and confidence of parents to be, parents and families to care for children and enjoy parenting; and
- Assisting communities to become more child and family friendly.

About this document

This document is a summary of the strategies implemented by the **Broadmeadows Early Years Partnership** in its fourth year of operation June 2006 – June 2007. The Partnership will remain as the core working group in 2007 monitoring the sustainability of activity and effort. The management structure involving lead partners will sign off on strategic directions and evaluation reports. Projects that evolved from **Best Start** initiatives now funded by the Australian Government “Communities for Children” (CfC) program have been included to show the synergy between federal, state and local government activity.



Development of the Broadmeadows Early Years Partnership

The Broadmeadows **Best Start** Partnership Group has evolved since 2003, with new partners to become the Early Years Partnership, now increased to 28 agencies and schools. The partnership works with a signed partnership agreement, joining together to strengthen and coordinate existing activities and programs for children and families. Parents are regularly consulted within the many community development projects that are underway, and presentations by local parents are included on the Partnership agenda on a regular basis. Results from **Best Start** Parent Surveys in 2003 and 2006 have provided additional local evidence. The lead partners are Broadmeadows Uniting Care, Hume City Council and Dianella Community Health.

The targeted neighbourhoods for action are:

Broadmeadows, Dallas, Jacana (3047) Campbellfield (3061)
Coolaroo, Meadow Heights (3048) Westmeadows (3049)

The facilitation of partnering

Partnerships and collaboration between agencies is critical to achieving a more integrated service system. Over the past 5 years, service coordination for young children under 5 years and families within Primary School settings, Hume City Council sites, community agencies and across 90 Playgroups has considerably expanded the reach of the early year's service system in Hume. Agencies have provided additional resources and in kind support to match funding from the initial **Best Start** Service Improvement grants. All partners are to be acknowledged for their leadership with these efforts to improve the focus of each partner on the early years.

The work of the Partnership is supported by a .5 EFT facilitator who is also employed .3EFT with the Australian Government “Communities for Children” program. The primary role of the community facilitator is to mobilise interest, communication and joint action amongst partnership agencies to better meet local community needs. Learnings, evaluation reports, data collection and recent resources from the **Best Start** initiative will continue to be shared. Joint planning and service delivery with a stronger focus on outcomes for young children described in the Action Plan will continue to be supported by the facilitator's role. Progress with these initiatives will be documented at 6 weekly Partnership meetings.

The 2006/7 Action Plan recognises a reduction in the capacity of the facilitator's role without brokerage funds as incentives for service improvements. Hence the role will focus on the first two priorities, with continuing data collection and monitoring of progress on all priorities.



Results to date

Partnership agencies reported in the **Best Start** Local Evaluation Report 2003-5, a number of changes to the way their individual agencies work, as well as with the strengthening of the early years service system. These include:

- Increased communication
- Increased cooperation
- Increased sharing of resources
- Increased knowledge and understanding of individual services
- Increased respect for other professionals
- Opportunities for collaboration in service delivery
- Refocusing existing services to improve service access
- Increased number of programs offered for children and families.

Primary School teachers report increase in Prep children who have participated in a preschool program and increased "school readiness". This would indicate improvements in the quality of the program as well as increased participation.

(Source: Local Evaluation Report, Broadmeadows Early Years Partnership May 2006)

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a population measurement tool that provides communities around Australia with the opportunity to better understand how they can allocate resources and concentrate their efforts in improving outcomes for children. It measures the health and development of populations of children at a community level. In late 2004, Broadmeadows was selected as an AEDI demonstration site and data was collected by Primary schools in August/September 2005. In 2006, the AEDI was completed across the entire Hume City municipal area and the results were merged and reported on in 2006.

The AEDI results for the combined data indicate some positive trends across the 6 targeted neighbourhoods, including an increase in proportion of children who have been reported to be in early education and care in the year before school entry between 2005 and 2006 and a decrease in children who are reported to be developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains of development. These results provide an early indication of improvement for children; however these trends will be confirmed when the AEDI is completed again after another 2 years of community action. In the meantime these results provide some benchmarks to assist with the joint planning and allocation of program resources for young children and families in each of the targeted neighbourhoods.

