



CONNECTING COMMUNITY FOR KIDS 2023

**IMPACT REPORT -
WOODSIDE DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Supported by



SUMMARY

2023 saw significant advancement of our Roadmap for change. The Roadmap has three focus areas:

- 1. Increasing awareness of the importance of the early years**
 - a. Advocacy
 - b. 'Together We Can' campaign
- 2. Capacity building - Increasing participation of children and families to improve their transition to school**
 - a. Pop Up and Play - Sensory friendly, all abilities play sessions
 - b. Intergenerational camps and activities – Moordjit Kulungar and Ngalla Yorga Waangkan Aboriginal Corporation (NYWAC)
 - c. Indigenous focused events and activities, reconciliation, NAIDOC etc
 - d. Support for NYWAC – new strategic plan, additional funding, increased membership and succession plan for the Board
- 3. Co-design and test intervention strategies to improve children's outcomes**
 - a. Ears2Learn
 - b. Maaraka Dabakarn
 - c. Transition to School for children with additional needs
 - d. Professional development training package – embedding aboriginal culture in your service (initially developed by CCK with support from the local aboriginal community, delivered by Fran Windon)

ADVOCACY

- Jane Miller was invited to give evidence at the Parliamentary enquiry into Child Development Services where Ears2Learn was presented as a community-led solution to early intervention ear health
- Jane Miller, Bec Jones, Cindy Ballard and Fran Windon gave evidence at the ACCC Childcare enquiry in Darwin post attendance at SNAICC
- Community Roundtable to inform the Early Years Strategy
- Community Roundtable to inform the Early Years Strategy for multi-cultural families
- Minister Aly requested Jane Miller to speak on Ears2Learn as an identified community-led strategy that will improve children's outcomes and create micro credentials and therefore career pathways for the Early Learning Education and Care sector
- Face to face meetings to discuss Ears2Learn and Maaraka Dabakarn with:
 - » Minister Aly's Senior Policy Advisor - Craig Comrie
 - » Minister Winton's Senior Policy Advisor – Jahanna Frederickson
 - » Minister Sanderson's Senior Policy Advisor - Cassandra Maney
 - » Minister Libby Mettam MLA
 - » David Scaife MLA – Cockburn
 - » Hon. Dr Sally Talbot MLC

SYSTEM CHANGE CONTRIBUTION

- Maaraka Dabakarn a tested model to triage Child Development Services waitlists
- Ears2Learn a tested model to provide ear surveillance for the most vulnerable children that will reduce hearing loss due to Otitis Media
- Child and Adolescent Community Health are now training Child Health Nurses in completing ear screening using tympanometry
- Development of an early years focused ACCO withing Kwinana with a review of the NYWAC strategic plan to expand focus to children and women throughout their life course
- Young members are stepping into Board positions providing a sustainable model for the aging group
- Kulungar Waabiny – Fran Windon registered her own Business enterprise delivering training packages in early learning centres for children and staff to embed aboriginal culture

ABOUT

Maaraka Dabakarn (Hands to Steady) is a CCK initiative that provides families with an opportunity to engage with multiple child health professionals in a group setting. This event focuses on children 7 years of age or under, who are suspected to have developmental delays or behavioural difficulties.

Families often share that they feel unsure of where to begin when they have concerns and are often confused about which professionals they should see to help their child. Maaraka Dabakarn provides a safe environment for parents to ask questions about their child and learn about developmental issues by talking to a Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Behavioural Therapist, and Children’s Nurse Practitioner.

Ears2Learn is offered on the day, which provides families with the option to have their children’s ears screened. NDIS partner Wanslea attend Maaraka Dabakarn to provide advice to parents regarding funding and support.

