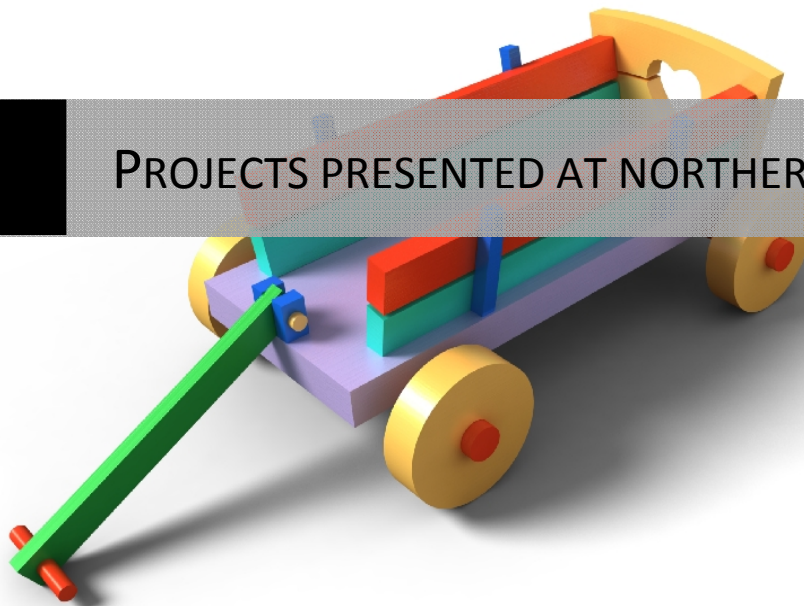


Wednesday, 25th February

2009

PROJECTS PRESENTED AT NORTHERN EXPOSURE



Information about the Families NSW Projects presented at Northern Exposure

Families NSW: Families NSW is a co-ordinated strategy sponsored by the NSW Government to increase the effectiveness of prevention and early intervention services in helping families to raise healthy and well adjusted children.

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NSW Health – Supporting Families Early

Chatter Matters - Early Communication Development Project

Description: The focus of Chatter matters is to develop and provide an evidence-based early communication development training program for children's services staff in the Northern Sydney Region.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area Health Area Boundaries: Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde and the Northern Beaches.

Target Population: Child care workers

Aim: Help child care workers identify speech and communication disorders early thereby improving long term outcomes for children.

Contact Person: Claire Blanch

Contact Details:

Area Child and Family Health,
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Royal North Shore Hospital,
St Leonards, 2065.
Ph: (02) 9926 6295
Fax: (02)9926 6084

Auspice: Health

Safe Start - Integrated Peri natal Care

Description: Psychosocial assessment of all mothers ante-natal and post-natal to identify risk factors for postnatal depression and other issues.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area Health Area Boundaries: Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde and the Northern Beaches.

Target Population: Pregnant women and mothers of newborns

Aim: Improve health outcomes for families and infants.

Contact Person: Nicole Michel

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Auspice: Health

Professional Development Seminar Series

Description: Seminars to raise awareness on latest research in early brain development and Families NSW Health Services available.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area Health Area Boundaries: Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde and the Northern Beaches.

Target Population: GP's, Health professionals, Child Care workers and other children's service providers.

Aim: Identify visual problems early and prevent blindness.

Contact Person:

Louise Baker
STEPS Co-ordinator

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Auspice: Health

Building Community Connections and Capacity

Ryde Community Hub

Description: The Ryde Community Hub will operate a "one-stop-shop" model for families to:

- Participate in group and informal activities that assist parents to improve their parenting skills and develop their own support networks;
- Receive information about parenting, child development and information about the range of services available;
- Access a variety of child and family services provided by visiting and/or co-located agencies.

Geographical Area: Ryde LGA.

Target Population: Families with children aged 0-8, with a focus on birth to 5 years.

Priority given to:

- Culturally and linguistically diverse families
- Aboriginal families
- Socially and/or geographically isolated families
- Young parents
- Single parents
- Parents or children with disabilities

Aim:

- Improve parent-child relationships;
- Improve parenting;
- Increase supportive connections, such as informal social networks;
- Increase use of health and community services, resources or activities.

Current Groups:

Supported Playgroup -Mon 9:30am to 11:30am
Sing and Grow - Tue 10:00am to 11:00am, Term 1 only.
Supported Playgroup for young parents - Fri 10:00am to 12:00pm

Contact Person:

Anne-Marie Maxwell

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Mob: 0448 414 624
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Further details available when site is established.

Auspice: Good Beginnings Australia

Hornsby-Waitara Community Hub

Description: Establishment of a Community Hub to provide, prevention and early support services to families and children and link key child and family service providers through outreach programs. The project aims to assist parents with the development of social networks, parenting skills, information and referrals to local services. The community hub model enables innovative and flexible models of family support and community development.