(Source: AEDI Community results November 2005 and February 2006)

The focus on disadvantage

Hume City is a vibrant, culturally diverse learning community with 34% of residents speaking a language other than English. Established community groups actively work with residents to foster social cohesion that is known to reduce the impact of disadvantage. Over ninety playgroups run weekly by volunteer parents are an example of this strength in social capital, helping to build a more welcoming and family friendly community. A strong child and family service sector works cooperatively alongside these groups identifying community strengths and neighbourhood connections, with the shared goal of improving outcomes for children.

The Hume Social Justice Charter (2005), unique for local government in

Victoria, indicates the commitment of Hume City Council to promote respect for each and every citizen, to strengthen community participation and wellbeing, and to reduce the causes of disadvantage.

Alongside these strengths, Hume City is ranked the 5th most disadvantaged out of 78 LGA's in Victoria (SEIFA 2001) The 2007 *Jesuit Social Services "Dropping of the Edge- the distribution of disadvantage in Australia Report"* identified Campbellfield as one of the 10 of Victoria's most disadvantaged postcodes and Broadmeadows (including Dallas and Jacana) in the first table of Victoria's 40 highest ranking disadvantage postcode areas. Low income families, Indigenous and newly arrived families from Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey and Vietnam form the majority of families who struggle to participate in early years programs. Cost, waiting lists, language and cultural factors, lack of venues and transport are regularly cited as barriers to access.

Disadvantage indicators are also evident for young children in these neighbourhoods, including lower than Victorian rates for attendance at preschool and higher than Australian average for developmental vulnerabilities present when children begin school. (Source: AEDI Community Profile March 2007 and **Best Start** Access to Preschool Report 2007)

What is known from the research evidence is that in order to engage a diverse community an integrated approach is needed, where agencies plan and share resources together at a local level. Single agency or single sector approaches are not seen as successful as those that integrate approaches across education, health and community sectors with joint indicators/or benchmarks of progress and improvement. Collaborative action is also understood to provide more sustainable results in the long term.

The **Best Start** program, as evident in the Action Plan 2003-6, has funded initiatives to improve service coordination and integration to meet the program objectives of improved service access.

Other initiatives

There are many strategic initiatives responding to the needs of families with young children in Hume City.

The Early Years Partnership has been able to collectively respond to these initiatives and be a catalyst for action as each layer of funding has built on another. Many initiatives have been able to be translated beyond the targeted areas of disadvantage in the southern corridor, to the whole of Hume City and therefore provide benefits for vulnerable families, regardless of where they live.

For example: The Aboriginal Partnership, Playgroup Coordination, Language and Literacy initiatives and the Transition to school strategy are implemented across Hume City.

Alongside **Best Start** and Communities for Children, the Victorian Government Department of Human Services Broadmeadows Neighbourhood Renewal project is operating within the site and the new Hume Integrated Family Services program links more vulnerable families to existing service networks across the municipality, with a single intake process. New directions for the Victorian Maternal and Child Health Service will refocus the emphasis of this service in 2008.

The nationally acclaimed Hume Global Learning Village (GLV) was formed in 2003 to drive social and economic change through the fostering of lifelong learning. The GLV is building community partnerships, with 300 members including Hume City Council, local businesses, schools, community groups and neighbourhood houses. The GLV Learning Together Strategic Plan highlights early learning and literacy initiatives described within the **Best Start** Action Plan.



The Department of Education has foreshadowed the re-development of 9 primary schools within the target area to be amalgamated onto four new sites. The Broadmeadows Schools Regeneration project presents an exciting opportunity to expand the school systems growing awareness of the value of intervening early in children's development and how this can improve outcomes for children both at school and into adult life, at the same time as providing cost efficiency for government.

In 2005, Communities for Children funded the conduct of the Australian Early Development Index across 22 schools and 629 children in Hume City, with 44% of the sample being children with English as a second language. Results for 2005 indicated a high level of vulnerability across a range of domains of development in the six targeted neighbourhoods. In 2006, Hume City Council funded the expanded coverage of the AEDI across the municipality, covering 45 schools and 2,508 children in total. Results from 2005 were combined into the 2006 data. Analysis of the results compares the six targeted neighbourhoods with Hume City and the Australian wide sample.

