

Families and Communities Programme

Onkaparinga Communities for Children Facilitating Partner

Community Strategic Plan

The Communities for Children Facilitating Partners (FP) Sub-activity

FPs are place-based and develop and facilitate a whole of community approach to support and enhance early childhood development and wellbeing for children from before birth to 12 years. FPs build on local strengths to meet local community needs and create capability within local service systems, using strong evidence of what works in early intervention and prevention as identified by the Families and Children Expert Panel. They collaborate with other organisations to provide a holistic service system for children and families. FPs fund other organisations (known as Community Partners) to provide services including parenting support, group peer support, case management, home visiting services and other supports to promote child wellbeing.

The Community Strategic Plan

The Community Strategic Plan (the Plan) supports FPs to set out a vision for their service area. It identifies the key needs and service gaps in the community, develops ways to better coordinate and collaborate and outlines priority areas and strategies to address need and improve outcomes for children and families.

The Plan should build on the extensive knowledge that FPs and their Committees have gained in working with their communities, often over long periods of time. This new Community Strategic Plan presents an opportunity to critically reflect on what is changing and what continues to be the strengths and challenges for your local community.

The Plan also reflects the Australian Government's commitment to civil society and an acknowledgement that it is only through everyone in a community working together that true change in outcomes and trajectories can be achieved. This includes governments, non-government organisations, academia, business and community members.

The Community Strategic Plan should be developed with the aim of achieving the Families and Children Activity Outcomes and the Communities for Children FP objectives. The objectives of the Communities for Children FP are outlined below, including the new objective around school transition and engagement.

- To improve the health and well-being of families and the development of young children, from before birth through to age 12 years, paying special attention to:
 - Healthy young families — supporting parents to care for their children before and after birth and throughout the early years;
 - Supporting families and parents — support for parents to provide children with secure attachment, consistent discipline and quality environments that are stable, positive, stimulating, safe and secure;

- Early learning — provide access to high quality early learning opportunities in the years before school; provide early identification and support for children at risk of developmental and behavioural problems; assist parents with ways they can stimulate and promote child development and learning from birth; and
- School transition and engagement - support children and families to make a smooth transition to school and work with local schools to assist children and families with their ongoing engagement with school.
- To create strong child-friendly communities that understand the importance of children and apply this capacity to maximise the health, well-being and early development of young children at the local level.

Community Strategic Plan Guidance

All Facilitating Partners are required to provide a Community Strategic Plan by 1 April 2015 for each Service Area and will cover the period to 1 July 2019.

The Plan includes the following sections:

1. Communities for Children Facilitating Partner's Details
2. Community Informed Service Mapping
3. Community Engagement
4. Service Area Vision
5. Priority Areas

When developing your Plan, you should consider the following documents:

- Families and Children Guidelines Overview
- Communities for Children FP Operational Guidelines
- Your Families and Communities Programme Grant Agreement, especially Item B
- Families and Children Performance Framework
- Families and Children Programme Logic, and
- State, territory and local government policies, plans and services

FPs will likely generate a substantial amount of valuable information as they develop their Plan. However, as part of the Department's commitment to reducing reporting requirements, FPs can limit responses to one page per section and one page per priority area.

The Plan must be developed in conjunction with your Communities for Children Committee and signed by an authorising officer in your organisation before it is submitted to your Grant Agreement Manager for review.

Please contact your Grant Agreement Manager if you need assistance developing your Plan or if you may have difficulty in meeting the due date.

Other useful information resources include:

- Factsheet on the Families and Children Expert Panel
- Factsheet on Collaboration
- Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage
- Closing the Gap: National Indigenous Reform Agreement
- The Toolkit for Indigenous Service Provision
- The Working and Walking Together handbook prepared by SNAICC
- The Engaging hard-to-reach families and children report by Natasha Cortis, Ilan Katz and Roger Patulny
- The Family Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) What Helps and Hinders, FRSA Linkages and Collaboration Project Report
- Interagency Collaboration by the Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Promising Practice Profiles at the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse by the Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Creating Conditions for Collective Impact

1. Communities for Children Facilitating Partner's Details

Facilitating Partner Details

Service Area Name

Onkaparinga

FP Name

AnglicareSA

FP Contact Name

Janine Carger

FP Contact Title

Manager Communities for Children

Address

1 William Street

Morphett Vale

State/Territory and Postcode

South Australia 5162

Community Strategic Plan

Date Communities for Children
Committee agreed to Community
Strategic Plan

27th March 2015

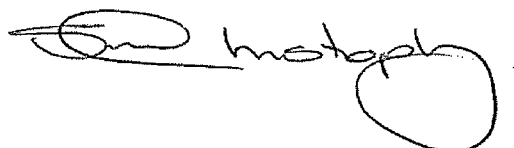
Name of Facilitating Partner
Authorising Officer

Sue Christophers

Senior Manager

Community Engagement

Signature of Facilitating Partner
Authorising Officer



DSS Use

Date of Submission to DSS

26/4/2015

Date of DSS approval

4/5/2015

DSS Delegate Name

Paul Regan

DSS Delegate Position

Departmental officer

DSS Delegate Signature



2. Community-Informed Service Mapping

Describe the key needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families in your community, and the current services and service gaps within your service area.