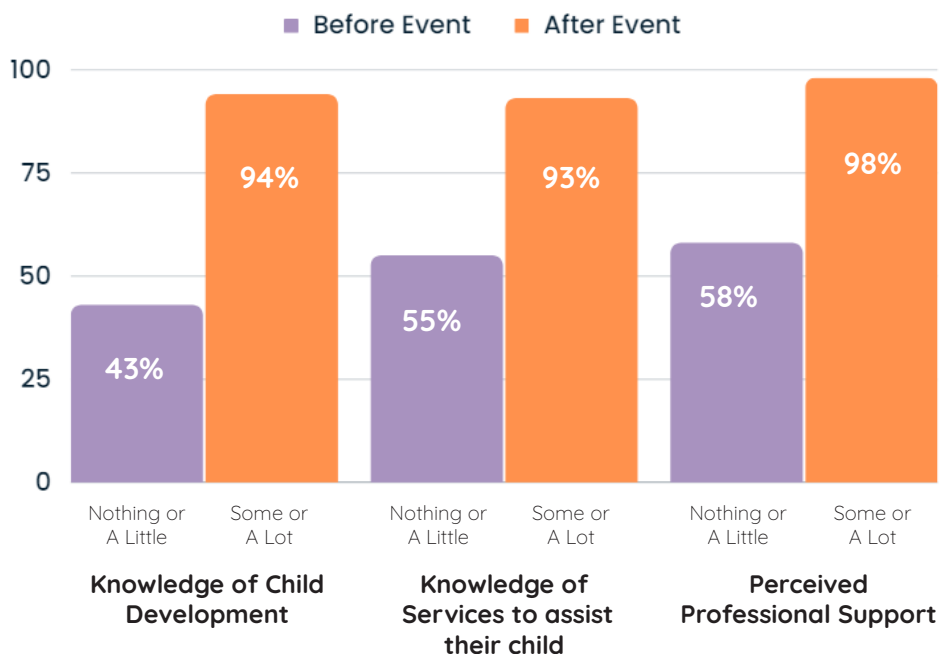
SNAPSHOT



DATA - INVISIBLE CHILDREN

- 1 in 4 children attending Maaraka Dabakarn have had a follow up appointment with Just Kids Health
- Of the 44 developmental screens undertaken 16 (36%) have been identified as having a severe developmental delay
- 80% of this cohort have had no previous screening and are not on a referral pathway

DATA - PRE AND POST EVENT SURVEY RESULTS




KEY FINDINGS


- There is an immediate need for statewide education about developmental red flags, “don’t wait and see.”
- Maaraka Dabakarn’s model of group engagement in community settings attracts families who have not otherwise sought clinical intervention.
- Current waitlists do not provide an accurate representation of the unmet need.
- Low parental knowledge on child development, and lack of support for parents trying to navigate these systems, is contributing to many children going ‘under the radar’.
- More funding for early intervention initiatives is urgently needed.
- Implementation of Maaraka Dabakarn statewide will assist families to make the first step to accessing the services they need, provide immediate support for those on long waitlists, leading to earlier intervention and improved long-term health outcomes.

EVENT FLYER

FEEDBACK

Connecting Community for Kids 

Maaraka Dabakarn Hands to Steady



Are you a parent with a child 7 years of age or under and are concerned about their development, or is pending an assessment?

We are holding a FREE therapy day where parents can:


- Meet a range of therapists, in a group setting, who will provide families with hands-on activities and resources they can use, and take-away, to support children
- Discuss your child’s development with Allied Health Professionals
- Have an Ears2Learn ear screening
- Build peer networks to support each other

Families are welcome to attend and there will be activities for siblings in a supervised play area. Morning tea will be provided.


Book your ticket via this link, spaces are limited


www.trybooking.com.au/CIZAE

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Visit www.dss.gov.au for more information.

Woodside Energy 

www.connecting4kids.com.au

Maaraka Dabakarn Hands to Steady 

 **Councillor Tom Widenbar - City of Cockburn** is at **Goodstart Early Learning Cockburn Central**.
8 Oct · Perth, WA · 🌐

Whilst most of us know the importance of child development in the early years, it is even more so for children with ADHD, Autism and other conditions that can cause developmental delays.

Maaraka Dabakarn is a FREE event program by [Connecting Community for Kids](#) for parents/ carers with children 7 years or under who are concerned about their development, behaviour or are pending an assessment.