Table 1: AEDI results 2006: Children performing well in one or more domains

Australia wide	Hume City	6 targeted neighbourhoods	
65.1%	63.5%	Coolaroo	63.2%
		Broadmeadows	57.4%
		Jacana	53.8%
		Campbellfield	53.6%
		Meadow Heights	42.7%
		Dallas	42.2%

Table 2: AEDI results 2006: Level of developmental vulnerability: one or more domains

Australia wide	Hume City	6 targeted neighbourhoods	
22%	27.3%	Dallas	43.4%
		Jacana	42.3%
		Meadow Heights	41.7%
		Campbellfield	39.1%
		Coolaroo	36.8%
		Broadmeadows	36.1%

The table above indicates a higher level of one or more domains of developmental vulnerability than the Hume City sample of 27.3%, and the Australia wide sample of 22% of children. The highest proportion of children being developmentally vulnerable were in Dallas with 43.4% followed by Jacana at 42.3%, Meadow Heights at 41.7%, Campbellfield at 39.1%, Coolaroo at 36.8% and Broadmeadows 36.1%. The results across the 6 neighbourhoods also indicated that 51.9% of the children had English as a second language, and 84.7% had been in an education and care program in the year before school entry. See discussion of emerging results page 3.

(Reference: AEDI Community results November 2005 and February 2006)

New ways of working with families

Community hubs or informal meeting places for parents with young children have been devised as a tool to coordinate local early years activities within walking distance from home for parents. Most agencies in the Early Years Partnership have an interest in locating activities and sharing resources around community hubs, working to develop these relationships as a model of service integration. There is considerable interest in strengthening the role of schools as a hub within communities and as a natural focus point for coordination of the provision of services to children and their families.

Community hubs are often led by Primary Schools, Preschools or a central neighbourhood agency, with a number of activities run at the site. Hubs can offer a range of processes that are

- welcoming
- inclusive
- responsive to local needs and culturally relevant
- collaborative and coordinated across agencies
- work to an agreed set of objectives
- link parents to each other and a full range of early year's programs.

Community hubs can become a magnet for new activities because parents are already visiting the site. Many playgroups have been established by parents requesting a local family friendly meeting place. Five Primary Schools and three other partnership agencies have offered rooms to set up playgroups, with three of these being part of "Humming hubs" strategy funded by the Communities for Children. The **Best Start** Parent Survey 2006 identified that 30% of families in the site have 3 or more children; therefore a meeting place that can accommodate children across the 0-8 age range is more desirable.

Campbellfield hub





The manner in which service providers relate to families is as important as the actual help or expertise they provide. To work effectively with families, services need to develop strong partnerships with them, build on family strengths and competencies, and respect family practices and values. In a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community such as Broadmeadows, the provision of bilingual workers within agencies to facilitate communication with parents and work to understand family and cultural practices is a key element of community engagement. Some hub precincts are able to share bilingual workers across programs to improve outreach to these families.

For parents, the timing of programs that support parents during key developmental transition times for children such as when first attending an early childhood program or playgroup, and when starting school. Hence the focus on playgroups and transition to preschool and school are included in the Action Plan.

Measurement

The implementation of the Action Plan will continue to address the following **Best Start** state-wide indicators

These are

- Increase in number of children participating in preschool/kindergarten
- Increase in the number of young children attending the MCH ages and stages visits
- Increase in the numbers of parents reading to young children
- Reduction in the average number of absent days in Prep, Gr.1 Gr. 2
- Improvement in assessment of Reading for Prep, Gr.1 Gr. 2.

Partners Priorities

The Action Plan reflects the priorities and commitment of the agencies as a result of voting at the October Partnership meeting in 2006. The strategies identified in the previous Action Plan from 2005 fall into four areas of operation. In 2007, the Aboriginal Partnership strategy will become the first priority, as is suggested by the new **Best Start** Guidelines to be a priority for all **Best Start** sites.

Priorities 3-5 are still included in the Action Plan to ensure progress is continually monitored.