You should reflect on:

- **What are the key needs of families at risk of poor outcomes in your service area?**
- **Are there emerging needs for your community that you need to get on the front foot in addressing?**
- **What are the existing children and family services doing to meet those needs? Are there gaps?**

You should draw on feedback from community consultations, your existing knowledge of the community's demographics and social issues as well as other available resources, which may include:

- **Australian Early Development Index at www.rch.org.au/aedi**
- **The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy at www.naplan.edu.au**
- **Australian Bureau of Statistics, to access census data such as age profiles, unemployment and cultural diversity information, at www.abs.gov.au**
- **Settlement statistics at www.immi.gov.au/settlement**
- **State and territory specific information, including statistics on school attendance, domestic violence, child protection and crime.**

The Communities for Children Onkaparinga site has expanded from Morphett Vale, Hackham, Hackham West, Christie Downs, Aldinga, Aldinga Beach and Sellicks Beach to now include the suburbs of O'Sullivan Beach, Christies Beach, Christies Beach North, Huntfield Heights, Noarlunga Downs, Noarlunga Centre, Onkaparinga Hills, Port Noarlunga, Port Noarlunga South, Seaford, Seaford Rise, Seaford Meadows, Seaford Heights, Maslins Beach, Moana, Port Willunga and Silver Sands in the south of Adelaide, situated within the Local Government region of the City of Onkaparinga.

It is important from a planning perspective that we ensure that we build into our strategies the ongoing capacity to continue to build relationships and understand the needs, emerging themes and current activities within the new communities.

The site has numerous services, non-Government organisations, active service provision from the three levels of Government, community/neighbourhood centres and community groups that work collaboratively together with service delivery, networks and planning such as the Children's and Families Round Table, the Onkaparinga Collaborative Approach to the prevention of Domestic Violence (OCA), Seaford Forum, Neporendi, Joining Hands and Minds and Aldinga Sellicks Alliance providing a consistency of service delivery and information, increase of skills and self-confidence for community members and developing a greater sense of community within neighbourhoods to provide children with safe, happy environments and increase parenting skills to provide children with the best possible start in life.

Communities for Children Onkaparinga is also actively involved in Together in the South and State wide Child Friendly projects as well as taking the lead in the National Child Aware Local Initiative in Seaford working with the Australian Centre for Child Protection and Families Australia.

Community strengths include a strong volunteer base within community/neighbourhood centres, churches, Local Government, schools and kindergartens, recreation and leisure clubs, Neighbourhood Watch and service clubs. Businesses throughout the area are currently supporting sport and recreation, school projects and community fundraisers.

Those living in the community believe that one of the strengths is the closeness to facilities such as a choice of Kindergartens, schools, libraries, community centres, services, swimming pool, walking tracks and the beach and the amount of free or low cost activities available for children in the community. The existing knowledge and expertise within Communities for Children will continue to grow and be utilised throughout the life of the Initiative.

Most of the Communities for Children suburbs are situated approximately 30kms from the City of Adelaide with Sellicks Beach being 53kms from the city and each of these suburbs vary in size and population. In June 2013 the estimated resident population of the City of Onkaparinga was 166,435 persons accounting for approximately 10% of the total population of South Australia. Onkaparinga has a very similar age profile to that of South Australia but a higher proportion of younger people aged 19 and under, 19.1% of Onkaparinga were aged between 0-14 compared to 17.7% of South Australia.

Population Projections: The ABS projects that between 2011 and 2021 the number of children under the age of 4 in Onkaparinga will increase by 1,238, children aged 5-9 will increase by 2,165, those aged 10-14 by 1,472 and those 15 to 19 by 775.

It is expected that South Coast, Hackham, Hills and North coast SLA's are expected to have

significant total population growth over the next 15 or so years with the SLA areas of Morphett Vale, Woodcroft and Reservoir having the lowest total population growth.

SEIFA index of disadvantage:

There is a strong link between poverty and education i.e. that the likelihood of a young person completing secondary school and finding secure employment is directly affected by the parents socio-economic status. Within the Onkaparinga site there are 4th generation unemployed families this restricts children from knowing they can have goals outside of their family and that they can reach them and how to do this.

27.6% of the population in the Onkaparinga region are concession card holders compared to 27.0% across South Australia and 22.9% across Australia.