Geographical Area: Located in Hornsby – Waitara CBD and covering Hornsby LGA..

Target Population: Families with children aged 0-8, with a focus on birth to 5 years.

Priority given to:

- Culturally and linguistically diverse families
- Aboriginal families
- Socially and/or geographically isolated families
- Young parents
- Single parents
- Parents or children with disabilities

Aim: Increased access to appropriate child/family services; supportive relationships between families are developed and enhanced; a family's satisfaction with their parenting skills and their knowledge about/capacity to support their children's development is improved.

Other Information: Parent Information Packs and Tip sheets on a range of topics; Supported playgroup for vulnerable families weekly (in partnership with Centacare); Kids on Block Playtime weekly; "Open Doors" – Informal support group for emerging communities (in partnership with MigrantLINK and Community Settlement Worker, Hornsby Council)

Contact Person:

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Auspice: Mission Australia

Dee Why Schools as Community Centres

Description:

Through the establishment of Schools as Community Centre, the school is promoted as a community centre providing parenting education programs and support with a community development and outreach approach. All families with children in the target age group have access to community centres set up as part of this project and the various activities and initiatives.

This project operates in line with the principles and agreed guidelines for SaCC, as outlined in the Schools as Community Centres Guidelines (NSW Department of Education and Training, May 2003) with sufficient flexibility to address needs identified by the school, the community, the service network, the Northern Sydney Families First Senior Officers Group and Project Management Group. The emphasis is on prevention, early identification and support for families.

The Schools as Community Centre for Dee Why area maintains a focus on early childhood. The initial focus of this project is to emphasise the importance of the early years for learning and development and the role of parents as their child's first teacher.

The project involves but not limited to:

- Coordinating and/or delivering a range of Parenting Programs including a focus on the importance of the early years of development - language development (speech), social and emotional skills, motor skills and intellectual development and nutrition;
- establishing/or assisting to maintain supported playgroups to support parents in the care of their children;
- promoting access to preschools and strengthening the relationship between teachers at both Children's Services and schools;
- developing, in conjunction with the early school years teachers, a transition to school program which continues during the first few years at school;
- coordinating service networks to develop cross-agency programs to support the Dee Why community;
- coordinating community development activities to bring families together;
- developing opportunities for parents to become involved in school activities such as reading clubs or homework centres; and
- link with any local Committees who may address issues for local Dee Why families;
- participating in parenting services interagencies.

Geographical Area: The Schools as Community Centre operates from the Dee Why Public School. It will have a strong outreach approach into the suburb of Dee Why, which is part of the Warringah local government area.

Target Population: Parents and children living in Dee Why areas, with a particular focus on children from 0-5 years of age.

Aim:

Children are healthy and safe; developmental problems are identified early and appropriately followed up; children can access a range of learning experiences; children have a positive transition to school and are learning at school and home; parents develop positive parenting skills. Community members and service providers work collaboratively to support families; partnerships are developed that support students, families and community; families and students are engaged with schools; and the school is a focus of community activity.

Contact Person:

Sandip Bhattacharjee

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Dee Why NSW 2099
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Auspice: NSW Department of Education and Training

Information and Support to Target Families

Families NSW Northern Sydney Localized Parenting Program Coordination Project

Description: To increase access to parenting programs for families living in Northern Sydney

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area: Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde/Hunters Hill and the Northern Beaches.

Target Population: Families with children pre-natal to 8 yrs

Aim:

www.resourcingparents.com;
Quarterly interagency forums to support staff to create partnerships.

Other Information:

Resource Book on Good Practice;
Summarized Literature Review on Good Practice;
Annual Newsletter

Contact Person:

Sally Chapman

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North Ryde NSW 2113
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Auspice: Relationships Australia (NSW)

Father's Tool Kit

Description: The project will work to increase the parenting knowledge of fathers, increase the availability of resources addressing the needs of fathers and increase the access of fathers to child and family services across Northern Sydney.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area Health Area Boundaries: Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde and the Northern Beaches.

Target Population: All fathers who are expecting a child or who have a child aged 0-8 years.

Aim: Increased use of community services, resources or activities by target population.

Contact Person: Sally Chapman

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Auspice: Relationships Australia (NSW)

Early Childhood Literacy

***Families NSW, SDN Northern Sydney Early Literacy Research Project
"Literacy Links"***

Description: Literacy Links will review the research evidence and range of resources available in the area of early literacy and numeracy across the child and family service sector. As a result of the project there will be an increased usage of literacy and numeracy resources in the early childhood community sector.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area Health Area Boundaries: Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde and the Northern Beaches.

Target Population: Families with children 0-5 years

Aim: Increased use of early literacy and numeracy knowledge by services and families with children 0-5 years; collaboration and partnerships developed with community networks and family services and; increased use of early literacy strategies and resources.