- Priority 1. Aboriginal Partnership
- Priority 2. Strategic planning to support systemic change
- Priority 3. Early Engagement of Children and Families
- Priority 4. Reading, Literacy and Numeracy
- Priority 5. Community Connections

References

AEDI Community Profile for Hume/Broadmeadows, Final Report (November 2005, February 2007)

“A catalogue of evidence-based strategies for **Best Start Early Intervention program**”, University of Wollongong (November 2006)

Best Start Broadmeadows Local Evaluation Report (May 2006)

Best Start Statewide Evaluation Report (November 2006)

“Effective Community –based services” Policy Brief No. 6, Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children’s Hospital (2007)

Department of Human Services, Aboriginal **Best Start** Status Report (2004)

Department of Human Services, **Best Start** in Action: Project Guidelines (2005)

“Dropping Off the Edge- the distribution of disadvantage in Australia Report”, Jesuit Social Services (2007)

“Outside the School Gates-a model for tackling disadvantage and promoting participation in preschool education at the Meadowbank Early Learning Centre” Deborah Warr, University of Melbourne (2007)

“Pathways to Prevention Project First Five Years 1999-2004” Griffith University (2007)

“The Inclusion Framework” in *Breaking Cycles, Building Futures: promoting inclusion of vulnerable families in antenatal and universal early childhood services*, Brotherhood of St Laurence (2004)

Other relevant documents

Hume Municipal Early Years Plan (currently in draft form)

The Hume Health Strategic Plan 2007

Communities for Children: Community Strategic Plan 2005-6

Communities for Children: Service Delivery Plan Plan 2005-6

Victorian Government Auditor General’s Report on **Best Start** 2007

Parents Reading to Young Children





Priority 1: Aboriginal Engagement

In 2007, the Aboriginal Partnership has become the first priority for the **Best Start** Action Plan. It should be noted that this site does not receive funding as an Aboriginal **Best Start** Project. Applications for small grants from VicHealth and philanthropic trusts and partnership agency contributions have supported the following initiatives.

Overarching objectives

Refer to mission and objectives on page 1.

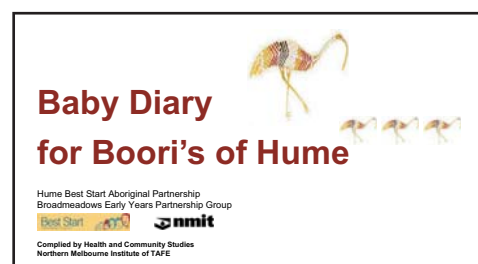
Specific strategy objectives

- To improve cross-agency networking across Hume City.
- To engage and link families living in Hume City and across the northern corridor of Melbourne to each other and to local programs.

Local indicators

- Relationships developed between Aboriginal specific and mainstream services through the Aboriginal Partnership Group
- Improved level of cultural pride and identity by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) families
- Improved service access and coordination to respond to identified ATSI community needs
- Network of support for local ATSI workers

Strategy	Lead Agencies	Best Start Service improvement funding (completed)	Communities for Children (CfC) project
<p>Continuation of a cross-sectoral Partnership Group specifically for the Aboriginal community in Hume</p> <p>-representation of members of the Aboriginal Partnership group on the mainstream Early Years Partnership</p> <p>-support relationships between mainstream and Aboriginal controlled organisations, and members of the local ATSI community</p>	<p>Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association (VACCA)</p> <p>KODE Koorie College</p> <p>“Gunung Willum Bulluk Koorie Unit”</p> <p>Kangan TAFE</p> <p>Hume Indigenous Advisory Committee (HIAC): Hume City Council</p> <p>Dianella Community Health Centre</p> <p>Broadmeadows Uniting <i>Care</i></p> <p>Northern Hospital</p> <p>Dept. of Human Services: Koorie Early Education Officer</p> <p>Hume Integrated Family Services</p> <p>Broadmeadows Police</p> <p>NMIT Children’s Services</p>	<p>Acceptance and Respect Project: promoting access for ATSI families to mainstream agencies</p> <p>Cross-cultural Exchange Training program for service providers and schools</p> <p>Planning of regular ATSI Family Days</p>	<p>CfC funding of an ATSI Community Development project worker auspiced by VACCA</p> <p>Role of project worker:</p> <p>-regular ATSI Family Days every 6 months</p> <p>CfC funding of an ATSI Community Development project worker auspiced by VACCA</p> <p>Role of project worker:</p> <p>-regular ATSI Family Days every 6 months</p> <p>-Celebrating Families Stories health promotion activity</p> <p>-communication with the community</p>
<p>Continue to update and distribute the “Boori’s of Hume” Baby Diary to new Mums on discharge from hospital and in the community</p> <p>-distributed by community leaders, Preschool, Maternal and Child Health, Family Support agencies and at ATSI Family Days.</p>	<p>Aboriginal Partnership Group</p> <p>Wandara Social Group</p> <p>VACCA</p>	<p>Development and printing of the “Boori’s of Hume” Baby Diary</p>	<p>Review and update the Boori’s of Hume Baby Diary</p>





