

Meadows Primary School Early Learning Centre

The Communities for Children project financially supports the MELC – Community Hub coordinator's role and provides network support and direction for the Hub's Humming strategy. New funding applications due in May/June will incorporate new programs for families of children aged 6-12 years. The community is currently being canvassed to assess local families' needs.

Our current early years Community Hub programs are funded through the CfC Hume early years network. Partnerships are constantly sought to develop experiences that compliment the students learning and support community involvement. Broadmeadows Uniting Care is the Licence holder and employer for our 4 year old Kindergarten. They are also a key member of the Hume Early Years Partnership.

The home language facilitated playgroups provide volunteer's pathways and parent engagement in the school and early year's programs.

Our Arabic and Samoan playgroups are examples of parents, supported initially through the MELC – Hub and encouraged to obtain their Level 111 in child care at Vic Uni. These parents are now facilitating the playgroups. VICSEG offers financial assistance for the home language facilitators in the playgroups and also provides ongoing training. For example, one parent has completed her "Kinda Moves" assistance training and was employed in this role during 2008. This parent is currently employed by Uniting Care as our Kindergarten assistant in the 4 year old Kindergarten Blue group.

Melbourne City Mission employs local residents to work and supervise the School's Breakfast Club. Ongoing training has provided parents with confidence and built individual skills for additional opportunities. Eg parents who were trained in Cert 111 Food Handling at Dallas N/House have formed the Community Catering Co. providing Healthy Lunches at Let's Connect events, Harmony Day and the Active Broadmeadows "Walkoctober" day (540 lunches) One parent has now been employed in the Dallas Primary School Canteen.

Melbourne City Mission has supplied the training for 4 parents and our Bilingual aide in the Parent Child Mother Goose program. The MELC –Hub PCMG programs are currently facilitated by this group and one parent has now been offered additional work as a facilitator at Dallas Primary School Hub.

We incorporate an Arabic Family Support Worker provided by Anglicare into our playgroup sessions. and this worker has been a key resource for the Transition to School – pilot project. Anglicare Victoria is also a key partner in our BCNR, Let's Connect events and CfC network.

Each one Teach One is an English Language course supported by The Smith Family. Volunteer tutors are trained through AMES and then linked to parents wishing to gain additional language skills. The MELC – Community Hub provides the venue for parents to learn in the same space while their children are enjoying playgroup experiences.