You can meet and discuss your child’s development with a range of allied health professionals such as Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Behavioural Therapist, Nurse Practitioner and Ears2Learn ear screening along with representatives from [Wanslea](#) to assist with any applications or queries.

I was fortunate enough to have attended a session this weekend and learn personalised strategies for both child and parent for a greater developmental success.

Was great to see Nurse Practitioners Stephanie & Donna who are located right here in Cockburn at [Just Kids Health](#) and hosted by [Goodstart Early Learning Cockburn Central](#) who both Partner with Connecting Community for Kids to support the early years development.

Connecting Community for Kids is supported by the [City of Cockburn](#) and their Children’s Services team.

📢 So if you are stuck on long wait lists or just not sure where to even begin, then I highly recommend.

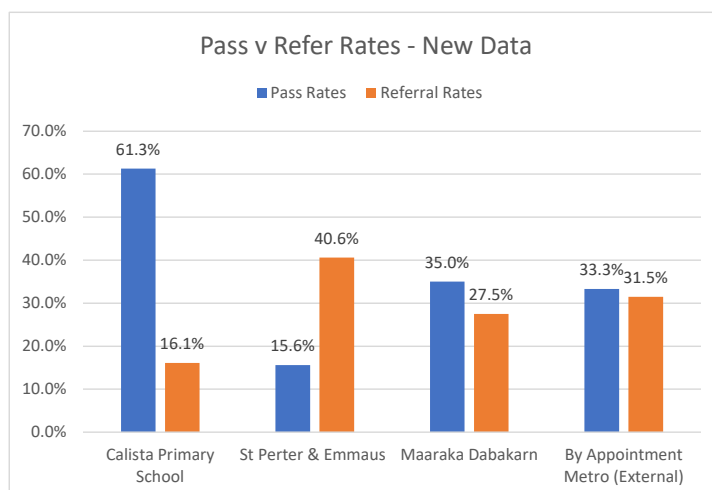
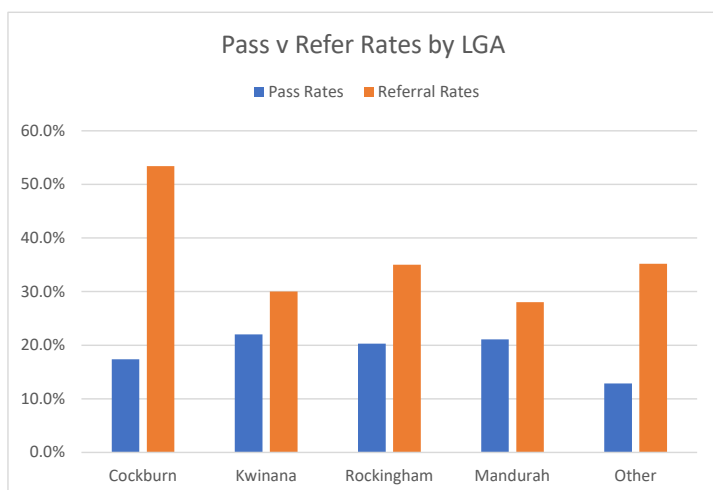
UPDATE - AS OF 27 OCTOBER 2023

Ears2Learn continues to expand providing opportunity to test prevalence across multiple settings.

- Ears2Learn Mentor Role created and filled at CCK
- The mentor role provides ongoing support to ear screeners across all sites. The mentor has extensive screening experience and has completed multiple screening programs with EarBus Foundation of WA (EarBus) across WA
- 10 Maaraka Dabakarn sessions have taken place with Ears2Learn screening conducted at all sessions across Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham and Mandurah
- An MOU has been developed between EarBus and CCK to support the expansion of Ears2Learn across WA
- 5 new screeners from Wanslea have been trained by EarBus
- Additional Early Learning sites have been added to screening surveillance at Joondanna, Kojonup, Katanning and Mount Barker
- Community screening and surveillance commenced throughout Kwinana, Rockingham and Cockburn at Community events hosted by CCK
- Guidelines and procedures for screeners developed between EarBus & CCK

WHAT'S NEXT

- Just Kids Health Nurse Practitioners will provide additional support by screening all children who access their services from November 2023.
- NDIS partner Wanslea will commence Maaraka Dabakarn sessions with Ears2Learn screening in 2024 at their 12 Early Childhood Approach locations across North Metro, South Metro, Inner Wheatbelt, South West and Great Southern.
- 5 new screeners booked to attend ear screening training by EarBus in February 2024 comprising of 3 Goodstart Early Learning Educators and 2 Managers from the City of Cockburn's Family Day Care Service.