Strategy	Lead Agencies	Best Start Service improvement funding (completed)	Communities for Children (CfC) project
Development of a Social Health group for Koorie Mums and babies at Lahinch St. Maternal and Child Health Centre (MCH)	Dianella CHC Hume City Council MCH		CfC funding of an ATSI Social Health worker auspiced by Dianella CHC Funding for 3 yr. old activity group by Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Technology (DEST) Additional funding for a review of the Baby Diary from the Felton Bequest Philanthropic Trust Funding for community building by VicHealth for the 2006 Celebrating Families Day
Seek further sources of funding to provide programs in Hume for local ATSI children and families	Partnership agencies	Funding of a pilot of the Parent-Child Mother Goose program for ATSI families by Telstra Community Foundation	
Promote access to health services for ATSI children through the School Docs project at KODE Koorie College -GP and nurse support - audiologist for hearing screening	Dianella Community Health KODE Koorie College		
Continue to support the development of the Wandara Group	Broadmeadows Uniting <i>Care</i> Enmaraleek Inc VACCA Broadmeadows Police Centrelink "Gunung Willum Bulluk Koorie Unit Kangan TAFE	Guidance on development of activities and community links through extended family networks	

ASTI Family Posters





Priority 2: Partnership Planning to Support Systemic Change

Overarching objectives

- To improve access to universal services for vulnerable groups, especially culturally and linguistically diverse and indigenous (CALD) communities;
- To support universal services to identify and support vulnerable children and their families;
- To strengthen and improve seamless pathways from universal services to appropriate secondary or tertiary services.

Specific strategy objectives

- To develop an effective and coordinated Early Years service system in Broadmeadows with professional learning's that can be replicated across all neighbourhoods in Hume.

Building an Early Years Service system

Continue the collaboration with Hume City Council and Primary Schools in Early Years service system coordination

Continue to integrate the planning and delivery of early years services based on local data and identified community need

Service Coordination in 2006/7

Participation in partnership meetings
Preparation of Priority Action Plan 2006-7

Hume City Council Preschool enrolment strategies to improve access

Development of the role of primary schools as community hubs to integrate services to support family engagement

Development of Early Years Resource kits to be used as part of Primary School Prep Enrolment

Support the implementation of the AEDI to improve outcomes through joint planning and community partnerships

Implementation of the 2007 and 2008 Schools Prep Entry Survey

Support the development of the Hume City Council's Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP).

Whole of community promotion of the benefits of early learning/ preschool participation

Dissemination of Parent Directory and Pamphlets in 5 community languages and "Learning begins at Birth" video

Protocols and MOU's developed for service coordination/sharing information/ shared use of buildings, community resources and infrastructure

Building the bridges between preschools and schools

-Preschool /school cluster groups to work on practice initiatives that improve the continuity of transition to school

Joint professional development for early years agencies in Strength-based approaches to working with families

Pilot and evaluation of "Together we can make a difference" project with recommendations that aim to strengthen the early years system in Hume to support young children with developmental delay and their families to participate in early years services.

New models of integrated community hub activity at neighbourhood sites and primary schools.

– Meadow Fair North PS, Preschool, MCH

– Meadow Bank PS and Early Learning Centre

– Lahinch St MCH and Parent Support programs Broadmeadows

– Visy Cares Learning Centre, Meadow Heights

– Campbellfield Heights PS, Preschool, MCH and community centre



Building an Early Years Service system

Service Coordination in 2006/7

<p>To participate in the strategic planning for the Hume Council's Global Learning Village and coordinate with the Early Years Partnership projects in 2007.</p>	<p>The community development role of these activities is funded by Communities for Children. (see detail below)</p> <p>"Learning Together" Hume Global Learning Village Strategy 2004</p>
<p>To participate in the Department of Education Broadmeadows Schools Regeneration Project.</p>	<p>Broadmeadows Schools Regeneration Project 2007</p> <p>Primary School Principals</p> <p>Hume City Council</p>
<p>To participate in coordination between Neighbourhood Renewal and Early Years Partnership projects in Broadmeadows</p>	<p>Community Action Plan NR Broadmeadows</p> <p>To disseminate information through the Neighbourhood Renewal Website</p>
<p>To disseminate the Best Start State-wide Evaluation Report, the Local Evaluation Report and the results of the Best Start Parent Survey 2003-6</p>	

