Early Years Awards
2008

Every child, every opportunity
Acknowledgements

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Message from the Ministers

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Early Years Awards 2008.

The awards were established to recognise and reward the leadership, dedication and innovation of community partnerships toward improving the health, learning, development and wellbeing of all young children.

Tonight’s finalists have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to early childhood and a commitment to give Victoria’s children the best possible start in life.

We congratulate you all on your inspirational efforts.

There are three formal award categories in this year’s Early Years Awards. These encompass support, health and education services, improvements to services for parents and families through to initiatives undertaken across whole communities to develop child and family friendly environments.

In addition to the traditional awards, this year we are pleased to announce a Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Award. This award recognises innovative partnership approaches to engaging local communities and increasing interest in the early years.

We know that a child’s learning and development starts from day one and that a child’s early experiences have a profound impact on their future prospects.

With Victoria experiencing the biggest baby boom in a generation the services you provide are more vital than ever.

We would like to thank you for your hard work and commitment in nurturing our young children and hope you enjoy the Early Years Awards 2008.
Award Categories

The Early Years Awards recognise the initiatives of Early Years organisations and the contribution they have made towards building a community for children and parents that provides optimal health, education and support services to ensure the wellbeing of children and their families.

The Awards, sponsored by Best Start, present an excellent opportunity to thank the organisations nominated and to publicly promote the positive impact of the innovative projects and initiatives undertaken throughout the year.

The three categories for 2008 are:

1. Better access to child and family support, health services, schools and early education
2. Improvements in parents’ capacity, confidence and enjoyment of family life
3. Communities that are becoming more family and child friendly
1 Finalists 

Better access to child and family support, health services, schools and early education

**Beginning the One Stop Shop**
Southvale Primary School

**Partners:**
Dandenong Best Start
Good Beginnings

**Darebin Deadlies – Little Fellas**
Big Voices
Yappera Children’s Services

**Partners:**
Darebin Best Start
Darebin Best Start Indigenous Reference Group
Darebin Community Health
Pender’s Grove Primary School
Preston South Primary School
Thornbury Primary School

**Early Learning Centre @ Rosewall**
City of Greater Geelong

**Partners:**
Bethany Community Support Services
Centacare Catholic Family Services
Glastonbury Child and Family Services
Rosewall Best Start Partnership Group
Rosewall Neighbourhood House
Rosewall Primary School
Shell Geelong

**‘From Little Things Big Things Grow’**
Try Youth and Community Services

**Partners:**
Ardoch Youth Foundation
Inner South Community Health
Connections - Uniting Care

**Schools as Community Hubs in Broadmeadows**
Humming Hubs Schools in Broadmeadows

**Partners:**
Broadmeadows Uniting Care
Brotherhood of St Laurence
Campbellfield Heights Primary School
Coolaroo South Primary School and Kindergarten
Dallas Primary School and Kindergarten
Meadow Bank Primary School and Early Learning Centre
Meadow Fair North Primary School
Upfield Primary School and Kindergarten

**Wallaroo Child and Family Centre Re-development**
Mornington Peninsula Shire

**Partners:**
Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services
Hastings Westpark Primary School
## Finalists

**Improvements in parents’ capacity, confidence and enjoyment of family life**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Babies in Hume</th>
<th>Building Bridges through Supported Playgroups</th>
<th>Dad’s Den – A program for expectant dads</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hume City Council</td>
<td>Knox City Council</td>
<td>Mercy Health O’Connell Family Centre</td>
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<td><strong>Partners:</strong></td>
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<td>Anglicare</td>
<td>Glaxo Smith Kline</td>
<td>Mercy Hospital for Women</td>
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<td>Banksia Gardens Community Centre</td>
<td>Playgroup Victoria</td>
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<td>Royal Women’s Hospital</td>
<td>Save the Children Fund</td>
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<td>Uniting Care Community Options</td>
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Explore, Play and Build: Yarra Ranges Supported Parenting and Playgroup Initiative – Building Capacity through Play
Shire of Yarra Ranges

Hobsons Bay Playgroup Leader Workshops
Hobsons Bay City Council

Koorie Playgroup Kit
Playgroup Victoria
Partner: Victorian Aboriginal Educational Association Incorporated

School as a Hub Project
Bairnsdale West Primary School
Partners: Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative
Kilmany Family Care
Red Cross
Smith Family

Welcome Baby to Country Ceremony
Barenji Gadjin Land Council
Partners: Delkaia Best Start
Horsham Rural City Council

Partners:
Connections - Uniting Care
Eastern Access Community Health
Eastern Health Adult Mental Health Program
Yarra Valley Community Health Services

Playgroup Victoria
Vicseg
3 Finalists

**Celebrating families and children**

Mt Alexander Community
Children’s Network

**Partners:**
- Castlemaine District Community Health Centre
- Mt Alexander Shire Council

**Gorf: Placemaking for young children and families**

Wodonga Council

**Partners:**
- Baranduda Primary School
- Melrose Primary School
- Norske Skog Paper Mill
- St Augustine Primary School
- Wodonga High School Traders
- Wodonga High Street Hosts
- Wodonga Primary School
- Wodonga South Primary School
- Wodonga West Primary School

**In the Land of Moorabool We Love to Read**

Moorabool Mothers Inc

**Partners:**
- Ballan District Health and Care - School Focused Youth Services
- Ballarat Community Health
- Moorabool Best Start
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Moorabool Shire Schools (Ballan District, Bacchus Marsh and Western Moorabool)

**Macedon Ranges Shire Strengthening Families Project – Supporting Family Friendly Communities**

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

**Partners:**
- Cobaw Community Health
- Central Victorian Health Alliance
- Kyneton and District Health Service
- St Luke’s Anglicare
Minister’s Award

This year we are pleased to announce a special Award - the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development’s Award. The Award recognises innovative partnership approaches to engaging local communities and increasing interest in the Early Years.
Thank you
to the judges of the
2008 Early Years Awards

Members of the Victorian Children’s Council

Prof Gay Edgecombe
Dr Don Edgar
Ms Sue Harper OAM

Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development representative
Ms Jeanette Nagorcka

A special thank you to The Hon Sherryl Garbutt,
Chairperson, Victorian Children’s Council
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The Early Years Awards are supported by:

Best Start
www.beststartvic.gov.au

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