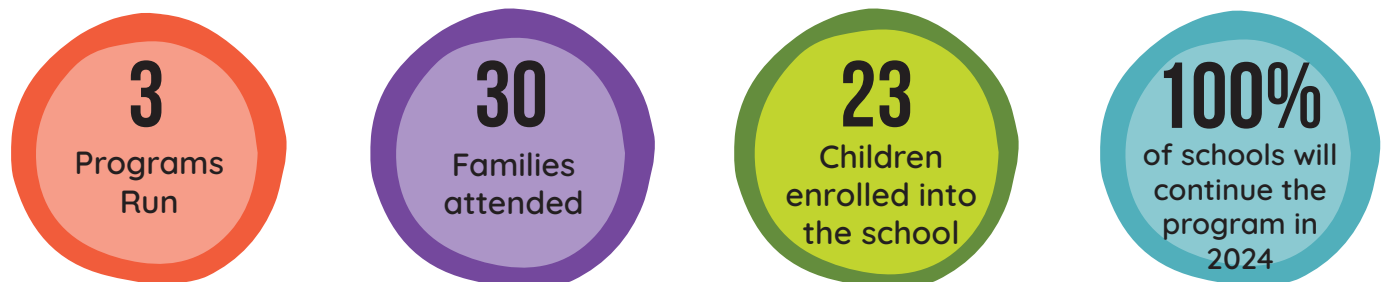
ABOUT

Families with additional needs children are more likely to be socially isolated, and often have a reduced capacity to attend regular playgroups due to increased demands/needs for their child. Caregivers have expressed that 'mainstream' services are often not held in sensory friendly environments or have inflexible programs. They often experience feelings of judgement from other parents who don't have children with additional/challenging needs. The Transition to School program aims to increase the participation of children with diagnosed disabilities in the community at an earlier age/before school. Caregivers receive earlier support for their children with clearer referral pathways and increased connection with other families.

In 2023 we ran two models / trials:

1. Outside service coming onto school grounds - this service has never been trialled at an Education Support Centre. CCK funded an Early Childhood Teacher from Yangebup Family Centre to run the sessions over two x 5 week blocks at Coolbellup Learning Centre
2. A school-run program - CCK funded 2 x 1-hour therapist/allied health info sessions for each program at Endeavour schools and Rockingham Beach Education Support Centre - a total of 4 sessions

SNAPSHOT



PARENT FEEDBACK

- For myself, the most significant change has been the sense of community and support that I have found through attending the playgroup. Connecting with other parents and caregivers who are going through similar experiences has been invaluable. It has provided a space for sharing advice, exchanging stories, and building friendships. This sense of belonging and support has made the journey of parenting much more enjoyable and less overwhelming.
- Such a great experience with the kindest team of support workers. They've helped me a lot with school prep and suggested many helpful ideas and local networks that I can approach.
- I am pleased to say that my child and I have thoroughly enjoyed attending the playgroup. The activities, interactions, and supportive environment have been wonderful. My child has had a great time engaging with other children and participating in the various activities provided. As a parent, I have found the playgroup to be a valuable resource and a welcoming community.
- All the program facilitators running the program are engaging and enthusiastic. They are friendly with the kids and share lots of information with the parents.
- One of the biggest concern is whether my son will be able to sit down, follow routine, and enjoy the session. After 2 terms of this program, he looks forward to attending. The educators put a lot of thought into the program and are really engaged with the kids.
- I'm grateful for the free pre-kindy program I just wish it would run longer term.

