



Anglicare SA: Communities for Families Project

Supported by the Australian Government: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs



Background and context

- 2007 - Community Audit conducted by the Centre for Community Child Health
- Various government and non government agencies and community organisations
- Playford North “Peachy Belt” – high needs area



Key findings

- Poor levels of literacy
- Intergenerational unemployment
- Low retention rates in schools and minimal levels of participation beyond year 8
- Minimum access by residents to local support services
- High levels of involvement by child protection agencies.e.g, Families SA



Key findings - continued

- High rates of criminal activity
- Limited options for sustainable employment and skills development
- Minimal access by local residents to pre school facilities, child care centres
- Redevelopment in Playford North – physical focus rather than social



Place-based response

- Place based, holistic response to the needs of individuals and families
- Funding sought and received – Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs
- \$1.9M funded over three years of which \$1.2M dedicated to service delivery (2007 to 2010)



Project Goals & Objectives

- Disengaged families are engaged in relevant services to improve their circumstances
- Children arrive at school ready to learn – access to good nutrition, hygiene and antinatal care
- Children attend school regularly and remain at school until completion of school certificate
- Adults and youth are job ready particularly in relation to literacy and numeracy skills



Cont: Goals and Objectives

- Families function well including good parenting practices, stable personal finances, reduced instances of violence and substance abuse
- Services in Playford North are working together and providing coordinated and integrated services to improve client access and outcomes
- Community wellbeing improved through reduced youth involvement in criminal activity, reduced antisocial behaviour and to increase sense of personal safety



Activities and Interventions

- Work with FaCSIA re Service coordination and integrated service delivery involving other government agencies.i.e, Dept Education, Science & Training (DEST), Dept of Employment & Workplace Relations (DEWR) & Dept of Health & Ageing (DoHA)
- Case management plans, review and follow up
- Identify existing service gaps and augment existing services
- Work with local agencies and institutions
- Undertake activities to increase community business engagement and corporate citizenship
- Address literacy and numeracy problems in children aged 0-5 years



Continued:

- Expand existing playgroups to support the development of parenting and life skills
- Target families with children 8 – 10 years at risk of not completing primary school
- Implement a series of practical hands-on educational activities for families to improve adult literacy
- Engage families in pathways to further education and training



Community development approach

- Building relationships with the community and local service providers
- Consulting with residents:
 - what is good about living on the belt?
 - what's not so good and why?
 - How can we make it a better?



Community Development approach

- Creating a vision for the community in consultation with residents and community groups
- Identifying potential activities and initiatives
- Linking with the broader community and other stakeholders
- Identifying what the community wants, why, how, when, where and by whom



The process – engagement strategies

- One on one conversations with individuals, families, staff, workers in other agencies, service providers, shop keepers, local small businesses, non government and government agencies
- Focus groups, public forums, BBQ's, street corner surveys
- Participating in local events



Initial work

- Community – 72 individuals and families
- 42 community groups (200+ indivs)
- 4 major community events 400+ indivs)
- 29 Organisations & agencies
- 40 government & major service providers



Community Vision

- “We want a safe community where people are connected to each other, where we can participate in community life, where we are listened to and we can feel confident about our future”
- “no more surveys about needs – just do something about them”



Key themes

- Improving parks & public facilities
- Building stronger community
- Creating youth friendly spaces and activities
- Increasing accessibility of services, shops and public transport
- Supporting families & building health relationships
- Engaging in education and training
- Services working together
- Building capacity



Project outcomes – first year

- **Community engagement** – individuals define and drive community action
- **Parenting and family functioning** – families have knowledge, skills and resources to care and promote the positive development of their children



Project outcomes cont...

- Economic & Social Participation – children and adults develop the skills to become fully participating members of their community
- Community Capacity to make informed decisions – members of the Peachy Belt community are able to make more informed decisions and choices about their future, family and community



Further Action

- Development of strategies and activities in partnership with community and service providers to:-
 - 1. strengthen and support individuals and families
 - 2. build broader social connectivity
 - 3. enhance service coordination



Partnerships and collaborations

- City of Playford – Playford Alive
- Playford Community Health Centre
- Northern Area Community & Youth Services'
- SHINE SA
- Northern Carers Network
- SAPOL
- The Smith Family
- University of South Australia
- Local Primary Schools, Smithfield Plains High School and Para West Adult Campus



Service delivery focus

- 19 projects
- Community based organisations
80% - other: schools and further education based agencies
- Variety of interventions, approaches and environments
- Strengthening families and opening up opportunities



Next 2 years

- Community capacity building
- Integrated service planning and delivery
- Pathways to further education, training and employment
- Improving wellbeing, sense of community and self worth
- Documenting, monitoring process and outcomes – evaluation tools