



CONNECTING COMMUNITY FOR KIDS 2023

**IMPACT REPORT -
MAARAKA DABAKARN
HANDS TO STEADY**

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.

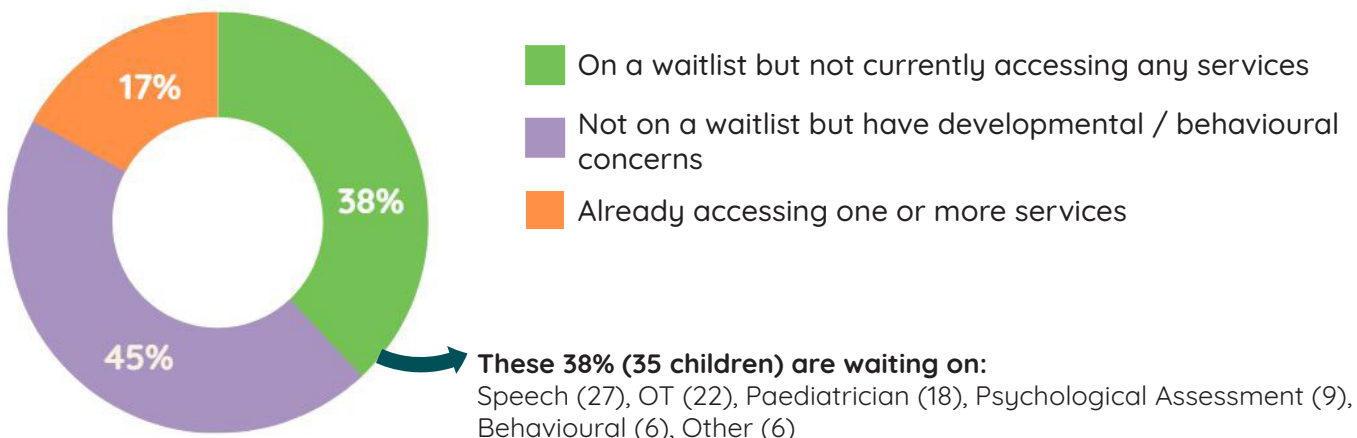
Ears2Learn is offered on the day, which provides families with the option to have their children's ears screened. NDIS partner Wanslea attend Maaraka Dabakarn to provide advice to parents regarding funding and support.