SERVICE FEEDBACK

- This was the first time we have partnered with another organisation to deliver a pre-kindergarten program at our school. It was a fantastic experience and I believe we have made a program available to a group of families that did not exist previously. This program specifically targeted students with diagnosed disabilities. To my knowledge this is a first in this area.
- It provided a safe space for parents and their child to play with one another, under the supervision of trained and dedicated staff who provided a range of fun and engaging activities. Parents were able to network with staff and each other and offer support and strategies as many were in similar circumstances. It gave the children an opportunity to socialise with same aged peers and to further develop their social skills as they learnt to take turns, negotiate with peers and resolve conflicts. I saw positive outcomes from all of the students who participated in the program as they learnt to build resilience to enable them to cope with new situations and manage stress.
- I am prepared to jump any barriers to run this program on an ongoing basis. Finance will always be a concern but hopefully not a full barrier. With changes upcoming within the Federal and State Governments in terms of students and early intervention programs such as this I am hopeful that money may follow with their positive intent. If not it will be a case of seeking possible funding grants as I believe this program is vital for our community.

EVENT FLYER



Free Term 4 program

Connecting Community for Kids 

Endeavour Schools

Free Transition to School Program for children starting Kindy in 2024

About the Play Sessions

Endeavour Primary School and Endeavour Education Support Centre are two schools working together as one to create better transition to school pathways for all children. The play-based sessions provide a great opportunity to create social connections, which can help reduce isolation and anxiety surrounding the transition to school.

All children will be included in this new program, with Endeavour Education Support School extending a warm welcome to any families who are looking at exploring a supported school setting for their children who may experience Global Developmental Delay, Autism Spectrum Disorder, or another diagnosed disability.

Allied Health Professionals will be in attendance on 26 October and 30 November to speak with families, and provide information and strategies to support your child's development.

Parents are required to stay at the School for the duration of the session, and will be responsible for their children at all times.

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Visit www.dss.gov.au for more information.

Dates
Every Thursday morning during Term 4, 2023 (from 12 October)

Time
9am to 10.30am

Location
Endeavour Primary School
38 Endeavour Drive, Port Kennedy

Guest Speakers
There will be two guest speakers in Term 4:
26 October: Danielle from 'Toileting Tots'
30 November: Kelly from Child Development and Behaviour Specialists

Registrations
Registrations are essential via:
Phone: (08) 9591 6100, or
Email: endeavour@education.wa.edu.au

These sessions are open to everyone in the community, you do not have to be enrolled at Endeavour Primary School or Education Support Centre.




Free Term 4 5 week program

Connecting Community for Kids 

Coolbellup Learning Centre Pre-Kindy

Transition to Kindy for children with High Support Needs

About the Program

This is a 5-week program hosted at Coolbellup Learning Centre for families and children aged 3 to 4 years with high support needs. Children, together with their parent/guardian, will attend a facilitated hour and a half program run by Yangebup Family Centre staff.

The program will provide an opportunity for children to engage in fun-filled literacy and sensory educational experiences followed by outdoor play and morning tea - all within a Special Education School setting. These sessions provide a great opportunity to create social connections prior to attending school which can help reduce isolation and anxiety surrounding the transition to school.

Who should attend
This program is specifically for children who have Global Developmental Delay, Autism Spectrum Disorder (can be wait-listed for ASD), or any other diagnosed disability.

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Visit www.dss.gov.au for more information.

Dates
Monday, 16 October 2023
Monday, 23 October 2023
Monday, 30 October 2023
Monday, 6 November 2023
Monday, 13 November 2023

Time
9.15am - 10.45am

Location
Coolbellup Learning Centre (CLC)
15 Waverley Road, Coolbellup

Registrations
Registrations are essential, with a commitment to all 5 sessions needing to be made.
To find out more about this program, or to register, please contact Madalaine on 0491 677 630, or email MadalaineK@connecting4kids.com.au




IMPACT: EARLY YEARS CAMPAIGN

ABOUT

According to the AEDC, one in five children are considered developmentally vulnerable by the time they start full time schooling.