The City of Onkaparinga SEIFA Index of disadvantage is 993.4 with the Greater Adelaide also being 993.0. It is worth noting here that the SEIFA indices are low across all areas and this is particularly marked in Hackham West (922, an increase from 816 in 2011), O Sullivan Beach (915) and Christie Downs being the lowest at (820). (ABS 2011)

Unemployment :

Based on the December 2014 quarter statistics the total unemployment for the City of Onkaparinga was 8.4% which masks the wide variation in unemployment rates within the city with the highest unemployment rates in suburbs being: Christie Downs (18.3), Hackham West/Huntfield Heights (18.1%), Morphett Vale West (13.4%) Aldinga (11.0%), Morphett Vale East (10.1%) and Seaford (9.4%). (This data has been sourced from the Small Area Labour Market Australia 2014 December Quarter)

Child Protection Notification data shows that Child Protection concerns across the state increased by 6.1% from the previous year and notifications increased by 1.9%. Recently we were advised that a significant percentage of Child Protection notifications within Noarlunga come from the Seaford, Seaford Meadows communities.

AEDC

The AEDC five domains are closely linked to the predictors of good adult health and social outcomes.

In the area of Social Competence the AEDC measures overall social competency, responsibility and respect, approaches to learning, readiness to explore new things. Children who identify as developmentally vulnerable on this domain are recognised as having average to poor overall social skills, low self-confidence and are rarely able to play with various children and interact cooperatively.

In 2012 the AEDC identified that of the children in the Onkaparinga area where the teacher completed the checklists 25.0% of children in the Noarlunga Downs community were classified as vulnerable on the AEDC domain of social competency with Seaford Meadows close behind at 22.3% both considerably higher than the State average at 11.3%.

In the AEDC domain area of Emotional Maturity which includes areas such as prosocial and helping behaviours, anxious and fearful, aggressive and hyperactive and inattention behaviours Noarlunga

Downs was highlighted again with 23.1% of children noted as being developmentally vulnerable and 19.0% of children in O Sullivan Beach also were noted as being developmentally vulnerable which is considerably higher than the state percentage of 9.3%. In this domain also 32.1% of children within the Port Noarlunga community were seen to be developmentally at risk which is considerably higher than the state percentage of 15.5%.

There are a number of communities within the site whose percentages are considerably higher than the State average on the AEDC results for developmentally vulnerable on one or more (23.7%) and two or more domains (12.2%)

There are five communities where the number of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains are considerably higher than the State they are:

O'Sullivan Beach (42.9%), Noarlunga Downs (42.3%), Hackham West (36.1%), Christie Downs (35.6%) and Hackham (32.6%)

The four communities where the number of children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains considerably higher than the State average of 12.2% are:

Noarlunga Downs (25.0%), Hackham (23.3%), Port Noarlunga (21.4%) and Christie Downs (20.0%)

These children are considered to be at particularly high risk developmentally.

Children in the Onkaparinga region in year levels, 3, 5, 7 and 9 scored lower in the domains of Literacy (reading) and Numeracy in the NAPLAN scores than the state average in the same domains. Being able to read and write well are skills that assist children to have educational opportunities and increase their employment prospects. (DECD 2014)

Through the consultations we have undertaken within the community, families reported that the greatest challenges for them include the cost of living, budgeting and cooking nutritional food on a limited income.

Other areas included:

- finding affordable housing either rental or to buy, homelessness
- budgeting and cooking nutritional foods on a tight budget, reading and understanding labels on food and the provision of affordable or free activities for children
- unemployment, and job readiness
- parents experiencing challenges being emotionally available for children

Key needs as identified by the community including service providers in the consultation and through existing knowledge of the community we work in were:

1. Mental Health and wellbeing:

- Parent mental health issues affecting being emotionally available affecting children engaging in activities, difficult and inconsistent parenting styles
- Mental health of children and the links between behaviour, self- regulation and self- harm
- Support for children who are taking the responsibility for caring for younger siblings or their parents
- Developmental delays and emotional abuse of children
- Isolation

2. Healthy development of children and families:

- Children and young people living in homes where substance abuse is present affecting their healthy development, early childhood years, primary and secondary schooling. This includes the type of care they receive, their behaviour and capacity to engage consistently and well in school, out of school sport and after hours activities
- Child parent attachment issues relating to neglect and tier 2 and tier 3 child protection concerns
- Children in primary school experimenting or experiencing and knowing about drugs and alcohol
- Healthy eating for maximum benefit and healthy growth and development
- Adult Literacy

3. Inclusion of all children

- children who are most vulnerable of feeling excluded i.e. children on the ASD spectrum, those with disabilities and chronic illness, siblings of children with disabilities, indigenous children, children who live in Out of Home Care, Homelessness and Domestic Violence service accommodation
- Ongoing support for professionals, sporting clubs and service clubs such as scouts, guides etc to engage children in sport and activities.

