

## Mid Murray Family Connections (MMFC)

### What we've been up to...

The second half of 2017 has seen the MMFC Collective Impact Initiative move from a planning phase to a coordinated action phase. Four Work Groups secured outcomes on behalf of the MMFC network.

- 'Mid Murray Mums' closed Facebook page was launched, where parents with pre-school children can connect informally. 3 parents were recruited to moderate the group.
- A poster to promote the importance of play was developed and will be circulated to the community.



- A filmmaker from DECD was engaged to interview children and their families to highlight why attendance and engagement are so important for educational success; with the objective to use this tool in 2018 to promote school attendance.
- A mural trail across the Mid-Murray will be created, showcasing the importance of families in the community (with pre-school and school children participating in the creation of the mural). This complex project will happen over the course of a few years.

*The MMFC backbone team have been hard at work; supporting our partners to achieve their outcomes and driving significant projects to support the network.*

### 'Schools as Community Hubs' Project

We worked closely with Mannum Community College to support direct service provision from the school to build on the concept of 'Schools as Community Hubs'. CAMHS, headspace and ac.care (in 2018) will be providing outreach services from the school site.

We hope to build on this concept at other school sites across the Mid Murray in 2018.

### Mid-Murray Family Connections Website

A website for parents and their children across the Mid Murray was launched. The website is a dedicated space to support parents to access play, learning, health, fitness, support and educational opportunities for children and themselves.

The website is also currently being administered by a local resident and MMFC network member.



### Parent Child Mother Goose Facilitator Training

Grant funding was secured to deliver Parent Child Mother Goose Facilitator training to current playgroup facilitators, pre-school educators, school Chaplains and parents across the Mid Murray. We hope that this upskilling opportunity will result in enhanced playgroup experiences of children and their caregivers as well as more playgroup opportunities for the community.

### MMFC Network Review

A review of the MMFC network has been ongoing for the last few months of 2017. A survey was sent out to network members, seeking their feedback about the functioning of the network and to also check on the health of the network. From this feedback 3 new 'governance models' were developed and taken to both the Strategic Leadership Group and the network.

A governance structure has been adopted aligning place based Work Groups in the Mid-Murray region. Ensuring members aligned to each Work Group are involved in their community and hence the 'experts' of their communities, choosing and leading projects to secure outcomes that are important to them.

## What we've achieved...

MMFC network won the 2017 'Play Your Part' award with the National Association of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect for South Australia (one of the two recipients).

## Where we're going...

*We're gonna be busy...*recruiting and training 3 community members to take on the roles as Co-Facilitators of each place based work group ensuring sustainability of the work, as well as implementing the new governance structure.

To join the Mid Murray Family Connections Network contact:

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