Other information: Symposium to bring together parents and child and family services practitioners from across the region early 2009; Four (4) mini-summits to follow to establish working groups; Poster and promotional material and a website.

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Georgina Crawford

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Literacy Links
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Auspice: SDN Children's Services

Building Connections and Engaging Aboriginal Community

Aboriginal Child Youth and Family Strategy (ACYFS), Community Facilitator Project

Description: The project is working to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal families across the Northern Sydney Region and build families ability to access mainstream services.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area Health Area Boundaries: Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde/Hunters Hill and the Northern Beaches.

Target Population: Aboriginal Community

Aim: To link Aboriginal families with other families in Northern Sydney Region to decrease the isolation and to obtain Aboriginal community identity for the Northern Sydney Region

Other information: An outreach office at Manly Community Centre, once a week (Wednesday).

Contact Person:
Herb Smith

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Email: hsmith@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Auspice: Hornsby Shire Council

Aboriginal Early Years Project

Description: Families NSW and Aboriginal Child, Youth Family Strategy. The Aboriginal Early Years Project is designed to improve the well being of young children and their families who are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. The Aboriginal Early Years Worker will engage their community and provide support around parenting and access to services and support groups.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area Health Area Boundaries: Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde and the Northern Beaches.

Target Population: The target group for the Aboriginal Early Years Project will be families from identified Aboriginal communities with children aged 0 – 8 years, but with a particular focus on 0 – 3 year old age group.

Aim: The approach of the Project is to affirm parenting skills; remote ongoing social integration between participants; link families to services and support groups; provide practical assistance as families engage with health and other services; raise the awareness and importance of engaging children in play and age appropriate activities and raise the awareness and importance of the best possible start for children in the very early years of their life and the impact that has on brain development.

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Caroline Glass-Pattison

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North Ryde NSW 2113.
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Email: carolineg@bensoc.org

Auspice: Benevolent Society

Support to Families with Additional Needs

The Ryde/Hunters Hill culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Parenting Project

Description: The Project has been running for 2 years. Project's main objective is to improve the well being of families from CALD backgrounds living in the Ryde/ Hunters Hill area by providing each target community with a bi cultural worker who builds, within cultural norms, a group where parents can support each other and gain current parenting and service information. To target the Korean, Iranian, Afghan and Chinese (Mandarin) communities and establish parenting programs for parents of children 0-3 years. As well as supporting families to access services, the project enhances service providers' understanding of access issues related to the CALD community.

Geographical Area: Ryde/Hunters Hill LGA

Target Population: Parents and Grandparents of children, under 3 years, within the Korean, Iranian, Afghan and Chinese (Mandarin) communities

Aim: To provide parenting information to CALD families in their own languages; to link these families to relevant services; to provide a forum within which families can form a support network; to provide these services in a culturally format; to provide a written resource to support parents in their own language.

Other information:

- West Ryde Groups at Uniting Church Hall, 7 Maxim St. West Ryde:
 - Korean Group 10 -12 am Friday
 - Afghan Group 9.30 – 11.30 am Thursday
 - Iranian Group 12.30 – 2.30pm Thursday
- North Ryde Group at North Ryde Community Aid, 4 Cutler Parade, North Ryde 11-1 pm Friday
- Mandarin Group (new venue to be arranged)

Contact Person:

Alison Lee

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Auspice: Relationships Australia (NSW)

Family Worker Project Northern Sydney

Description: Provision of Home visits, Parenting and other group programs, Family support to supported playgroups

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area: Hornsby/ Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde/ Hunters Hill and the Northern Beaches

Target Population:

- Culturally and linguistically diverse families;
- Aboriginal families;
- socially and/or geographically isolated families;
- young parents;
- single parents; and
- parents of children with disabilities.

Aim:

- Integration of services delivered to families in Northern Sydney;
- Group work to enhance protective factors in families;
- Family support liaison to supported playgroups across the region.

Contact Person:

Fiona Hastings

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Auspice: Centacare Broken Bay

Supporting Families with Additional Needs

Description: This is a two stage project, which aims to improve service delivery to children aged 0-8 who have, or are at risk of, early, mild delays or learning difficulties. The first stage is a scoping stage/needs assessment. This consists of a literature review and a survey of local service providers, investigating current service delivery, service gaps and ideas for improved service delivery. The second stage of the project aims to work with existing agencies to develop sustainable strategies to improve service delivery to the project target group.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area: Hornsby/ Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde/ Hunters Hill and the Northern Beaches

Target Population: Children aged 0-8 who have, or are at risk of, mild delays and learning difficulties. These children tend to be referred to as 'grey zone' children as they may lack a definitive diagnosis, lack access to funding and services, but still need help to reach their full potential.