4. Supporting children, parents and carers:

- Child and parent attachment, father and children attachment programs,
- Out of hours programs to assist fathers to participate.
- Supporting young parents under the age of 25 and all parents in areas such as:
 - Caring and developing consistent routines for children in the areas of settling, nutrition, behaviour, toileting and sleep habits from birth to teenager
 - Ages and stages of children, understanding their developmental stages across their childhood including play opportunities
 - Information about kindergarten, school readiness, how to enrol and engage
 - Understanding the importance of routines to support children to attend kindergarten/school every day and arriving on time.
- Supporting parents and Children to manage their different emotional states and build resilience to managing change in a positive manner.
- Parents who have had their children removed or at risk of removal including referral pathways to other agencies and activities
- Providing opportunities for Aboriginal led activities for children and families

5. School transition and engagement:

- Early literacy and numeracy
- Socialisation in the early years
- Early identification of children at risk of developmental and behavioural issues
- Supporting children within the school system to receive the support they require to minimise and reduce exclusion and suspension
- Building the capacity of girls and boys to understand the importance of and how to develop positive relationships

- Information provided about kindergarten, school readiness needs, enrolment and engagement.
- Understanding the importance of routines to support children to attend kindergarten/school everyday and arriving on time.

6. Difficulties related to trauma experienced by parents and children:

- Childhood trauma related behaviours of adults and its effects on behavioural and parenting styles. Disorganised attachment for children and effects of trauma on the developing brain, mental health, behaviour, self-esteem, self-regulation, self-harm and suicide.
- Family Violence, its effects on children and women living in these circumstances and the men who perpetrate violence.
- Professional development and upskilling of staff to understand trauma related behaviours, the developing brain, resilience, self-regulation and mindfulness

Gaps within the service sector:

Service providers reported that there are the following gaps:

- Cuts to community health and counselling, service providers informal supports have disappeared
- Concerns were raised regarding the significant impact in the local community of recent funding announcements and closures that have affected Medicare Local, Partners in Recovery, HALO and OPAL, Homelessness and Domestic Violence services, Community centre funding and Family Support programs and the gaps in services that will begin to appear after June 30 2015.
- Reduced psychological supports for children and their families. Southern CAMHS report that the Tier ones are seen within the service and a further 100 children are on waiting lists to be seen. Services that children previously would have been referred to have been reportedly decimated by changes within the community.
- Women's drop in services have closed
- Lack of services for Men, Men's groups, Men's workers, particularly in the area of Domestic Violence
- Services are feeling overwhelmed as the families they are working with or connecting with have multiple challenges and are often difficult to engage, many services are reporting needing to visit at home as a way to engage the family
- Services reported that children don't attend activities as many of the complex families do not come out of their homes so activities need to be local and engaging so children can attend without their parents.
- Difficult to find up to date information on current and local services to refer children and families experiencing difficulties to.

Limitations and or barriers that exist and impact on the accessibility of services to families and their children such as:

- Lack of support services available for children experiencing or who have experienced trauma related issues particularly those who have come from overseas and or experienced trauma in

their childhood,

- Waiting lists for children services, such as children's mental health services
- Accessing services outside of 9-5pm

In summary, the Onkaparinga region has strong networks and existing collaborations. This is evidenced through the work of networks such as the Round Tables, OCA and the new Child Friendly, Child Aware and Collective Impact initiatives. The above demographics highlight the following areas of significant disadvantage – Christie Downs has the lowest SEIFA index in the region, Christie Downs and Hackham West reflect the highest unemployment rates and O'Sullivan Beach and Noarlunga Downs register with the highest number of children that are developmentally vulnerable on one or more of the AEDC domains. Community members and service providers, through the significant consultation undertaken, raised the following areas of need – Mental and physical health and wellbeing, substance abuse, greater acceptance of diverse populations, parenting capacity, child development, attachment, support for children as carers, school readiness and the impact of trauma on children and families.

Whilst we recognise that not all areas or identified need will be addressed or fit within the Communities for Children Facilitating Partner (CfC FP) scope, CfC FP will work with Government and other providers to ensure this information is shared where appropriate for required action or advocacy.

3. Community Engagement

In this section you should reflect on how your structures of governance and community feedback have worked to encourage community engagement and identify any gaps in communication and participation of particular groups.

Reflecting the civil society agenda that stresses that everyone has a role to play in supporting their communities, you should think about your target groups for engagement in a broad sense. You may wish to engage with individuals/families, directly with children, with particular neighbourhoods, philanthropic organisations, schools, academia/researchers, other service systems, local media and business.

You should reflect on the different reasons why you would engage with each target group. For example, with some groups you may wish to explore innovation, while with others you may seek to encourage collaboration and service integration, consult on activity design, build enthusiasm for the agenda, contribute to the sustainability of initiatives or evaluate progress.

A strategy should be developed to encourage and support ongoing participation of the target groups. As part of the strategy you may wish to highlight any particular challenges you foresee in engaging with particular groups, such as children or business, and outline how you will develop your skills and knowledge in these areas.

Please outline the community engagement strategies you will use in your Service Area.