Community hub activity

Overarching Objectives (as for objectives on page 1)

- To improve access to universal services for vulnerable groups, especially culturally and linguistically diverse and indigenous (CALD) communities;
- To support universal services to identify and support vulnerable children and their families;
- To strengthen and improve seamless pathways from universal services to appropriate secondary or tertiary services; and
- To provide opportunities for and support the development of neighbourhood cohesion and connectedness in order to achieve more child and family friendly communities.

Sites

Agencies contributing

<p>Continue development of community hub activities at Broadmeadows Lahinch St MCH site</p>	<p>Hume City Council MCH</p> <p>Neighbourhood Renewal program</p> <p>Brotherhood of St Laurence</p> <p>Meadow Bank Early Learning Centre and Primary School</p>
<p>Development of community hub activities at Meadow Fair North PS site</p>	<p>Meadow Fair North PS</p> <p>Hume City Council MCH and Preschool</p> <p>Brotherhood of St Laurence</p>
<p>Development of community hub activities in Campbellfield neighbourhood</p>	<p>Hume City Council Early Childhood services</p> <p>Campbellfield Heights PS</p> <p>VICSEG</p> <p>VASS</p> <p>Anglicare: Broadmeadows Family Services</p> <p>Brotherhood of St Laurence</p>
<p>Continue development of community hub activities at Meadow Bank PS Early Learning Centre</p>	<p>Meadow Bank PS</p> <p>Campmeadows PS</p> <p>Broadmeadows Uniting Care</p> <p>Anglicare: Broadmeadows Family Services</p> <p>Melbourne City Mission</p> <p>Dianella CHC</p> <p>Brotherhood of St Laurence</p>
<p>Continue of development of community hub in Meadow Heights at the Visy Cares Learning Centre</p>	<p>Hume City Council Literacy Engagement Officer</p> <p>Hume City Council MCH</p> <p>Visy Cares Learning Centre</p> <p>Playgroup Network Coordinator</p>



Priority 3: Early Engagement

Overarching objectives

Refer to mission and objectives on page 1.

Specific strategy objectives

To engage children and families in early childhood, child health, literacy and community programs before school entry (2-5 agegroup).

DHS State-wide Indicator

- Increase in number of children 3-5 years participating in preschool/kindergarten services
- Increase in the number of young children attending the MCH ages and stages visits
- Increase in the numbers of parents reading to young children

Local Indicator

- Increase the regular attendance of children at kindergarten/preschool (5 Targeted neighbourhoods)
- Increased number of playgroups/activity groups for young children
- Increase rates of MCH 3 1/2 yr. old screening
- Increased parental capacity to implement speech and language strategies for their children through playgroups

Strategy	Lead Agencies	Best Start Service improvement funding (completed)	Communities for Children (CfC) project
Improve access to kindergarten /preschool and attend to barriers	Hume City Council: Early Childhood Services Broadmeadows Uniting Care Broadmeadows Primary Schools	Research and data collection on Access to Preschool/kindergarten “Learning Begins at Birth” video disseminated to the CALD community (Turkish and Arabic speaking) Giving Your Child the Best Start in Life-parent brochure in 4 community languages Your Child and You –parent directory dissemination	CfC funding of a 3 yr. old activity group with Hume City Council Development of Outreach Preschool/kindergarten model by Broadmeadows Uniting Care
Support the development, maintenance and coordination of playgroups across Hume City	Neighbourhood House Network VICSEG Primary Schools Hume City Council	Playgroup Network Coordinator project worker Your Child and You –parent directory dissemination Promotion of Playgroups in Hume poster dissemination	Playgroup Network Coordinator re-funded and auspiced by the Neighbourhood House Network VICSEG funded to run eight facilitated playgroups for newly arrived CALD families Playgroup leaders training and newsletter
Support the development of new playgroups	As above	As above	As above
Support the development of the DHS Facilitated Playgroup strategy	Hume City Council: Early Childhood Services Hume Neighbourhood House network		



