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” (CIC) 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 year’s 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 competed 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australia wide</th>
<th>Hume City</th>
<th>6 targeted neighbourhoods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65.1%</td>
<td>63.5%</td>
<td>Coolaroo 63.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Broadmeadows 57.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jacana 53.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Campbellfield 53.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meadow Heights 42.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dallas 42.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 years 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australia wide</th>
<th>Hume City</th>
<th>6 targeted neighbourhoods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>Dallas 43.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jacana 42.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meadow Heights 41.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Campbellfield 39.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Coolaroo 36.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Broadmeadows 36.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)
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

“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, Best Start in Action: Project Guidelines (2005)
“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)

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
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

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

**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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Lead Agencies</th>
<th>Best Start Service improvement funding (completed)</th>
<th>Communities for Children (CfC) project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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                                                                 |                                                                                                               | CIC 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 UnitingCare  
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                      |                                                                                                               |
### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Coordination in 2006/7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in partnership meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of Priority Action Plan 2006-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hume City Council Preschool enrolment strategies to improve access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of the role of primary schools as community hubs to integrate services to support family engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of Early Years Resource kits to be used as part of Primary School Prep Enrolment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the implementation of the AEDI to improve outcomes through joint planning and community partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of the 2007 and 2008 Schools Prep Entry Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the development of the Hume City Council’s Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to integrate the planning and delivery of early years services based on local data and identified community need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole of community promotion of the benefits of early learning/ preschool participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination of Parent Directory and Pamphlets in 5 community languages and “Learning begins at Birth” video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocols and MOU’s developed for service coordination/sharing information/ shared use of buildings, community resources and infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building the bridges between preschools and schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Preschool/school cluster groups to work on practice initiatives that improve the continuity of transition to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint professional development for early years agencies in Strength-based approaches to working with families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New models of integrated community hub activity at neighbourhood sites and primary schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Meadow Fair North PS, Preschool, MCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Meadow Bank PS and Early Learning Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lahinch St MCH and Parent Support programs Broadmeadows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Visy Cares Learning Centre, Meadow Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Campbellfield Heights PS, Preschool, MCH and community centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building an Early Years Service system

To participate in the strategic planning for the Hume Council’s Global Learning Village and coordinate with the Early Years Partnership projects in 2007.

To participate in the Department of Education Broadmeadows Schools Regeneration Project.

To participate in coordination between Neighbourhood Renewal and Early Years Partnership projects in Broadmeadows

To disseminate the Best Start State-wide Evaluation Report, the Local Evaluation Report and the results of the Best Start Parent Survey 2003-6

Service Coordination in 2006/7

The community development role of these activities is funded by Communities for Children. (see detail below)


Broadmeadows Schools Regeneration Project 2007

Primary School Principals

Hume City Council

Community Action Plan NR Broadmeadows

To disseminate information through the Neighbourhood Renewal Website

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

| Continue development of community hub activities at Broadmeadows Lahinch St MCH site | Hume City Council MCH
| Neighbourhood Renewal program
| Brotherhood of St Laurence
| Meadow Bank Early Learning Centre and Primary School |

| Development of community hub activities at Meadow Fair North PS site | Meadow Fair North PS
| Hume City Council MCH and Preschool
| Brotherhood of St Laurence |

| Development of community hub activities in Campbellfield neighbourhood | Hume City Council Early Childhood services
| Campbellfield Heights PS
| VICSEG
| Anglicare: Broadmeadows Family Services
| Brotherhood of St Laurence |

| Continue development of community hub activities at Meadow Bank PS Early Learning Centre | Meadow Bank PS
| Campmeadows PS
| Broadmeadows Uniting Care
| Anglicare: Broadmeadows Family Services
| Melbourne City Mission
| Dianella CHC
| Brotherhood of St Laurence |

| Continue of development of community hub in Meadow Heights at the Visy Cares Learning Centre | Hume City Council Literacy Engagement Officer
| Hume City Council MCH
| Visy Cares Learning Centre
| Playgroup Network Coordinator |
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Lead Agencies</th>
<th>Best Start Service improvement funding (completed)</th>
<th>Communities for Children (CIC) project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve access to kindergarten/preschool and attend to barriers</td>
<td>Hume City Council: Early Childhood Services, Broadmeadows Primary Schools, and Broadmeadows Unitings Care</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>CIC funding of a 3 yr. old activity group with Hume City Council, Development of Outreach Preschool/kindergarten model by Broadmeadows Unitings Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the development, maintenance and coordination of playgroups across Hume City</td>
<td>Neighbourhood House Network VICSEG, Primary Schools, and Hume City Council</td>
<td>Playgroup Network Coordinator project worker, Your Child and You –parent directory dissemination, Promotion of Playgroups in Hume poster dissemination</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the development of new playgroups</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the development of the DHS Facilitated Playgroup strategy</td>
<td>Hume City Council: Early Childhood Services and Hume Neighbourhood House network</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Strategy