Your response should include:

- **Who you will engage with**
- **Why you are engaging with them**
- **how you will engage them to ensure their ongoing involvement/participation**

Consultation is a core component and an in built mechanism of our role as Facilitating Partners in our everyday practice. The ongoing development of our community members and service providers database and quarterly newsletter ensures that Communities for Children Onkaparinga is able to deliver information regarding activities and services effectively and efficiently to families and those providing a service within the community. We will continue to use these tools and explore other social media options that are available to us to enhance our ability to engage with the community.

The Communities for Children Consultative Committee will continue to meet on a regular basis over the life of the Initiative. Continuity, commitment and relationships with individual committee members will be maintained and the community member's will continue to play an integral role within the committee.

It is planned to engage parents, carers and community members in a parent consultative group that will meet regularly to be a key resource group for the committee and the facilitating partner. This group will be instrumental with the redevelopment of the Child

Friendly Charter, Child Friendly event and the Child Friendly Business Awards throughout the site. The community members will work along- side the Communities for Children Community Development Workers to develop resources and processes that engage businesses, organisations, schools and governments to promote the importance of Child Friendly Communities and advocate for improved local facilities that cater for families and children.

We are committed to continue to find ways to engage and hear the voices of children in decision making and regular forums to empower and develop confidence and expertise to participate in the community. It is envisaged that Community Partners will engage children in the development of activities and support them to take a leadership role in activities. A yearly State -wide Communities for Children Art Exhibition will be one of the tools used to engage children in what is important to them as a means to continue to inform the implementation of this plan.

The ongoing forums held with Community Partners will allow them to share information, collaborate together with community activities, as well as provide feedback on processes, successes, challenges and opportunities for change.

There are a number of networks that operate in the Communities for Children site that ensures that service providers know about other agencies and the work that they do. Through Communities for Children Onkaparinga Systems Enhancement Activity a network database has been developed to support new workers in the community to share information and expand the knowledge of networks within the Onkaparinga region.

The site has expanded with a number of new suburbs and community groups, we are aware that there currently are gaps in our knowledge and relationships in the areas of engaging with fathers, the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and culturally diverse communities within the site.

4. Service Area Vision

Drawing on your community-informed service mapping and community engagement processes, describe the vision for your Service Area. Ensure that your vision encompasses the Families and Children Activity outcomes and the Communities for Children Facilitating Partner objectives.

Our vision for our Service Area is:

Everyone working together supporting families to ensure that children engage in early learning opportunities and experience positive school transitions. Children knowing and reaching their full potential whilst being cared for in an environment that is positive, stimulating, safe, child friendly and secure. Together we create a happy, stronger and healthy community for everyone.

Our vision has been developed by our Consultative committee and encompasses the information gathered through the community consultation and the strategies that will be implemented within our site. The Initiative uses a whole of community approach utilising strengths based practice, to develop, support and build a community that is child friendly, collaborative, integrated, engages, hears and responds to children's voices and connects all facets of the community to ensure that the outcomes and wellbeing for children and their families within the area are met and can be sustained into the future.

The Communities for Children Onkaparinga Initiative provides flexibility to encompass emerging and targeted/identified needs, connecting Indigenous, vulnerable and disadvantaged families and their children into the community.

The whole of community approach used within the site ensures that the strategies and activities work towards maintaining a community that welcomes, values and celebrates diversity and develops opportunities to identify, recognise and celebrate achievements of families and children and the contributions they make to their community.

The strategies are:

1. **Healthy Young Families Strategy:** To create opportunities that support and increase capacity of parents/carers to provide quality care and development opportunities for their children before and after birth and throughout the early years.
2. **Supporting Families and Parents Strategy:** To continue to build a community that better supports all children and their families, providing opportunities to improve family functioning, increase knowledge and skills related to child safety, family safety and child development, strengthen relationships and develop resilience. Supporting parents understanding of the importance of stable, positive, stimulating, safe, secure and loving environments to enrich their children's lives.
3. **Early Learning Strategy:** To promote enhanced play and learning experiences to support families and children in their communities. To create environments that enables and supports parents to stimulate and promote child development and learning from birth to ensure children reach their full potential. Activities will provide the opportunity to identify and support children at risk of poor outcomes, build capacity within the community to ensure activities are inclusive of all children.

4. **School Transition and Engagement Strategy:** To ensure families have information that better supports them to make decisions regarding their children's early learning experiences and ensure families have the skills and knowledge that support children to make a healthy transition to school and throughout their schooling. Working with local schools to support the engagement and building of capacity of children and parents, ensuring children have the skills to be successful such as routines, regular on time attendance, numeracy and literacy, problem solving, skills to manage emotions and create healthy friendships.

5. Overarching all of these strategies will be our Child Friendly Communities Strategy which will continue to create communities that recognise the importance of environments that are inclusive, supportive of all children and their families. Valuing and building capacity of children, parents, the community, agencies and organisations to hear and act on children's voices and increase their participation in all aspects of the community.

The approach taken by the Facilitating Partners is one of community ownership and participation throughout all facets of the strategies - not just a list of one off time limited services. The engagement of the whole community will continue throughout the life of the Initiative, maintaining relationships and continuing to increase the skill base and knowledge within the community.

