

Campbelltown Communities for Children

Communities for Children takes a community development approach to improving outcomes for children 0 - 12 and their families, incorporating key principles such as collaborative action, building on community strengths and contributing to family and community capacity building.

The early childhood focus has been guided by research and consultation undertaken for the development of the Australian Government's National Agenda for Early Childhood. This recognises that effective early childhood intervention is not only about supporting young children, but also supporting their parents, neighbourhoods and the wider community.

The program focuses on Rosemeadow and Ambarvale and seeks to develop and facilitate a whole of community approach, building on community strengths and the existing infrastructure of organisations, networks and resources, using evidence of what works in early intervention.

1. Yummy Café, run by the YWCA premises provided by Campbelltown City Council

Yummy Café is an award winning innovative HUB in the community providing a safe child friendly space and nutritious food. The café provides a neutral, non-threatening and child friendly meeting place for families to develop informal social networks (eg a group of mums with toddlers having a coffee) as well as formal networks (eg playgroups, community events). The café is hired out by other organisations for community activities and Yummy runs a very successful catering business.



2. Street Treats: UnitingCare Burnside

Street Treats are street based playgroups supporting families with children aged 0 – 5 living in Rosemeadow and Ambarvale. They operate in environments that are safe, familiar, non-threatening and easily accessible to families for example the street where they live. Street Treats support parents via parenting education, parenting and community service information. Street Treats operate on a term-only basis, moving to a new location each term to engage with as many families as possible, introducing them to the wider services available.

3. Mobile Toy and Book Library: Campbelltown City Council

The Mobile Toy and Book Library provides opportunities for young children and their families to loan safe and age appropriate equipment (toys, books, puzzles, music). They operate in environments that are safe, familiar, non-threatening and easily accessible to families. They provide relevant information and promote early learning and literacy, child development, and attachment and provide relevant community service information, referral and opportunities for services to attend /participate in the Mobile Toy and Book Library. The Library is provided alongside other services such as Street Treats and Community Events.

4. Happy Young Parents: UC Burnside

Happy Young Parents (HYPS) strategy provides support and opportunities for young parents up to 25 years of age during pregnancy, for 6 weeks following the birth, and into the early years of parenthood. HYPS activities include Young Parents Support and Flexible Education program. This program will have 5 components crucial to a successful young parents program.:

- Support group
- Study time
- Recreational events
- Individual support
- Community work

Child minding and transport are provided

5. Community Connections: Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative

Community Connections aims to build a strong and connected community by breaking down isolation and promoting social inclusion, improving access to services and providing seamless referral pathways for families, encouraging and increasing community participation and raising awareness of information related to the needs of young children including the importance of the early years, play and literacy. The role of the Community Connector is to:

- door knock the community
- visit families in the home providing community information (kits)
- assess families needs and refer to appropriate supports and services
- invite families to attend a community activity for example Street Treat, Yummy Café, playgroup, Mobile Toy and Book Library.
- support families / parents to attend the activity
- accompany the family / parent to the activity for the first time and introduce them to other families / parents and workers.
- facilitate a weekly playgroup
- recruit, mentor, and train volunteers.

6. Community Development activities: The Benevolent Society

As the facilitating partner, The Benevolent Society facilitates community development activity including

- community and family events to provide information, build community connections and link families to services.
- information via a quarterly newsletter (UNITY), quarterly information stalls
- support and facilitate collaboration between local services including C4C community partners, other services for example HNSW, Tallowood Community Centre, Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, Rosemeadow and Ambarvale Community Interagency (RACI)
- continued advocacy to support the development of the Ambarvale community park and supporting the community to advocate for other community via the C4C committee as relevant
- support community partners to build capacity as needed in areas such as governance, service delivery, evaluation, engaging target groups, sustainability and using evidence based practice.
- maintain lead role in RACI and the implementation of the Rosemeadow and Ambarvale Community Action Plan developed by this group
- continue to lead and implement the RACI 6 – 12 Working Group which has set priorities including Sport and Recreation, Education (including School Readiness and Literacy) Community Connectedness and Ownership.
- establish a Kids Committee drawing representation from 4 local schools, for children aged 6 – 12. The committee will take a project focus eg in the Minto Kids Committee ran a talent quest entitled “*Minto’s Got Talent*”. The Committee will be closely linked to the 6 – 12 working group and asked to give feedback and input to ideas and initiatives coming out of the working group.
- development and implementation of Innovation Fund
- Establish and develop a C4C Hub to move C4C service delivery from collaboration to Integration and support streamlined service delivery for vulnerable families and children.