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

### 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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Lead Agencies</th>
<th>Best Start Service improvement funding (completed)</th>
<th>Communities for Children (CfC) project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development of a range of strategies to improve regular School Attendance and Preschool attendance</td>
<td>Dianella CHC-School Focused Youth program Dallas and Dallas Nth PS Dallas Kindergarten Hume City Council</td>
<td>School Attendance Project Continuing using existing resources Transition to School Consultant Development of School/Early Childhood cluster groups linking to Early Years schools networks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Primary Schools networks across Hume City Hume City Council Derek Robson Children’s centre Meadow Bank Early Learning Centre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Hume City Council</td>
<td>Funding of a resource kit for Bilingual storytellers</td>
<td>CfC funding of the Bilingual Storytellers program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to support the development of early literacy strategies in playgroups</td>
<td>Hume City Council Playgroup Network Coordinator VICSEG</td>
<td>Dissemination of Playgroup Early Literacy Kits to be rotated through Hume Playgroups</td>
<td>CfC funding of the Playgroup Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Hume City Council Library and Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue the implementation of the Bilingual Literacy Kits for Playgroups in Schools - 25 kits developed in 3 community languages</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsorship obtained by Crazy Johns for 12 months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue the integration of Adult English classes with a Facilitated Playgroup to improve access to early learning for newly arrived families</td>
<td>NMIT Hume City Council Global Learning Centre VICSEG</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHARED WITH EARLY ENGAGEMENT Promote language and literacy activities for parents and children in preschool and primary schools</td>
<td>DHS Specialist Children's Services Dianella CHC Speech Pathologists network in Broadmeadows Broadmeadows Primary Schools Network</td>
<td>Provision of a CfC Speech and Language Community Development worker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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

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

#### EDUCATION

- **Peter Enright**  
  Department of Education and Training, Senior Education Officer, Northern Regional office
- **Ann Morton**  
  Principal, Meadow Fair Nth PS, and Representative: Broadmeadows Schools Network
- **Peter Hodson**  
  Principal, Upfield Primary School
- **Megan Lewis**  
  Principal, Coolaroo South Primary School
- **Valarie Karaitiana**  
  Principal, Dallas Primary School
- **Carol Taylor**  
  Principal, Jacana Primary School
- **Rob Greenacre**  
  Principal, Meadow Bank Primary School

#### HEALTH

- **Suzy Pinchen**  
  Manager, Dianella Community Health Services
- **Debra O’Connor**  
  Manager, Dianella Community Health Services
- **Le-Ann Williams**  
  Tweddle Child and Family Health Service
- **Carolyn Barker**  
  Royal Women's Hospital

#### HOUSING

- **Rosalind Vincent**  
  Manager, Neighbourhood Renewal, Office of Housing
- **Rob Salter**  
  Salvation Army, Crossroads

#### HUME CITY COUNCIL

- **Vanessa Little**  
  General Manager, Learning Community, Hume City Council
- **Anne Mc Nair**  
  Coordinator, Maternal Child Health, Hume City Council
- **Lisa Letic**  
  Manager, Family and Children's Services, Hume City Council
- **Rose Barletta/ Rae Marsh-Delia**  
  Coordinator, Early Childhood Services, Hume City Council
## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lee-Anne Biggs</th>
<th>Area Manager, Anglicare Broadmeadows Family Services</th>
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<td>Julie Roach</td>
<td>Manager, Orana Family Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leonie Symes</td>
<td>Executive Officer, Broad Insight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catharine Hydon</td>
<td>Manager, Early Years Brotherhood of St. Laurence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith Smale</td>
<td>Manager, Child, Family and Community Services, Melbourne City Mission</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## OTHER COMMUNITY AGENCIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gina Dougall</th>
<th>Hume Neighbourhood House Network</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grozdana Lukic</td>
<td>Migrant Resource Centre-North West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Zika</td>
<td>Victorian Cooperative on Children’s Services for Ethnic Groups (VICSEG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca O’Dowd</td>
<td>Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Narbaleek</td>
<td>Enmaraleek Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lina Mekaoui</td>
<td>Victorian Arabic Social Services</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daryl Nayler</th>
<th>Local Parent Representatives on the Partnership</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Gul Erbasi</td>
<td>Local Parent Representatives on the Partnership</td>
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## PROJECT WORKERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judith Gray</th>
<th>Community Facilitator /Best Start /Communities for Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cemile Yuksel</td>
<td>Community Facilitator /Research Officer: Communities for Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleen Tuner</td>
<td>Project Manager: Communities for Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona Alexander</td>
<td>Contracts Manager: Communities for Children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 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*