5. Priority Areas

Building on previous parts of the plan, describe the priority areas that you need to focus on to achieve your vision. Priority Areas are the areas that the community has identified need to be a focus of effort. The priority area may be a particular target group (eg engaging young parents), a service gap (eg parent education), or systemic issue (eg adult services being disconnected from children's services).

Your response should include:

- **An overview of the priority area**
- **Why you have chosen it as a priority area**
- **How it relates to the Families and Children Activity's outcomes and Communities for Children FP objectives**
- **What strategies you will use to achieve improved outcomes in this priority area**
 - **Your strategies may include funded direct service delivery but could also focus on other actions a FP and its Committee could undertake, such as improving service delivery capability, building community awareness, or engaging with other relevant service providers, such as adult services.**
- **The method you will use to measure whether outcomes in this priority area have improved.**
- **Outline the key stakeholders that will be critical for success.**

Across all of the priority areas the Facilitating Partner will utilise their organisational evaluation framework that encompasses Results Based Accountability and Program Logic. Community Partners will be supported and offered training opportunities and resources to build capacity for evaluation to ensure that outcomes are captured and provide evidence that situations have improved. The Facilitating Partner will develop resources that will build in

and engage external evaluators to support the evaluation processes, assist with building resources and capacity via training and knowledge for evaluation and strengthening evidence base practice. The Facilitating Partner will also provide clear guidelines, processes and resources to effectively capture data to be added onto the DSS Data Exchange.

The Communities for Children Onkaparinga site boundaries have expanded with this iteration of Communities for Children. As a result, the Facilitating Partner is working in the new areas to build and develop strong working relationships that compliment work in existing areas. We have made considerable inroads, to date, that include: active membership on two Seaford networks, delivered community engagement activities throughout, current community partners delivering activities and developed relationships with local schools and services.

Over the coming years, we will continue to develop new and innovative engagement strategies, that ensure the new suburbs align and encompass the whole of community approach that exists within our current boundaries.

All Priority Areas will enhance the connection and support children and parents have within the community to develop healthy relationships with each other, other parents and children and the broader community in which they live. Activities will work with children to understand the attributes that children require to ensure they are welcomed, can participate in decision making processes in the community and be valued as important participants in community life.

Priority Area One: Healthy Young Families: Supporting parents to care for their children before and after birth and throughout the early years.

This strategy area/priority area aims to increase parenting capacity, develop strong healthy families, provide increased opportunities for children and families to access information, increase connections within the communities they live and build and strengthen relationships between children, families, service providers and community.

During the consultation phase parents/carers within the Onkaparinga Communities for Children site talked of the importance of feeling empowered by being able to access valuable information and skill development to best assist them in their roles as parents/carers in areas such as problem solving, healthy eating and lifestyles, care and development of their children and knowing where to go, when necessary, to best meet the needs of their children

Parenting activities will be implemented, throughout the site that develop positive parenting, increase understanding of the importance of early childhood and play, increase knowledge about child development, milestones, ages and stages and develop supported referral pathways and community connections for families. Activities will also be held out of hours to support fathers to attend and develop strong relationships with their children, other fathers in the community and local services. These will include mobile activities, play/parent groups and workshops.

The implementation of young parent's activities, focussed in the areas of Aldinga, Christie Downs and Noarlunga Downs will also address the needs identified by community focussing

on child development - including routine, nutrition, toileting and sleep - and care, behaviour, resources and information.

These activities will work with service providers and community members, particularly young parents, to address the disconnection parents often feel in the community and the difficulties they have finding information, connecting with services, managing difficult emotional states and building resilience to positively manage change.

The Communities for Children Facilitating Partner will continue to work with sporting clubs, service clubs and recreational and leisure organisations such as scouts and guides to engage children in activities and increase participation throughout the site. This includes increasing understanding within the community about diversity and inclusion ensuring that children, who are most vulnerable, are included and valued.

The ongoing development of relationships within the Aboriginal Community, with a particular focus on Christies Beach and Aldinga communities, will increase participation, knowledge and skills and opportunities for activities to be designed and led by Aboriginal children and families.

The Facilitating Partner will continue to engage with families to ensure that activities are relevant and timely within communities most at need. A parent/carer consultative group will be further developed as a key resource group for the consultative committee and the Facilitating Partner.

Key stakeholders for this strategy include Child and Family Youth Health, AFSS, Taikurrendi Children's Centre

Priority Area Two: Supporting Families and Parents; *Support families to provide children with secure attachment, consistent discipline and quality environments that are stable, positive, stimulating, safe and secure.*

This strategy area/priority area aims to increase wellbeing, support children and parents/carers living with mental health challenges with parenting and family functioning, including financial wellbeing, strengthen child parent/carer attachment, support children and families and increase community understanding of mental health and wellbeing, the impact of trauma, drug and alcohol abuse and strengthen families to reduce social isolation and increase community connections ensuring an inclusive environment for all children and families. This will provide opportunities for children and families to increase their knowledge and understanding of the importance of implementing consistent parenting styles and routines, developing healthy eating strategies and increasing emotional support for children.