Aim: To identify current service provision; to identify service needs and gaps; to develop sustainable strategies to improve service delivery; to implement a range of strategies in a sustainable, cost neutral way, working with existing agencies; and to evaluate the strategy implementation at project completion.

Contact Person:

Kate McMaugh

Contact Details:

Early Ed
3 Cunningham St
North Sydney
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Auspice: Early Ed

Northern Sydney Supported Playgroup Project

Description: The Supported Playgroup Project assists communities not accessing traditional services to access supported playgroups and implement transition of families into mainstream services.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area: Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde/Hunters Hill and the Northern Beaches

Target Population: The supported playgroups will cater for parents and carers raising children up to school age. The project will target marginalized families with children aged 0-5 years who have difficulty accessing mainstream community playgroups.

Aim: Increase knowledge and access to community services for children and families; improve parenting skills and self esteem; improve parent-child interaction; improve or expand social networks for parents and/or carers; improve child nutrition, health and safety; parents have improved knowledge of child development, parenting techniques and information; families from a diverse range of backgrounds are participating in the playgroups.

Other information: The Northern Sydney Supported Playgroup Project is expected to be operational by 1 July 2009.

Contact Person:
Rebecca Coote

Contact Details:
Department of Community Services
Ph: (02) 9815 0722
Fax: (02) 9815 0790
Email: rebecca.coote@community.nsw.gov.au

Enhance Service Access by the Community

Families NSW Northern Sydney Service Capacity Seeding Grants Project

Description: The project coordinates and administrates one-off grants to enhance capacity for service providers in Northern Sydney to increase access for families in the Families NSW target group who are not currently accessing services.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area: Hornsby/ Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde/ Hunters Hill and the Northern Beaches

Target Population: Grants were targeted the following four groups identified by Families NSW research conducted in Northern Sydney previously:

- Working families
- CALD Communities
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Families with additional needs

Aim: To support service providers to develop strategies which increase access by families who are not accessing services and to increase capacity for service providers to actively engage these families and communities.

Contact Person:

Wahid Razi

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Auspice: MigrantLINK Australia Ltd.

Families NSW Networks and Child and Family Interagencies in Northern Sydney Region – an overview

Families NSW Regional Network Facilitation Project

Description: The project is intended to enhance support develop sustainable Child and family Services Networks across the Northern Sydney Region and embed network processes in local agencies, Government and Non-government. This can be achieved through, dealing holistically with the needs of the families, providing coordinated support in collaboration with families and other agencies, providing better access to early support at the time families need it, in the forms that are most helpful to them, improving the way that the services work together to make sure families get services and support they need.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area: Hornsby/ Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde/ Hunters Hill and the Northern Beaches

Target Population: Service providers and community planners, delivering services to Families with children aged 0-8 operating in the Northern Sydney Region.

Aim: Presence of strong and sustainable safety net for young children and families for timely prevention and early intervention; enhanced knowledge about services available in the Region and ways to access amongst those services and families with young children; the Networks have adequate representation from government and non-government services and disadvantaged community groups; the Service Network has enhanced collaboration training and networking opportunities; the Service Network has a common pool of resources.

Other information:

Next Network Meeting dates:

- Northern Beaches: 4/03/09
- Lower north Shore: 12/05/09
- Hornsby Ku-ring-gai: 10/03/09
- Ryde hunters Hill: 8/04/09

For further details refer, Calendar for year 2009 or contact Project Officer responsible.

Contact Person:

Niv Srivastava

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Auspice: MigrantLINK Australia Ltd.

Northern Sydney Families NSW Practice Forum

Description: The Project will coordinate a professional development forum for all Northern Sydney child and family service providers, in consultation with the Northern Sydney sub-regional Child and Family Networks. This Practice Forum will engage all participants with up to date information regarding Families NSW projects in Northern Sydney and other recent child and family service developments across Northern Sydney. The Practice Forum will provide presentations to strengthen the networks across the range of child and family services. This project is thereby expected to achieve improved referral processes for families, when appropriate.

Geographical Area: Northern Sydney Area: Hornsby/ Ku-ring-gai, Lower North Shore, Ryde/ Hunters Hill and the Northern Beaches

Target Population: Service providers and community planners, delivering services to Families with children aged 0-8 operating in the Northern Sydney Region.

Aim:

Intended outcomes for Service Providers:

- Collaboration and partnerships developed within the local network of services;
- Increased knowledge of the current Families NSW Projects and their activities;
- Increased collaboration between Northern Sydney service providers and Families NSW

Intended Regional Outcomes:

- Service Network capacity is developed and skilled;
- Practice Forum providing information about all the Families NSW projects and Forum Report and findings widely promoted to all relevant services in Northern Sydney Region.

Other information: A report on Practice Forum shall be sent to all before the project concludes in June 2009. The report will also be publicized on MigrantLINK Australia Ltd (MLA) and HSNet websites. For further details, contact Project Officer responsible.

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