CCK facilitated and led the 'Together We Can' campaign to improve the development, health and learning of children in the early years to create lasting change. It is together that we can recognise the importance of the early years and champion better outcomes.

The campaign highlights five key messages around the Early Years - Read, Explore, Sing, Rhyme and Play.

To support this campaign read and explore banners have been rolled out at 10 banner locations across Cockburn, directing people to the CCK website where they can find more information, activities and resources.

SNAPSHOT



BANNERS

Together We Can
• **EXPLORE** •

Spending 15 minutes
in nature daily
boosts health and well-being

www.connecting4kids.com.au/earlyyears

City of Cockburn Connecting Community for Kids CCK

Together We Can
• **READ** •

1 book a day means
children hear 290,000
extra words by age 5

www.connecting4kids.com.au/earlyyears

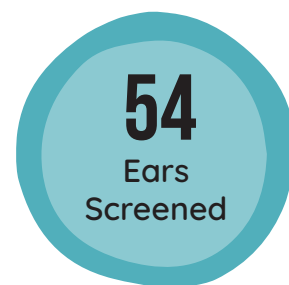
City of Cockburn Connecting Community for Kids CCK

ABOUT

Throughout 2023 we held pop-up and play sessions across Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham and Mandurah. These sessions were for 'all abilities' and included a wide variety of sensory play. We also took the opportunity to teach the children a special children's Acknowledgment to Country during these sessions. The sessions are an opportunity for parents to connect with each other, as well as offering a safe and inclusive environment for all children in the community.

All sessions were well received and ticket allocations were exhausted within 24 hours for each session due to families looking for fun, free sensory play options in their area during this time of rising costs of living. Families enjoy attending pop ups during the school holidays due to limited free play options available and social isolation, as many playgroups and facilities are closed during this time.

SNAPSHOT



EVENT FLYER

Connecting Community for Kids CCK

Term 4 Sensory POP-UP PLAY

We welcome all families in the Cockburn area to join us at one of our Term 4 Pop-Up Sensory Play sessions. The sessions are aimed at children aged 0 - 5 years, of all abilities, to play in a safe and welcoming space. (although all ages are welcome). These are free play sessions. Please bring your own morning tea, picnic rug, water, hat and sun screen.

| Date | Time | Location | Booking | Theme |
|--------------------|-------------|--|--|-------------------|
| Monday 20 November | 9.30 - 11am | Cilantro Park, Banjup | www.trybooking.com/CNDRT | Out of this World |
| Monday 27 November | 9.30 - 11am | Radiata Park, Aubin Grove | www.trybooking.com/CNDRW | Antarctica |
| Monday 4 December | 9.30 - 11am | Botany Park, Hammond Park | www.trybooking.com/CNDRX | Swamp Fun |
| Monday 11 December | 9.30 - 11am | Bibra Lake Regional Playground, Bibra Lake | www.trybooking.com/CNDRY | Into the Wild |
| Monday 18 December | 9.30 - 11am | Dixon Reserve Playground, Hamilton Hill | www.trybooking.com/CNDRZ | Christmas |

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Woodside Energy

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

All Abilities

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Out of 125 votes at the Cockburn Teddy Bears Picnic, the community wants more:

- 33 votes: Pop-up play sessions
- 25 votes: Free school holiday programs
- 22 votes: Accessible mental health support for parents
- 12 votes: Multicultural family events
- 11 votes: Inclusive activities for children of all abilities
- 10 votes: Messy and sensory casual play sessions

Information sheets on how activities support their child's development were available at all sessions.