As stated previously there are areas of high unemployment and areas of significant vulnerability with respect to child development within our service delivery area. In addition, community members and service providers have highlighted the growing challenge for families in relation to financial wellbeing. Communities for Children Facilitating Partner will work with local emergency relief, financial counselling and other services to design activities that build capacity and knowledge in the areas of budgeting, cooking, low cost nutritional food, reading food labels and ways to save money to better support families in relation to financial management and free or cheap activities to do as a family across the CfC site. Communities for Children Facilitating Partner will also work with other organisations, where

appropriate, to address areas of the consultation that identified challenges for families outside of the Communities for Children scope using advocacy, information sharing strategies and solution brokering with financial services.

To encourage participation and better support children and families a range of local programs will be implemented. These will include school holiday programs, after hours activities incorporating social, physical activity and self-care activities, parenting workshops and groups and focussed disability activities that are inclusive of siblings. The purpose of these programs will be to support children experiencing difficulties participating and attending school regularly. This is an issue that has been as identified through our community consultation process and is which often indicative of the existence of a range of potential underlying issues such as adult/child mental health problems, drug and alcohol issues and children taking responsibility for caring for young siblings and/or parents. Areas of particular concern in relation to this issue include Noarlunga Downs, Christie Downs, Hackham West and Huntfield Heights.

As identified within the Onkaparinga site, greater awareness and understanding within adult mental health and drug and alcohol services is needed to better support children and families. The Communities for Children Facilitating Partner will continue to work with adult services to increase their knowledge and understanding of the impact on children of trauma related behaviours and the effects of parent behaviour and parenting styles. This work will emphasize the importance of attachment and caring for children and will aim to further develop strong referral pathways to ensure that vulnerable families and children (especially those at risk of entering the child protection system) have access to appropriate local services. We will also provide opportunities for professional development and workshops, shared learning through networks and team meetings and ongoing relationship building enabling input into the development of activities and programs within the site.

Mental health, family violence and wellbeing issues raised throughout the consultation will be addressed using a range of mediums including attachment workshops and groups, art, music, mindfulness and reflection, workshops, social networking and professional development programs. These activities will increase self confidence, provide opportunities to build safe relationships, increase understanding and reflection of links between thoughts, emotions and behaviour. Activities utilising art, music and mindfulness and reflection will assist parents/carers and children to improve conversation, self esteem and confidence and address emotional competence removing negative and challenging attitudes to enable moving toward exploring and developing healthy relationships.

Key stakeholders for this strategy include Financial Services, Emergency Services, Adult Mental Health Services and Drug and Alcohol Services, COPMI, Families SA and CAMHS.

Priority Area Three: Early Learning; Provide access to high quality affordable early learning experiences in the years before school, early identification and support for children at risk of developmental and behaviour problems, assist parents with ways that can stimulate and promote child development and learning from birth.

This strategy area/priority area aims to provide parents/carers with the skills and knowledge to ensure secure attachment with their children, develop resilience, prepare children for entry to early childhood settings, support children through critical transition stages including school

readiness. This will include providing families with access to appropriate information about services, early childhood learning opportunities and education settings.

As identified earlier, the AEDC data indicates that the number of children living in the suburbs of O'Sullivan Beach, Noarlunga Downs, Hackham West, Christie Downs and Hackham that are developmentally vulnerable on two or more of the domains is considerably higher than the state average. The provision of relevant information to all parents/carers through the quarterly Communities for Children newsletter and information distribution through the extensive service provider and community databases will provide parents with an accessible source of information about; the importance of developing routines and supporting children to attend early childhood settings, such as, child care, childrens' centres, kindergarten and school; early learning and socialisation opportunities such as local playgroups; enrolling and accessing early childhood settings; and targeted topics such as the NDIS.

School readiness activities will be delivered through groups, mobile activities and workshops to ensure parent/carers understanding of the importance of children being 'school ready' including independence, meeting developmental milestones and ready for learning. This will include a focus on adult literacy and appropriate referrals and supports established throughout the region utilising the Community Partner network and broader service organisations to ensure that parents/carers are able to support their children through these milestones.

The Communities for Children Facilitating Partner will facilitate the collaboration between Community Partners and other organisations and services to identify families that are isolated with young children. This will enable the provision of information, resources and early childhood development opportunities, including focussing on literacy and numeracy and play and learn experiences, at a street level within local neighbourhoods. This will also enable the early identification and support of children at risk of developmental and behavioural issues and increase opportunities for supporting these children and families.

Key stakeholders for this strategy include schools, community centres, sporting clubs and activities such as Scouts and Girl Guides.