Strategy	Lead Agencies	Best Start Service improvement funding (completed)	Communities for Children (CfC) project
Coordinate the MCH 3 1/2 yr. old screening in child care centres	Hume Council MCH Derek Robson Child Care Centre	Ongoing, dependent on staffing	
Promote the MCH 3 1/2 yr. old screening to all early years programs and playgroups	Hume City Council		
Coordination of the Smiles for Miles Dental program	Hume City Council Dianella CHC DHS Dental program	Ongoing, continuing within DHS Victoria funding	
Development of the Parent-child Mother Goose Language Program for parents	DHS Specialist Children's Services Hume City Council Learning Communities Anglicare: Broadmeadows Family Services Melbourne City Mission Dianella CHC	Six programs Funded by the Telstra Community Foundation	
Training of 40 workers in the Parent-Child Mother Goose program	Hume City Council Anglicare: Broadmeadows Family Services Melbourne City Mission Dianella CHC	Funded by the Telstra Community Foundation	

Priority 4: Reading, Literacy and Numeracy

Specific strategy objectives

- To coordinate early literacy activities across MCH, library, child care, playgroup, kindergarten, neighbourhood house and primary school settings
- To coordinate a process for transition between early childhood and primary school programs
- To develop kindergarten /primary school cluster groups to implement local literacy, transition and parent involvement initiatives.

DHS Statewide indicators

- Increase the number of children 3-5 years participating in kindergarten/preschool programs
- Improved rates of School attendance
- Improved reading levels in Prep, Gr 1 at Primary Schools
- Improved rates of parents reading to babies and toddlers/young children.

Local Indicators

- Improved levels of attendance at kindergarten /preschool
- Service coordination and communication established between kindergarten /child care and primary schools (Council, non-Council early childhood services and Primary Schools)



Strategy	Lead Agencies	Best Start Service improvement funding (completed)	Communities for Children (CfC) project
Development of a range of strategies to improve regular School Attendance and Preschool attendance	Dianella CHC-School Focused Youth program Dallas and Dallas Nth PS Dallas Kindergarten Hume City Council	School Attendance Project Continuing using existing resources Transition to School Consultant Development of School/Early Childhood cluster groups linking to Early Years schools networks	
Continue implementing a process for transition to school to improve continuity of learning from preschool/child care to school across Hume City -Children's Portfolio -Joint PD and quarterly Early Childhood/School Symposium	Primary Schools networks across Hume City Hume City Council Derek Robson Children's centre Meadow Bank Early Learning Centre		
Continue to increase exposure of parents and children in the CALD community to books and early literacy activities in the home and in neighbourhood settings	Hume City Council	Funding of a resource kit for Bilingual storytellers	CfC funding of the Bilingual Storytellers program
Continue to support the development of early literacy strategies in playgroups	Hume City Council Playgroup Network Coordinator VICSEG	Dissemination of Playgroup Early Literacy Kits to be rotated through Hume Playgroups	CfC funding of the Playgroup Coordinator
Support the implementation of the First Book for Baby for parents at the 4 month MCH visit, including translation of parent information in community languages	Hume City Council Library and Maternal and Child Health		
Continue the implementation of the Bilingual Literacy Kits for Playgroups in Schools -25 kits developed in 3 community languages		Sponsorship obtained by Crazy Johns for 12 months	
Continue the integration of Adult English classes with a Facilitated Playgroup to improve access to early learning for newly arrived families	NMIT Hume City Council Global Learning Centre VICSEG		
SHARED WITH EARLY ENGAGEMENT Promote language and literacy activities for parents and children in preschool and primary schools	DHS Specialist Children's Services Dianella CHC Speech Pathologists network in Broadmeadows Broadmeadows Primary Schools Network		Provision of a CfC Speech and Language Community Development worker



Priority 5: Community Connections

Specific strategy objectives

- To initiate activities to increase the level of engagement and participation for hard to reach and/or vulnerable families
- To improve access to mainstream early years services (early childhood, health, family support) for hard to reach/vulnerable families

DHS–Best Start Indicator

- Increase the number of children 3-5 years participating in kindergarten/preschool programs (5 Targeted neighbourhoods)
- Improved rates of MCH attendance
- Improved rates of parents reading to babies and toddlers/young children.

