



Salisbury Communities for Children

Newsletter

The Communities for Children initiative is supported by the Australian Government

Let's work together to build a better community for our families

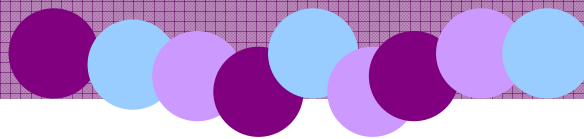
Children Communities Connections

"It has been brilliant... Some of the best information I've come across in a long time at a conference"



Some of those who gathered and some of the experts who had their say on how we can do it better

Creating a child-friendly community environment for children 0-12 years



Around 320 people from various parts of Australia gathered at the UniSA Hawke Centre on North Terrace in November for the second Children Communities Connections Conference to look at better ways of working together to support families. These were some of the comments we received.

- Excellent to have professionals with detailed knowledge of the field to share and reignite our passion in working with families
- Lots of relevant information and a good idea of how SA is approaching support for children and families-especially C4C and integration.
- I work in a support agency and this conference puts a small service in the context of the wider community.
- I have gained a better understanding of the importance of having what we are doing 'written' down and added to the evidence pool for use in guiding policy and government direction.
- Has inspired me to change my focus to **early childhood and early intervention** and has provided me with information on how to do this.
- Conference was well organised, venue was excellent. I hope to return next year.

One outcome from the conference is that around forty of those who participated have contributed to a new publication '*Building integrated Connections for Children, their Families and Communities*'. It captures some of the exciting new research that is being done, promising practical strategies that are being developed to better support families and some policy directions that need to be taken. The book will be available later in the year. A big thank you to all of you who contributed to making it happen!

Connecting families with local services, agencies & community groups

May 2011

Newsletter No 10

News

Assisting parents in building family relationships

Contact details

Manager: Karl Brettig

Project Assistants:
Jane Swansson
Cathie Bishop

Ph: 08 8397 9333

Fax: 08 836 5170

Cnr Bridge & Maxwell
Roads
Ingle Farm SA 5098

www.salisburyc4c.org.au



- We have recently farewelled **Karen Stott** who has been the site coordinator/manager of FamilyZone Ingle Farm for the past 5 years. Karen's pioneering efforts in establishing FamilyZone as the vibrant hub for children and families it is today have been inspirational. Well done Karen and all the best for the future from all of us as you take up your new position at the Magdalene centre.
- In the meantime Kathleen Wilson is keeping it all happening at the hub as Acting Site Coordinator/Manager. She has been busy establishing some new initiatives including a **Nunga Mums group** being planned for Thursday mornings.
- FamilyZone Para Hills has also seen some changes in personnel recently. This year sees an exciting year with the introduction of a volunteer Coordinator **Kirsty Hatchard** working alongside Kerry Tomaras who has taken over the role as Community Liaison. Kirsty has a degree in early childhood teaching. We say farewell to **Kay Conway** who has been instrumental in establishing FamilyZone Para Hills Parent Centre during her time as Assistant Principal
- The **Schools and Agencies Working Network** continues to work at better communicating information re working with families re referrals. Coming meetings are on June 2nd, Aug 25th and Nov 17th.
- We are thankful to the Australian Government who have refunded us until 2014. In launching the Family Support Program on April 15th at Seaton Central **Minister Jenny Macklin** said that she was pleased to be able to make this announcement a year prior to the expiration of our current funding agreements.



Minister Macklin and Parliamentary Secretary Collins with SA C4C managers at the launch

- First Steps Playtime at Ingle Farm Salvos continues to attract significant numbers of families. Coordinator **Katrina Shephard** is now dancing and singing her way through the very popular Mainly Music for three sessions each week.

A new 'How it is' is in the pipeline.....
You can still get the first one which was recently given a Promising Practice Profile by the Australian Institute of Family Studies

A new "How it Is' DVD/ booklet with tips for young mums and dads parenting together is due to be released soon. It's a big challenge to work together to nurture the development of young babies and toddlers as the birth of a baby often comes as a huge shock to the system. Having a little one totally dependent on you adds plenty of stress to your relationship with your partner and it's critical we learn how to work together to create a warm and safe environment for our children. Research has shown that babies and toddlers do much better when they do not have to live with a lot of stress in the early years. This new resource is designed to help reduce that stress factor in family relationships so that children can get a better start in life.

For further information contact:
jacquie.dell@aus.salvationarmy.org 08 8397 333