Priority Area Four: School Transition and Engagement; *Support children and their families to make a smooth transition to school and work with local schools to assist children and families with their ongoing engagement.*

This strategy area/priority area aims to provide children and their families with the knowledge, skills and understanding to support their children through key life transition points, maintain engagement with education settings and increase community engagement and participation.

As identified earlier in the strategic plan, AEDC data indicated that children within the City of Onkaparinga scored lower in the domains of literacy and numeracy and in the NAPLAN schools assessment than the state average. Research has shown that poor skills in these two areas can predict school leaving at an early age and decreases employment prospects. The consultation also identified a number of areas of concern that prevent children from being successful in school such as body image, friendship building, mental health issues such as self harm and depression, routines, regular attendance at school, bullying and making healthy choices. Activities will be implemented that support children to develop resilience, create healthy relationships and manage their "big" emotions without negative

reactions. These activities will include bullying prevention programs within school environments and community based venues, arts based programs and cooking programs that provide a platform for children's voices to discuss and explore key issues affecting them. The activities will engage children, families, businesses and local organisations to support the creation of positive change within the neighbourhoods they live in.

Activities will work with children at risk of disengaging from school and will build self-esteem, resilience and confidence, develop social networks and provide opportunities for children to connect and participate with activities that would not normally be available to them. These activities will be delivered through groups and workshops, some focussing on gender specific outcomes, others on particular topics such as problem solving, positive healthy relationships and how to develop and sustain these, physical activity and nutrition.

To ensure that children have the very best start in life, activities will provide opportunities for them to design and lead activities, increasing knowledge, life skills, confidence and self-esteem. This will increase engagement and participation in other areas of their lives, such as school and extra curricula activities as they will develop the skills to lead within their communities. To support children's input, leadership development opportunities will be provided through school settings and other areas such as community centres, recreation and leisure activities and service groups.

Programs such as Drumbeat, Rock N Water, Bringing up Great Kids and What's the Buzz will provide opportunities for children, those who work alongside children and parents/carers to increase their skills and knowledge to better support children as they encounter challenges throughout their childhood and into adolescence/adulthood.

To better support engagement and participation in key educational settings and community environments, the Communities for Children Facilitating Partner will work with the Child Friendly Charter participants, local playgroups, kindergartens, schools, local businesses and services to develop a tool/framework that will increase engagement in school and alternative learning environments for children and parents. Child Friendly Charter participants will be engaged to support a community "rewards" program encouraging attendance at school, on time arrival and parent/carer engagement in community through services, kindergartens and schools. The program, still in its infancy of design, will utilise a points system rewarding families with items such as vouchers for local butchers, supermarkets, swimming vouchers etc.

Key stakeholders for this strategy include Junction Australia, Youth Centres, The Smith Family, schools, Businesses and the Child Friendly Charter participants.

Priority Area Five: Create Child Friendly Communities Strategy; *Create strong child friendly Communities that understand the importance of the early years and apply this capacity to maximise the health, wellbeing and early development of young children at the local level.*

This strategy area/priority area aims to support all children to participate in the community, recognise and understand the importance of diversity, develop and strengthen child friendly environments and ensure that child friendly and child safe is promoted and implemented across the Communities for Children site.

Throughout the consultation period, concerns were raised about children with special needs, children in residential care, Aboriginal children, children with families in conflict and children who have experienced trauma have additional challenges that can prevent their inclusion/participation community. Activities will be delivered that build capacity of those working in services, sporting clubs, extra curricula activities such as scouts and social environments to understand the diversity of our communities and the importance of enabling the inclusion of all children. These will provide opportunities for learning, growth, and understanding of diversity and will be delivered through a variety of mediums, including groups, networking, promotional material and campaigns and inclusion in the design and development of activities. This will also include the ongoing delivery and promotion of the Child Friendly Charter to ensure a commitment to child friendly environments across the site.

These activities will support and assist the community, including service providers, the recreation and leisure sector and businesses to create and promote child friendly environments that support positive child inclusion and experiences that best meet the needs of all children and their families.

Businesses will continue to be engaged across the Onkaparinga region to increase the understanding of the importance of creating environments that support children as valued citizens. These businesses will be recognised through the Child Friendly Charter and Business Award activities. The Child Friendly Charter and Business Award activities will work with parents, schools, kindergartens and businesses to develop the tool that will increase engagement in school and learning environments for children and their parents in Priority area Four.

Through community and professional development workshops, community members, children, parents/carers, families and service providers will be provided with opportunities to increase collaboration and collaborative practice, share knowledge and skills between staff within agencies, supported to embed change of thinking into practice, reduce barriers for families to access services within the region and to expand the knowledge of service providers of activities and services that are available to increase referrals for children and their families. Topics will be identified by community and service providers and workshops/training will be implemented to address these identified needs. These will include topics such as Kids First Aid, Ride Your Bike Right, Mental Health First Aid, Evaluation, Results Based Accountability, Child Development etc.

Key stakeholders for this strategy include businesses, kindergartens, schools, non-profit organisations.

