



A Village for Every Child | Update March 2022

What's been happening in A Village for Every Child?

This year we have seen some exciting progress across all Working Groups and really have to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of everyone as we continue to be impacted by Covid-19. With a strong start to the year we hope to see a range of activities and actions progressing across the Belconnen community soon. With this increase in activity we will start to introduce our measurement, evaluation and learning frameworks to ensure that we are capturing any impacts.

What's been going on in the Working Groups?



Improved Transitions to School Working Group

We are excited to report that this working group will be starting some of the transition activities and processes they have developed over the past few months with 5 early adopter (trial site) schools and Early Childhood Education and Care services (ECECs) services in Belconnen. A huge thank you to the schools, ECECs and Education Directorate representatives who have continued to collaborate despite the incredible pressures they are under in responding to Covid-19 impacts. Their commitment to continue demonstrates the importance of the work.

The group has been developing ideas to improve transition practice and have designed an approach that will strengthen existing enrolment and transition roles and practice in ECECS and schools and build a

Community of Practice (CoP) to support this. The CoP aims to up-scale the approach across Belconnen, share best practice and support the development of relationships between schools and ECECs, creating an environment where ideas and learnings can be shared. It will provide an opportunity for peer-to-peer support, consolidating & further developing transition roles and supports and building a connected network between schools and ECECs.

ECECs and schools will continue to ensure that enrolment information and support is provided before and during bulk enrolment rounds and as needed. The Working Group will now focus its efforts on developing the CoP and embedding best transition practices across ECECs and schools throughout the year.

We would like to thank Baringa Early Learning Centre, the YMCA Holt Early Learning Centre and CRCS Early Learning Centres and Latham, Maribyrnong and Charnwood/Dunlop schools for their participation as early adopter, trial sites. We welcome any schools in Belconnen to come on board and will be sending out invitations closer to the first Community of Practice in June.



Improved Service and School Connections with Families

The Connections Working Group continues to consider how to improve accessibility and relationships with child and family support services. A particular area being explored is schools as communities and what opportunity there is to support families through their connection with schools.

A highlight for this group was the recent transition to two co-chairs. The co-chairs have shown great dedication to the role and despite working together for the first time, have created a supportive environment that has resulted in well-coordinated and facilitated meetings. This has allowed the group to take deeper dives into understanding the different perspectives and experiences of members around particular topics. This shift has demonstrated the importance of members taking on these roles.



Better Data Working Group

This group reached a milestone this month with agreement on the delivery of a data workshop series to be rolled out across June, July and August. The workshops will invite service providers, Early Childhood Education and Care services, schools and community residents to contribute their understanding of what is important for the wellbeing of children in Belconnen and what data might support this. This information will be used to contribute to the development of a Belconnen Child and Family Community Profile. The information in the Profile will support a series of spring road shows which will introduce local data to the Belconnen community and ask them to reflect on what it means to them and the children of Belconnen and how we can collectively respond to what it is telling us.

This group has also had a few new members come on board in this period, which now means there is broader representation from UnitingCare Kippax and ACT Health, Education and Community Services

Directorates.



Since the end of last year, the Leadership Group has welcomed a new chair, Michael Nurmi, Acting CEO UnitingCare Kippax. The group farewelled Meg Richens who had been a passionate advocate for the work of Village and we would like to acknowledge and thank her for this. The Leadership Team is currently focused on identifying how their organisations align with the Village strategic direction, where the opportunities lie and where there are opportunities for contribution to achieving the goals.

Another area of focus is the response to the Interim Evaluation Report which is the first report on Village. Village is using a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework to ensure that there is opportunity for continual improvement and reflection on where Village can improve with regards to using the collective impact model and progressing its work. The Leadership Group will consider the recommendation and make a plan to address these across Village.



Other News

Strathnairn School Development

Village has been collaborating with Ginninderry to look at opportunities to provide input into the design of the new school, Strathnairn, announced for Ginninderry in 2025. In January we co-facilitated a discussion between the ACT Education Planning team, Education representatives, the Ginninderry planning and community development team, Evatt primary school, ARACY and Village representatives. Each service provided expertise and insights into schools as communities and discussed the opportunity to inform the design of the Strathnairn school (and potentially future schools in the ACT). Following this meeting a survey was distributed to Village members to seek to inform further input into the design of the school as well as inform Village in reaching its aim of improving wellbeing and educational outcomes for 0-5 year olds and their families. Thank you to the Village partners who participated in the survey.

First 1000 Days – ACT Government Strategy and Action Plan Development - led by ACT Health and CSD

In March Village was invited to participate in the development of the ACT Government First 1000 Days

Strategy and Healthy Start Action Plan. The aim of the plan is to make the ACT service system work to support children and families, in all their diversity, to achieve their goals and enable health and wellbeing. This focus is an area that Village is also looking at in the Connections Working Group, so the opportunity to participate in the series of workshops, bringing the collective voice and a holistic and collaborative lens to the discussion was fantastic. Village was also able to engage some of its partner organisations in some consultation about the First 1000 days.

