

Connecting
Community for



REDUCING ISOLATION THROUGH SYSTEM CHANGE

A Case Study

Engaging
with
Community

Social and cultural isolation was revealed as an area of concern impacting childhood development.

Understanding
the
Dilemma

A lack of activities available during school holidays was causing families to feel segregated and alone.

Community
co-designed
Approaches

Acknowledging what we learned, we conducted a co-design with our Cockburn Decision Making Group and identified that school holiday play sessions could assist in combating social isolation.

**WE APPLIED OUR LOGIC,
MOVED FROM HUNCH TO SUSTAINABILITY,
AND IDENTIFIED A CIRCUIT BREAKER FOR CHANGE.....**





HUNCH

Early research in both Cockburn and Kwinana revealed family isolation as an area of concern. We created a survey to seek further information that was conducted online via Survey Monkey and face-to-face at Children’s Week events, pop up cafes and coffee catch ups. One third of respondents rated high for children not attending playgroups or other social engagements prior to attending school. During the September Community Conversations we delved deeper into social isolation and held a brainstorming session and further discussions with parents indicated a lack of activity during the school holidays. Many programs in both Cockburn and Kwinana run on a term basis, leaving families isolated and in need of engagement during the school holidays.

Apply Program Logic

TEST

Co-Design & Implement Circuit Breaker

TEST

Connecting Community for Kids identified an existing service provider in the Cockburn area who was willing to trial a school holiday play session. Yangebup Family Centre co-designed and hosted sessions for 0-5 year olds during the October 2016 break, supported by Connecting Community for Kids and our foundation community members. Our Community Facilitator took the opportunity to meet with parents and carers to gain feedback on future activities that would assist in reducing social isolation. Two sessions were held at no cost to participants. 41 adults and 61 children attended the two play sessions.

REFINE

Adjust & Tweak to meet Community Needs

REFINE

As a result of the feedback attained through the October play sessions, and through further conversations with community members, we found that families with a mix of ages (under and above school age) were still unable to attend events that only catered for the younger age group, or other school holiday activities that accommodated older children. It was decided to trial expanding the age group of participants to 0-10 years and continue with the play sessions for the January 2017 school holidays. A cost of \$7 per family/per session was introduced to cover costs of the Facilitator. During week one, 11 families attended (18 children in total; 13 aged 0-5: 5 aged 6-10) and week two had 12 families attend (21 children in total, 15 aged 0-5: 6 aged 6-10). The purpose of this refined program was to reduce social isolation and provide a low cost activity for families with children aged 0-10. It was also an opportunity to promote child development through play sessions as a means to improve social and emotional development, helping others, following instructions/routines/ rules, helping clear mess, and self-control in various emotional states. Families were also presented the opportunity to develop peer to peer support networks, which is particularly helpful for families who are new to the area or country.

VALIDATE

Collect Data & Evaluate

VALIDATE

With 4 play sessions delivered and well attended, it is evident that ongoing school holiday play sessions are needed. Extending the age enabled new families to attend and supported parents in networking and transition to school arrangements. Parents stated that they would prefer to pay a small fee than have the responsibility of taking on tasks and running a community led playgroup. Expanding the age of kids able to attend allowed new families access to the play sessions.

CONFIRM

System Change ensuring Sustainability

CONFIRM

Yangebup Family Centre has sustained the school holiday play sessions, conducting 2 sessions during the April 2017 school holidays. 14 families attended session 1 and 11 families attended session 2. This program now forms part of the regular activities provided by the Yangebup Family Centre and has become an additional, successful engagement opportunity for both the Centre and the local community.





Improving the health & wellbeing of children in Cockburn & Kwinana



By working collaboratively with community members and service providers to build capacity



So that the children of Cockburn & Kwinana thrive and achieve the same level of development as children in the Perth region

WHO WE ARE

Connecting Community for Kids is a collective impact initiative developed to empower parents, children and professionals in the communities of Cockburn and Kwinana to improve childhood outcomes. Working collaboratively with Government agencies, service providers and community groups; we aim to make a lasting difference in the lives of children pre-birth to eight and their families.

OUR AIM

The ultimate goal of Connecting Community for Kids is for young children in Kwinana and Cockburn to have the same level of physical, social, emotional, communication and language development as the Perth Metropolitan Area by 2024, based on the outcomes of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).

OUR STRUCTURE

Connecting Community for Kids is supported by the generosity of the Woodside Development Fund and is auspiced by Child Australia.

First envisioned in 2010 by The Partnership Forum (founded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet); Connecting Community for Kids structure builds stronger relations between State Government agencies and the not-for-profit sectors.

Our Initiative is supported and overseen by a group of early childhood leaders from Government agencies and not-for-profit service providers that volunteer their expertise.

Our Collective Team is the backbone of the Initiative and is responsible for the delivery of the community's goals and outcomes. Information gathered from our Decision Making Groups and

broader community engagement guides our vision and strategy with the aim of involving local residents in the big decisions.

WE NEED YOU

Connecting Community for Kids brings together a core group of people who are passionate about the needs of children in their early years and works directly with the community in implementing circuit breakers for change.

Community engagement and input continues to be vital to the success of the Initiative, and we would like to see many Cockburn and Kwinana residents become the voice of this project.

If you are passionate about the early years and would like to be a part of improving outcomes for children in Kwinana and Cockburn, please contact us.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP OUR CHILDREN THRIVE!

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