



*Communities and caregivers giving children the best possible start and opportunities in life.*

## **Communities for Children Launceston East Tamar Site**

**Communities for Children is funded by the Australian Government and facilitated by Anglicare Tasmania**

### **Guiding Principles**

#### **Communities for Children National Principles**

Communities for Children aims to deliver positive and sustainable outcomes for at risk children and families in the Launceston and the East Tamar communities of Waverley, Ravenswood, Mowbray, Invermay, Mayfield, Newnham, Rocherlea, Dilston, Hillwood, Mount Direction, and George Town.

The project objectives are as follows:

#### **Healthy Young Families and Learning and Care**

Growing healthy and resilient families and communities, school familiarisation and readiness and ongoing educational engagement, to achieve improved:

- ante-natal and post-natal health
- child physical health and development
- child cognitive development and competence
- child social and emotional development

#### **Supporting Families and Parents**

Engaging and strengthening families, to achieve the following outcomes:

- strong parent/child relationships
- improved parenting competence and style
- improved family resources and capacity, including gaining employment
- increased knowledge and skills related to family functioning, family safety or child development
- maintaining improved family relationships

#### **Child Friendly Communities and Reducing Disadvantage Through Social Inclusion**

Partnering with all levels of government, and the business and community sectors to create child friendly communities, to achieve the following outcomes:

- communities inclusive of all families and cultures
- reduced disadvantage through improved access to health, education and other services
- increased social, civic and economic participation through provision of skills and support leading to improved connection to community
- improved community interest and capacity to own and respond to early childhood issues and issues that relate to families and communities
- community members, its facilities and institutions working together to improve early childhood and children's health, development and well-being



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## **Family and Children's Services Work Effectively as a System**

Supporting quality and collaborative practices approaches, to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved coordination of services and institutions to support the improvement in early childhood health, development and well-being and implementation of social inclusion priorities.

## **Launceston East Tamar Communities for Children Local Principles**

The additional principles outlined below have been adopted by the Launceston East Tamar Communities for Children Site Committee to guide the implementation and operation of local initiatives.

### **Vision**

The vision for the Launceston East Tamar Communities for Children Program 2004-2014 is:

**'Communities and caregivers giving children the best possible start and opportunities in life'**

The Launceston East Tamar Site Vision is underpinned by a range of goals that effectively link with the four project objectives and associated outcomes. Specifically the Site aims to:

- engage hard to reach families through offering opportunities for them to participate in community life
- engage families and children that are at risk due to factors including: drug and alcohol abuse mental health issues; domestic violence and social and financial disadvantage
- promote supportive and nurturing environments and communities where all children matter
- ensure that families are supported in their parenting role in a way that is sensitive and appropriate to their needs, circumstances and wishes

### **Focus**

In addition, the Site aims to ensure that services are effectively coordinated in order to offer families and children the best opportunity to engage and access services appropriate to their needs in a timely and integrated manner.

This Site will ensure that service delivery is flexible to meet the changing needs of the community, enabling families to participate fully in both their own immediate and wider community settings.

In giving attention to all children, the program will adopt a holistic view of the child and:

- employ prevention and early intervention approaches
- work with individuals and families, also influencing the contexts in which they live
- support key changes for babies, toddlers and children from conception to school entry
- recognise, respect and respond to diversity (including Aborigines, people with disabilities and people from diverse cultural backgrounds) and give additional attention to children most in need



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## **Engagement**

We will work in partnership (recognising that parents and caregivers are key drivers of the program), and will proactively reach out to ensure all voices are genuinely heard by ensuring that:

- communication with the community is open, jargon free, and clear
- participants are not disadvantaged by involvement (e.g. childcare, transport, or other costs)
- a range of informal and formal structures is used, including morning coffee groups, parent groups, child-care groups and search festivals in each local area
- program funds are used in a planned and flexible manner in accordance with an agreed Community Action Plan to resource services and goods, build capacity, provide consultation, support committee and group functioning, and to address any factors that restrict involvement

## **Approach**

The project will derive from and/or contribute to an evidence base validated by the local community. From this evidence base, the community develops local solutions, having regard to mechanisms already in place, and flexibility of responses to changing need.

This approach will:

- ensure all activity is based on knowledge of, about and from the community
- contribute to community capacity through building on strengths and assets
- ensure that results based accountability is a key feature of the program
- operate and respond in a flexible and timely manner and publicly celebrate and promote achievements as they occur

## **Service Delivery**

The program will develop, coordinate and add value to existing local services and build on, but not duplicate, existing structures and mechanisms.

The Launceston East Tamar Communities for Children Committee will:

- work from the bottom up, be people first in its orientation and learn as it goes
- be committed to action learning (regular reviews and self-assessment)
- have transparent structures and processes that are communicated clearly to the community
- have clearly articulated protocols around membership and conflict of interest
- look to maximise communication opportunities and linkages within the Committee
- be goal focused and work towards outcomes that can be measured

(Source: Launceston East Tamar Communities for Children Committee Terms of Reference, June 2010)