SNAPSHOT



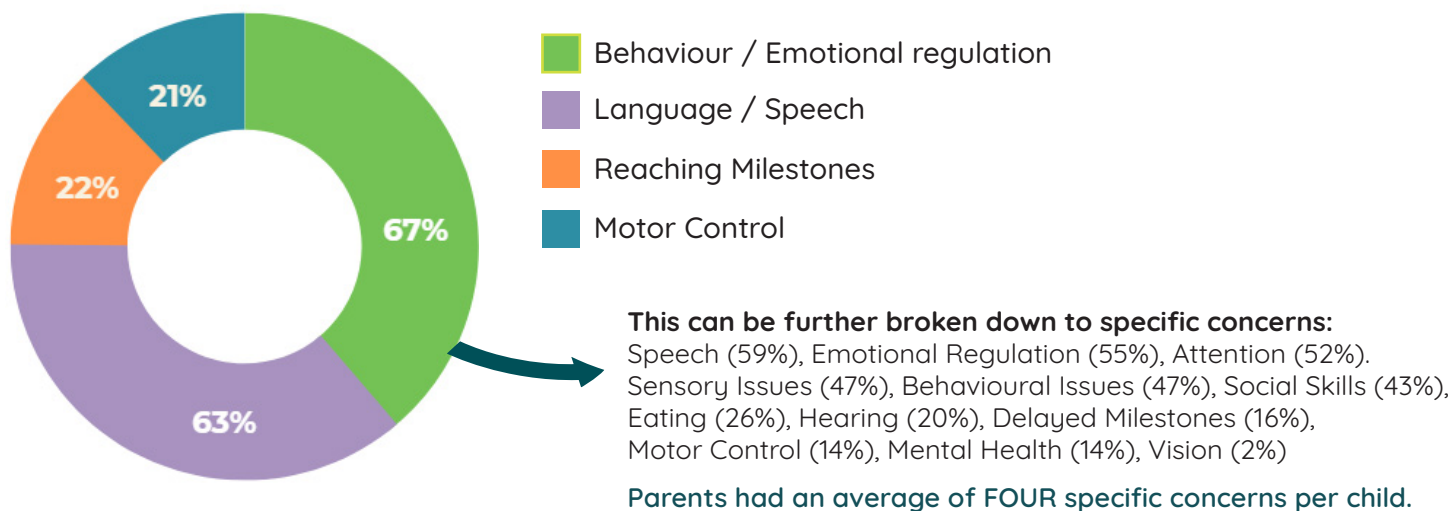
DATA - MORE DETAILED DATA OVER THE LAST 6 MONTHS

We have collected data from our last 6 events which have been held monthly, rotating across our target local government areas: Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham and Mandurah. This data provides a snapshot of the issues children and families are experiencing and demonstrates the need for greater access to, and increased funding for, early intervention health care and supports for children 7 years of age and under.



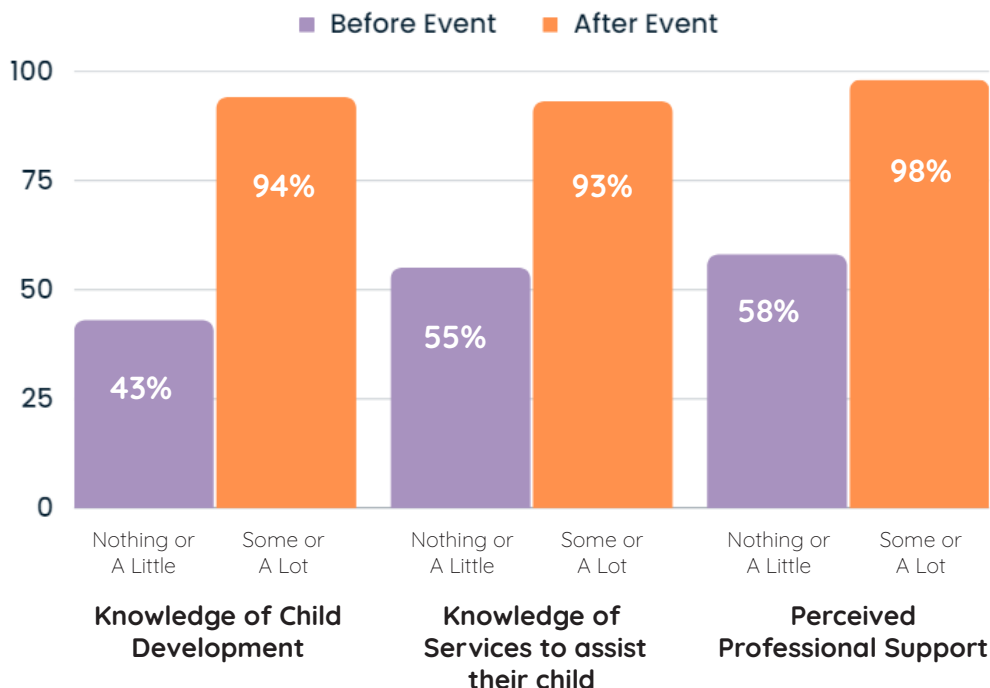
DATA - MAIN AREAS OF CONCERN

At registration 91 parents selected their main area(s) of concern about their child from the following options. Interestingly, behavioural and emotional regulation difficulties were the most predominantly reported for the 91 children, however only 6 children in total were currently on waitlists for a psychologist or behavioural therapist.



DATA - PRE AND POST EVENT SURVEY RESULTS

Overall, 91 families completed our pre-event survey, and 58 families completed our post-event survey as they left the event. 3 questions were asked in the pre and post-event survey which assessed parental knowledge of available services/supports, knowledge about child development, and perceptions regarding professional support.



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

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 about 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.