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Manager Children’s Centres
Multidisciplinary teams

Meeting the needs of families through Children’s Centres for Early Childhood Development & Parenting
Children’s Centres

- 42 Children's Centres across metropolitan and regional South Australia

- 5 more Children’s Centres are planned to open within the next 2 years
4 Children and Family Centres

- Established through the National Partnership for Indigenous Early Childhood Development
- Focusing on supporting Aboriginal families to have the best possible start in life
Vision

Children’s Centres support children and families achieve:

- the best possible learning
- health and wellbeing outcomes

in a universal setting with targeted responses for families who may require additional support.
Population Outcomes

- Children have optimal health, development & learning
- Parents provide strong foundations for their children’s healthy development and wellbeing
- Communities are child and family friendly
- Aboriginal children are safe, healthy, culturally strong and confident
Children’s Centre Model

- Early learning and care programs
- Family and community programs
- Child health
Multidisciplinary Teams

- Educators (Director, teachers, care providers, para professional staff)
- Community Development Coordinator
- Family Services Coordinator
- Allied Health
- Child & Family Health staff
- Antenatal support
- NGOs
Educators
Community Development Coordinators

- Work in partnership with other agencies to facilitate a range of programs and services.
- Collect, input and analyse AEDC and local data
- Coordinate the delivery of services
- Connect with local agencies
Family Services Coordinators

- Support vulnerable families
- Help strengthen family and community capacity in responding to children
- Provide parenting programs focusing on relationships and well being.
Allied Health

Speech Pathologists
Occupational Therapists

- Assist children to develop play and social skills, language and movement.
- Support centre staff to identify children at risk of developmental delay
- Promote children’s development
CAFHS, Antenatal & NGOs
Governance Structure

- Partnership Group
- Governing Council
- Preschool/School Governing Council
- Parent Engagement
- Leadership Team
- Governing Bodies
  - Other agencies
Partnership Group

- Coordinates agency activities
- Develops a centre vision
- Monitors family and community consultation
- Has a rep on the Governing Council
- Brings together agencies/partners with shared responsibility for young children and families from across the community
Leadership Team

• Contributes to the development of a CC vision
• Provides advice to the Partnership and Governing Council on services and programs
• Develops strategies for encouraging broad community participation and engagement based on advice from the Parent Engagement Group
• Monitors service outcomes and provides advice to continuously improve services
Parent Engagement Group

Assist and influence decision making across the centre:

- Supporting families to be actively engaged in services, programs and identification of community needs

- Providing advice to the Leadership Team and Partnership Group on programs and services needed in or through the Centres
Good News Stories
What have we learnt?

When a multidisciplinary team addresses a need in the community, it will be able to achieve outcomes that would otherwise not be possible or not as readily achieved with a number of different organisations working separately.

(Press, Sumsion & Wong, 2010)
We know. . .

- Director’s role
- Cohesive multidisciplinary teams
- Local line management
- Prioritising programs
- Accountability & reporting
- Data collection & analysis
- Governance structure
Comments & questions