

Welcome to our Community Chatter Newsletter!

Thank you for registering your interest in Connecting Community for Kids and we hope you enjoy this newsletter. Well, our Community Workshops addressing the four identified themes impacting childhood development; Child Health, Family Isolation, Safety and Financial Strain have been finalised and we have received some vital input. We are looking forward to bringing everyone together again for a special **Decide the Right Path Workshop** at the end of August, so stay tuned for our chosen approaches. July and August have been busy months yet again, so we have produced another bumper edition of Community Chatter. We hope you enjoy reading!

OCConnect

On **Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st June**, the Connecting Community for Kids Backbone and JLT Co-chairs attended OCConnect in Melbourne, Opportunity Child's annual Conference. This was a fantastic opportunity to bring collective impact initiatives from around Australia together in one room, and hear their stories. Logan Together, The Hive, Mt Druitt, Sanderson Alliance, Go Goldfields and Together in the South all shared their successes, trials and tribulations of engaging with the community, ensuring the right data is collated, collectively identifying the key issues and then pursuing community energy to create circuit breakers for change.

One of the most valuable lessons learned was to ensure you know your community and what interests them. Go to where your community is and be authentic. Fred Chaney's closing words on Tuesday's session; heartedly expressing the importance of exposing people to the reality to entice drive and passion has resonated with the team at Connecting Community for Kids, and will be forever in our minds as we move forward in finding the 'sweet spot' of community life. Our work is to ensure any decisions on catalysts for change are made by the community, for the community and we are enjoying every moment of connecting with the residents of Cockburn and Kwinana.

Some extremely powerful messages were voiced in improving outcomes for children by working in collaboration with community, business, service providers and government agencies. Thank you Opportunity Child for bringing us all together. It is an exciting time to be involved in collective impact!



Little Peeps Ball

On **Wednesday 28th June**, City of Kwinana hosted its Little Peeps Ball, with the assistance of local service providers. Connecting Community for Kids contributed catering and event assistance for the evening; where over 200 children from all cultures got to boogie the night away with a DJ blasting disco tunes. All attendees received a lolly bag and book donated by Paint Kwinana REaD. The Little Peeps Ball is held annually during NAIDOC Week to help celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0-11.

Community Workshops

On **Monday 24th July** we finalised our series of Community Workshops, inviting members of our JLT, Decision Making Groups and additional service providers and community members in both Cockburn and Kwinana to come along and brainstorm our four focus areas impacting childhood development. This final workshop investigated the influence of **Financial Strain** on children with some fantastic feedback.

Six community members, 3 service providers and 2 JLT members joined forces and were asked to brainstorm 'what would it take to reduce the impact of financial strain on young children and enable them to thrive?' Although a small group, conversation was passionate and many ideas were presented in how to improve outcomes for children. Again, the importance of community and neighbourhood connectivity was raised and the need for parents and carers to receive information on what assistance is available.



We are hosting two Children's Leadership Forums on **Tuesday 22nd** and **Wednesday 23rd August** to hear from the kids. If your child is in year 5 or 6 and lives or attends school in Cockburn or Kwinana, please consider registering them for this fun, interactive Workshop. See our Facebook page or website for further details.

We are hosting a **Decide the Right Path Workshop** on **Wednesday 30th August**, exclusively for those who have attended one or more of our Community Workshops; members of our Decision Making Groups; JLT and JCC members and community and service providers who have been working closely with Connecting Community for Kids. Please RSVP to info@connecting4kids.com.au or 0429 904 324 by Thursday 24th August for crèche and catering purposes. This is the time for us to examine our

findings and establish our circuit breakers for change, so please continue your valuable contribution and join us in setting our goals for the future!

Supporting our Family Centres

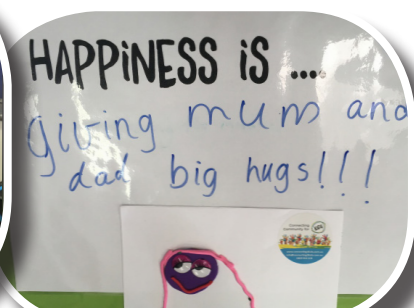


On **Friday 14th July**, Connecting Community for Kids attended the Frank Konecny Centre's Party in the Park. Approximately 2,000 people enjoyed a morning of arts, crafts, activities and a scrumptious sausage sizzle. Connecting Community for Kids had children and adults adding their hand print to Mission Australia's Everyone Belongs mural. It was great to see the local community get behind the Frank Konecny Centre and support the event.

On **Saturday 12th August**, Connecting Community for Kids also attended the Yangebup Family Centre Open Day, celebrating the 25th Birthday of the Centre. Over 500 children and parents joined the festivities, enjoying arts, craft, reptiles, face painting, music, dance, sausage sizzle and home

made sweets. Connecting Community for Kids asked the children to make their own emoji and answer the question; what makes you happy? We had some fabulous responses with over 40 little emojis made.

Family Centre's offer a centralised hub for families and children to connect with others and enjoy various activities. A big portion of our feedback from community is asking for more of these vital centres that connect neighbourhoods and reduce social and cultural isolation.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

On **Tuesday 1st** and **Friday 4th August**, Connecting Community for Kids hosted community events to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. Held in conjunction with local service providers; both events were well attended, with the kids enjoying arts, crafts, storytime and scrumptious food.

Valerie Mippy and Bonnie Moses joined in the Cockburn festivities and said "It was great to get out of the house and bring the grandkids down to an event that shares our culture with others."

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day is an annual celebration coordinated by SNAICC – National Voice for our Children, the national non-government peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The theme for Children's Day 2017, Value Our Rights, Respect Our Culture, Bring Us Home, recognises the importance of strong

connection to family and customs and offers the opportunity to celebrate the strengths and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Connecting Community for Kids is enjoying collaborating with service providers and community members to celebrate children in Cockburn and Kwinana.



Let's Introduce Our Team

Each newsletter we will introduce one of our team members.

Nicole Hunt

Community Facilitator - Kwinana



Nicole brings to Connecting Community for Kids 20 years experience working in children's services in various roles. With a passion for working with children and families and a focus on the early years; Nicole has built a comprehensive understanding of childhood development and is committed to ensuring all children achieve their full potential and enjoy a healthy and safe, happy life. In her role as Community Facilitator for the Kwinana community, Nicole is initiating community conversations and building relationships with families so we have a clear understanding of their immediate needs and future aspirations. Nicole is working solidly in the Kwinana community to empower parents, children and professionals to improve childhood outcomes, and has been busy building relations with service providers and community members.

Seeking Cultural Mentors

On **Tuesday 25th July**, Cath hosted an information session to gauge interest in a Cultural Mentoring Program. This stemmed from conversations with Karen from Kids Corner Childcare Centre, with Karen expressing interest in hosting mentors in her centre to educate the children in different cultures and traditions. Cath approached attendees of 'Me Time' in Coolbellup with the idea of becoming a mentor appealing to many of the young women.

This program will commence in Term 4. If you are interested in sharing your culture with others, please contact Cath on 0419 160 185.



Educator Forum

On **Tuesday 1st August**, Nicole held another Early Years Discussion Forum for Educators. Helen from Identity WA presented to the group and outlined the support the organisation offers to children with disabilities and their families.

Six attendees from various child care centres came along and discussed possible October school holiday play sessions.

0429 904 324 * info@connecting4kids.com.au * www.connecting4kids.com.au

facebook.com/Connecting4kids
twitter.com/CC4K_Perth
linkedin.com/company/connecting4kids
pinterest.com/Connecting4kids



Connecting
Community for

