

Welcome to our Community Chatter Newsletter!

Thank you for registering your interest in Connecting Community for Kids and we hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Our Decide the Right Path Workshop held on 30th August was fast-paced, fun and engaging. Our community discussed eight approaches; with five becoming our focus areas moving forward. We are currently recruiting for more people to join our Action Teams, so get reading and contact us if you would like to join our Community Champions initiating social change!

Decide the Right Path

On **Wednesday 30th August**, Connecting Community for Kids brought all our community members, service providers and Local and State Government representatives back together to examine our findings and establish our circuit breakers for change. All ideas and input provided during our series of Workshops brainstorming our four identified themes triggering childhood vulnerability (health; isolation; safety and financial strain) were collated. Common themes were identified, and universal and targeted approaches were researched and presented to participants. We provided eight circuit breakers to attendees; with each approach thoroughly discussed at individual tables. Conversations were passionate and enthusiastic, with people asked to flag any issues that could arise; identify additional stakeholders for involvement and then vote on each approach. The five circuit breakers that were voted feasible and most important were:

Providing Peer to Peer Support (similar to Parent Cafe in a Box)

Building Neighbourhood Connections (similar to Street by Street)

Postnatal Peer Support (similar to Community Mothers)

Target 100% (2 year old health checks)

Celebrate Culture (promoting the embedding of all cultures in to community)

Attendees were asked to join our Action Teams as we move forward and implement social change. These people are now our Community Champions. If you would like to join them and contribute positively to your local community, please contact us for further information on the approaches and to discuss where your interest lies.



Brunch with the Minister

On **Thursday 5th October 2017**, we hosted a brunch with Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services, Simone McGurk MLA and our funding partner Woodside to hear from some of our passionate community volunteers.

Discussions were heartfelt and focussed on the importance of building connections and breaking down social barriers. Minister Simone McGurk was able to hear directly from local residents working within their community to build capacity and develop a culture of support for parents and carers of young children.

Our community members were asked to share their experiences in raising a young child in Cockburn or Kwinana and voice any challenges that they encountered. The brunch was also an opportunity for volunteers to voice how being involved in Connecting Community for Kids had impacted them personally. We are so inspired and heartened to have such a fantastic group of community members volunteering with the initiative.



Children's Week 2017

We can't believe it's Children's Week again already! Convened each year by Meerilinga in WA; Children's Week in 2017 focusses on Celebrate, Play, Discover. Connecting Community for Kids will be participating in two events for the week beginning 21st October:

**Kwinana Early Years Working Group
Urban Pop-up Playground
Baker Square, Darius Drive, Kwinana Town Centre
Tuesday 24th October
10am to 1pm**

Come along to this event for under 5 year olds and their families to ignite fun, imagination and discovery through outdoor play. Reduce, reuse and recycle will be the theme of the day, with children learning how to be sun smart and community safe. Connecting Community for Kids will be getting the kids to paint rocks for hiding around Kwinana and have some fun with box construction!

**City of Cockburn
Teddy Bears Picnic
Manning Park, Hamilton Hill
Wednesday 25th October
10am to 1pm**

Join in the fun with 'Shaun the Sheep', cuddly farm animals, storytelling and arts and crafts. Lots of parenting information will be on hand for parents, with a special 'Hello Baby' corner for parents of new bubs. Connecting Community for Kids will be getting the children to paint their feet and run along our paper pathway to walk the trail of better outcomes for kids.

We hope to see you there, so make sure you come and say hello!



Community Planning Days

Following on from our 'Decide the Right Path' Workshop, we are hosting Community Planning Days to grow our Action Teams! It's time to bring everyone together and start the work. We are working closely with the Cities of Cockburn and Kwinana to ensure our five agreed approaches are aligned with each City's Community Strategic Plan.

**Kwinana Community Planning Day
Tuesday 14th November
9am to 12noon
Ken Jackman Hall, Darius Wells Centre
Chisham Ave & Robbos Pl, Kwinana Town Centre**

**Cockburn Community Planning Day
Tuesday 28th November
9am to 12noon
Cockburn Integrated Health
11 Wentworth Parade, Success**

The Cities Mayor's will be in attendance at each meeting to outline how each City is supporting our identified community goals. Members of our Community Actions Teams will be there, with new members of the public welcome to gain further information on our Initiative.

Call 0429 904 324 to RSVP. Lunch will be provided and crèche facilities are available.

School Holiday Play Sessions to empower families

Kwinana Community Facilitator; Nicole Hunt, has been working closely with community centres, service providers and child educators over the last few months to ensure parents, carers and children have plenty on offer over the school holidays.

In collaboration with Frank Konecny Community Centre, Kwinana Early Years Network and Paint Kwinana REaD; Connecting Community for Kids hosted two school holiday play sessions, aimed at providing entertainment for the kids and knowledge for the parents and carers.

The first session; Alphabet Soup held on **Monday 2nd October**, concentrated on language and literacy activities with an education session for parents from Speech Pathologist Claire Lorrimar. 37 children were able to engage in language based craft activities including a mat session playing hangman and find the letters. Shaker instruments were constructed from recycled material and texture books created for some tactile fun. The kids enjoyed a special appearance by Paint Kwinana REaD's Karrak for Storytime.

The second session; Mind Matters held on **Friday 6th October**, aligned with Mental Health Week and delivered an information workshop for parents and carers. Empower Families; an initiative of Bridging the Gap, provided personal chats and info flyers on financial planning and how to eat healthy on a budget. 31 children engaged in sensory play with orbeez, artificial lawn, bubble wrap and sand play. Breathing exercises were embraced to help children centre their mind and Goya from Sing&Grow absorbed the children in song.

The play sessions offered a free, inclusive and friendly space for parents and carers to share time with their children and gain knowledge on improving outcomes for kids.

Early Years Discussion Forum

Connecting Community for Kids will be hosting another Early Years Discussion Forum on **Tuesday 14th November, 6.30pm to 8.30pm** at the Child and Parent Centre - Calista. All Early Childhood Educators are invited to hear from guest speaker Lauren Twomey, School Psychologist, Office of Early Childhood Development and Learning. This is the time to get together and strengthen the partnership between Early Learning Centre's and Schools. Please RSVP by Thursday 9th November on 0429 904 324 or info@connecting4kids.com.au. Light refreshments will be provided.



South Coogee PS Pre-Kindy

Cath, our Cockburn Community Facilitator has been working with South Coogee

Primary School to facilitate a 3 year old Pre-Kindy with Yangebup Family Centre. The Pre-Kindy is designed as a stepping stone from Playgroup to Kindy and encourages parent/child connection, with parents and carers participating in the session. The Pre-Kindy will run in Term 4, **Tuesday's 9am to 10.30am**.

Bring along a hat, healthy snack, water bottle and an item for news. The cost is \$10 per session. Contact the school on 9494 8000 for further information.

Let's Introduce Our Team

We have told you all about our Backbone Team, so now it's time to share stories from our Community Champions.

Taya Rundle

Kwinana Community Member



Taya has lived in City of Kwinana for 18 months with her young son. Engaging with Connecting Community for Kids through the Child and Parent Centre - Calista has ignited a passion to improve outcomes for kids by creating stronger support systems for new parents. Taya has been a part of Connecting Community for Kids since our Backbone re-engaged the community in 2016, and has participated in all of our Community Workshops; providing valuable information and a strong voice for her community. Taya says "participating in Connecting Community for Kids has had such a positive impact on my life; it has given me a diverse range of new friends and in turn a support system, more confidence in myself, a better understanding of my local community, and a new found passion for community services. I have loved every minute".

It's great to have you as part of our team Taya!

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