Local Indicator

- Increase the regular attendance of children at kindergarten/preschool
- Increased number of playgroups/activity groups for young children.

Strategy	Lead Agencies	Best Start Service improvement funding (completed)	Communities for Children (CfC) project
Continue the engagement of newly arrived CALD communities - Facilitated Playgroups for the Somali, Samoan, Chinese, Iraqi, Assyrian and Turkish community	WISEG and North-West MRC	Five playgroups seed funding for resources	CfC funding for eight facilitated playgroups
Promotion of the “Learning begins from Birth” video to the Turkish and Arabic speaking community	WISEG and North-West MRC and all partnership agencies	Production costs funded Ongoing dissemination	CfC funding of 100 copies Ongoing dissemination
Continue the engagement of the ATSI community - Aboriginal Partnership Group	See Aboriginal Partnership	Ongoing	CfC funding
Continue engaging vulnerable families: Parent Support program	Orana Family Services		CfC funding

Upfield Play Group Involved in Learning Begins at Birth Video





BROADMEADOWS EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP 2007

Management group

Mark Sullivan	CEO, Dianella Community Health Services
Nicole Mahony	Director, City Communities, Hume City Council
Lee- Anne Biggs	Area Manager, Anglicare Broadmeadows Family Services
Phil Conrick	Chair of the Partnership: Executive Director, Broadmeadows UnitingCare
Chris McDonnell	CEO, Orana Family Services
Veronica Hunt	North West Region, Child and Family Services, Department of Human Services

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Peter Enright
Ann Morton
Peter Hodson
Megan Lewis
Valarie Karaitiana
Carol Taylor
Rob Greenacre

EDUCATION

Department of Education and Training, Senior Education Officer, Northern Regional office
Principal, Meadow Fair Nth PS, and Representative: Broadmeadows Schools Network
Principal, Upfield Primary School
Principal, Coolaroo South Primary School
Principal, Dallas Primary School
Principal, Jacana Primary School
Principal, Meadow Bank Primary School

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Suzy Pinchen
Debra O'Connor
Le-Ann Williams
Carolyn Barker

HEALTH

Manager, Dianella Community Health Services
Manager, Dianella Community Health Services
Tweddle Child and Family Health Service
Royal Women's Hospital

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Rosalind Vincent
Rob Salter

HOUSING

Manager, Neighbourhood Renewal, Office of Housing
Salvation Army, Crossroads

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Vanessa Little
Anne Mc Nair
Lisa Letic
Rose Barletta/
Rae Marsh-Delia

HUME CITY COUNCIL

General Manager, Learning Community, Hume City Council
Coordinator, Maternal Child Health, Hume City Council
Manager, Family and Children's Services, Hume City Council
Coordinator, Early Childhood Services, Hume City Council

BROADMEADOWS EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP 2007

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Lee-Anne Biggs
Julie Roach
Leonie Symes
Catharine Hydon
Judith Smale

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Area Manager, Anglicare Broadmeadows Family Services
Manager, Orana Family Services
Executive Officer, Broad Insight
Manager, Early Years Brotherhood of St. Laurence
Manager, Child, Family and Community Services, Melbourne City Mission

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Gina Dougall
Grozdana Lukic
John Zika
Rebecca O'Dowd
Joe Narbaleek
Lina Mekaoui

OTHER COMMUNITY AGENCIES

Hume Neighbourhood House Network
Migrant Resource Centre-North West
Victorian Cooperative on Children's Services for Ethnic Groups (VICSEG)
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency
Enmaraleek Inc.
Victorian Arabic Social Services

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Daryl Naylor
Gul Erbasi

PARENTS

Local Parent Representatives on the Partnership
Local Parent Representatives on the Partnership

PROJECT WORKERS

Judith Gray
Cemile Yuksel
Colleen Tuner
Fiona Alexander

Community Facilitator Best Start /Communities for Children
Community Facilitator /Research Officer: Communities for Children
Project Manager: Communities for Children
Contracts Manager: Communities for Children

OTHER LINKAGES

Broadmeadows Police
Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital
Centrelink
Derek Robson Children's Centre
Kangan Batman TAFE
Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology NMIT
KODE Koorie College
Kookaburra Club: Darebin Community Health Centre

Agencies supporting the launch of the Boori's in Hume Baby Diary