Connecting Community for Kids CCK

PLAYING WITH COLOURED RICE

HELPS YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT OF:

- Fine Motor Skills**
Through picking up the rice and using spoons and scoops. Strengthening hands and fingers will help with dressing, eating, drawing and writing skills.
- Language Skills**
Such as talking about everything we are seeing and doing with the rice.
- Math Skills**
Such as recognising patterns and talking about big/small comparisons.
- Cognitive Skills**
Such as recognising colours and problem solving.

www.connecting4kids.com.au

All Abilities

Woodside Energy

IMPACT: CULTURAL CAPACITY BUILDING - FRAN WINDON

ABOUT

Fran Windon is a proud Noongar Yuet Yorga who has a strong interest in sharing her heritage and culture. Fran has over 15 years of experience in the education and care sector and has been working as an Aboriginal Play-leader at Moordijt Kulungar Playgroup for over 10 years. CCK has been supporting Fran and her Playgroup for many years.

Through feedback and conversations with Education and Care Services, schools, services, and the community CCK identified the most needed support was Embedding Aboriginal Culture into environments. CCK have supported and guided Fran to develop a training package to deliver to staff and an educational experience for children while in services. This process is now ready to be launched with Fran having her own business - Kulungar Waabiny - 'Embedding Aboriginal Culture into Services'.

SNAPSHOT

4

Services held PD for staff

9

Education and care services held PD

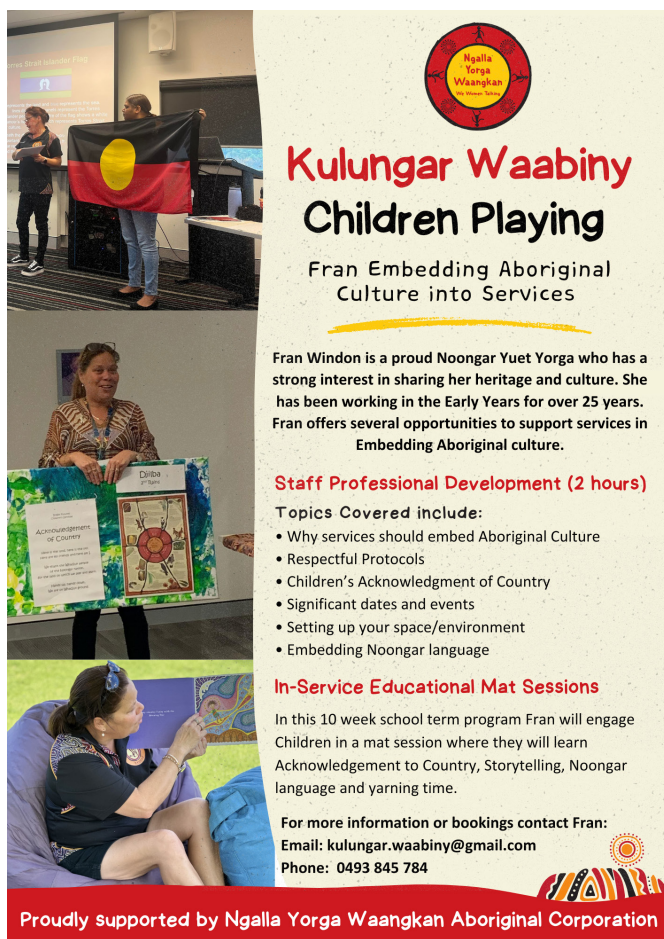
115

Total attendees

100%

Felt more able to embed aboriginal culture after training

EVENT FLYER



Kulungar Waabiny Children Playing

Fran Embedding Aboriginal Culture into Services

Fran Windon is a proud Noongar Yuet Yorga who has a strong interest in sharing her heritage and culture. She has been working in the Early Years for over 25 years. Fran offers several opportunities to support services in Embedding Aboriginal culture.

Staff Professional Development (2 hours)

Topics Covered include:

- Why services should embed Aboriginal Culture
- Respectful Protocols
- Children's Acknowledgment of Country
- Significant dates and events
- Setting up your space/environment
- Embedding Noongar language

In-Service Educational Mat Sessions

In this 10 week school term program Fran will engage Children in a mat session where they will learn Acknowledgement to Country, Storytelling, Noongar language and yarnning time.