Welcoming New Members

This quarter we welcomed additional members from; ACT Health, UnitingCare Kippax and ACT Education Directorate. We are also very pleased to have welcomed a new organisation; YMCA (Holt Early Learning Centre).

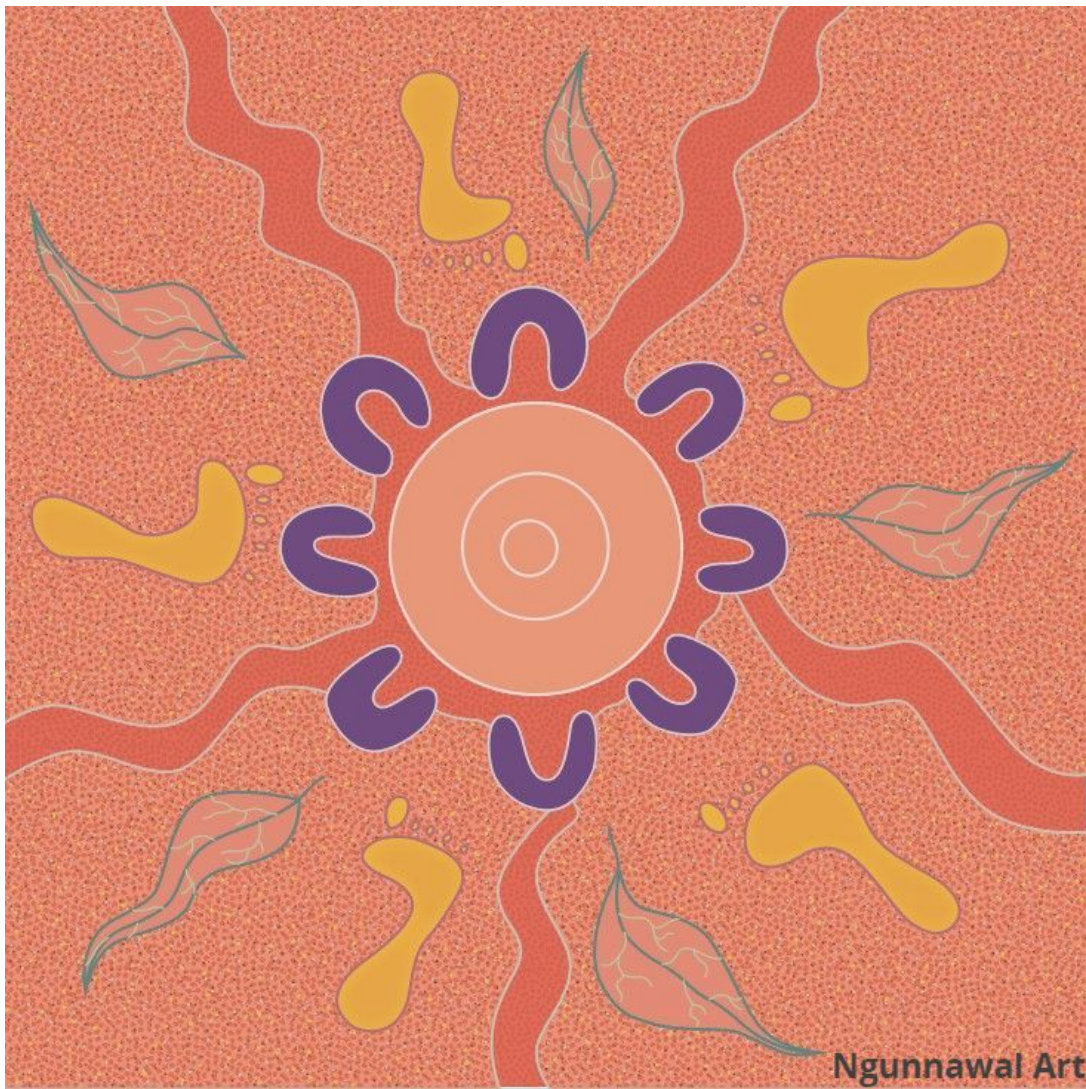
If you would like anymore information on any of these projects, please contact

Village@kippax.org.au

Upcoming Activities and Events

Child Wellbeing Workshops Series - Look out for our series of Community Workshops coming up in June, July and August. We hope to engage families, service providers, schools, Early Childhood and Education and Care services in conversations about wellbeing for children and families. Keep an eye out for more information on our website or in our June newsletter.

Website launch - We are very excited to announce that the [Village website](#) will be live 11/4/2022! This portal aims to inform the work that the Belconnen – A Village for Every Child initiative is doing. This is the place for parents, educators, service providers and community members to find the tools, resources, and advice they need on raising children in the Belconnen region



Village Members