For more information or bookings contact Fran:
Email: kulungar.waabiny@gmail.com
Phone: 0493 845 784

FEEDBACK

- I found it very informative and gave me a lot to take back to my team and reflect on.
- Thank you for coming out and teaching us. It was such a great incursion for us and all coworkers feel confident to implement the ideas Fran shared.
- I now have clarity on tokenism, languages and how to do a children's Acknowledgment of Country.
- After attending this training I have increased my cultural understanding and appreciation of the Aboriginal Cultures.
- I now have a better understanding of the RAP, flags and Acknowledgment of Country for our playgroups.
- I am now confident I can better embed aboriginal culture within our key services after attending this training.
- The training gave me a lot to take back to my team and reflect on.

STRATEGIC PLAN

- NYWAC have revised their strategic plan to position themselves as an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) with an Early Years focus, they have skilled Directors and members who can support this expansion of their strategic plan. They continue to focus on supporting all Aboriginal women in the Kwinana and Rockingham LGA's this has been expanded to target activities for children to improve their outcomes.
- NYWAC submitted a consortia funding application to Department of Social Services to develop improved Child Protection support to keep Aboriginal children out of care. The consortia was invited for an interview by the Department and whilst not successful were able to provide evidence of their ability to deliver this work. The funding was for \$ 5 million over 4 years.



NGALLA YORGA WAANGKAN ABORIGINAL CORPORATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2023

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  ASPIRATION | To provide a safe place for elders to come together to connect with others | | |
|  OUTCOME(S) | Provide opportunities for Elders to have respite through activities, community engagement and connecting with fellow community members | | |
|  ASPIRATION | Children are happy, healthy and proud and participate in community life | | |
|  OUTCOME(S) | Children are strong in culture and know their history | Children laugh and play and make friends | Children are ready to start school on track |
|  ASPIRATION | Families are connected and engaged in supporting their children to thrive; they know where to and how to access support for all family members | | |
|  OUTCOME(S) | Families are involved in their children's wellbeing and development | Families are confident in accessing services and empowered to advocate for their families | |
|  ASPIRATION | First Nations community in Kwinana is strong, rich in culture and thriving | | |
|  OUTCOME(S) | All First Nations children living Kwinana have a strong sense of belonging | The community is safe and inclusive of everyone | |

ABOUT



Wanslea · Follow

3 d · 🌐



We are so excited to announce our partnership with [Connecting Community for Kids!](#) 🎉

[Wanslea's](#) CEO Jo Sadler and CCK's CEO Jane Miller signed an MoU this week to make our partnership official 👉

The MoU expands on our delivery of the Ears2Learn program, with CCK providing further funding for mentorship, training and equipment so more of our team can complete ear screens for children 🤍

On top of this, the MoU supports our delivery of Maaraka Dabakarn to communities across the Perth Metro, South West, Wheatbelt and Great Southern 🗣️

Maaraka Dabakarn provides child behaviour and development early intervention support to parents and carers through group sessions in the community 🗣️

We can't wait to work alongside CCK to deliver its community-informed programs that make such a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of children and families ✨



IPAA AWARDS

CATEGORY: AUSTRALIA POST AWARD FOR BEST PRACTICE IN COLLABORATION ACROSS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

GOLD WINNER: EARS2LEARN AND MAARAKA DABAKARN (HANDS TO STEADY)

Connecting Community for Kids, EarBus Foundation of WA, Goodstart Early Learning, WANSLEA, Just Kids Health, Next Bite Feeding, CDBS and Vivid Therapy

Connecting Community for Kids have co-designed through community collaboration two early child health interventions. Our community identified delayed intervention as the primary cause of children failing to thrive. Community led action teams engaged in a co-design process involving community members, early years services and allied health professionals.

Ears2Learn: provides free universal access to ear screening surveillance by trained paraprofessionals.

Maaraka Dabakarn: Hands to Steady is an early intervention support for families with children experiencing developmental delay enabling them free access to a range of therapists each month to receive information and tools to support their child and family's wellbeing.



The endorsement from the Institution of Public Administration highlights the significance of CCK's community-led collaboration that has designed sustainable interventions that are now being discussed quite deeply within government for potential roll out.