

Communities for Children FP Katherine Region, NT Program Overview 2022-2024



Our Katherine Region families and communities are valued, connected and empowered, to ensure our children are happy, healthy and safe.

Priority areas

- *Our children are happy and have everything they need to learn and grow.*
- *Our children and their families are ready for and supported through all of life's transitions.*
- *Our families have the knowledge, skills and connectedness to support their children's aspirations.*
- *Our communities are safe, nurturing and inclusive places.*

Communities for Children Facilitating Partner (CfC FP) is a place based initiative, using a whole of community approach to support and enhance early childhood development and wellbeing for children from birth to 12 years.

The Smith Family has been the Facilitating Partner for this initiative in the Katherine Region since 2005. Geographically, it is the largest CfC FP site and includes some of the most remote communities in Australia. The Katherine Region CfC FP site covers the Statistical Areas (level 2) (also called SA2s) of Victoria River, Katherine, Elsey and Gulf, covering a total geographical area of 326,326.7 km². Though not exactly the same, there is a great overlap with these SA2s and what Northern Territory calls the Big Rivers Region.

By taking a place based 'whole of community' approach, Katherine Region CfC FP aims to help build a strong community that is inclusive and supportive of all families living in our region.

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Community Partners are funded to deliver services within the Katherine Region CfC FP site for families with children aged from before birth to 12 years.

PLAY2LEARN

Play2Learn Katherine aims to improve early childhood development, family functioning and connection to communities in a supported playgroup setting. The program operates from a purpose-built venue in Katherine. It is a universal playgroup, open to all families in the Katherine with **Baby Play2Learn** (0-12m) and **Play2Learn** (0-5y) weekly sessions during school terms.



Community Partner: 54

Reasons (formerly Save the Children Australia)

Service delivery area: Katherine

Eligibility: Children aged 0-5 years and parents/carers

Contact: Bev Patterson (08 8971 1311
bev.patterson@54reasons.org.au)



BABY FAST

Baby FAST is a multifamily group early intervention and family strengthening model for young parents/caregivers, their families and their children aged 0-3. The program will be delivered by local teams (parents, grandparents, local health and social workers) supported by a FAST Coordinator and FAST support team. The program is supplemented by FASTWORKS, which sustains group contact after the initial 8 weeks. BabyFAST is framed around ARACY's Common Approach Wellbeing Wheel.



Community Partner: NT Christian Schools

Service delivery area:
Jilkminggan, Mataranka,
Barunga, Beswick &
Katherine



Eligibility: Children aged 0-3 years and parents/carers

Contact: Jenny McAllan (0419 838 562;
jennifer.mcallan@capacityplus.org.au) or Jen Bauer
(0419 838 562; jen.bauer@capacityplus.org.au)

SINGING TOGETHER FOR STRONG LANGUAGE AND FAMILY

Singing Together for Strong Language and Family aims to provide skills and resources for parental engagement with children to promote active language use through song and movement. The project is based around the Abecedarian Approach and will harness local skills with the support of external expertise from musicians and teachers with existing ties to the community. The project will teach songs in Kriol and Mangarrayi, develop literacy, strengthen capacity of community musicians to create music



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and language resources, build skills of community members to use language to engage with children.

Community Partner: Jilkminggan Community Aboriginal Corporation



Service delivery area: Jilkminggan

Eligibility: Children 0-7 years old and their parents and carers and the Jilkminggan community

Contact: Helena Lardy, 08 89774100; helena@jcac.com.au

RESILIENT CHILDREN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAM (RC-MHAP)

RC-MHAP is a collaborative approach between TeamHEALTH and Mind Blank to deliver a culturally inclusive project for children (aged 8-12) in a universal mental health promotion model. The sessions will use role-play, performing arts and local storytelling to build early intervention knowledge and skills around mental health.

Community Partner: TeamHEALTH



Service delivery area: Big Rivers Region

Eligibility: School aged children aged 9- 12

Contact: Kasee Holwell 0400 192-106; Kasee.Holwell@teamhealth.asn.au



THRIVING COMMUNITIES

EON Thriving Communities Program is a hands-on gardening, cooking, nutrition education and hygiene program at Kalkaringi and Yarralin schools teaching students how to grow and harvest their own food. Parents and carers will attend workshops to learn about the importance of nutrition in very young children. Project Managers visit their schools/communities fortnightly. The program focuses on skills transfer to local people and building community capacity in a grassroots, community-led way.

Community Partner: EON



EON Foundation

Service delivery area: Kalkaringi and Yarralin

Eligibility: Students attending Kalkaringi School and Yarralin School and their families, FaFT program participants and One Tree Early Learning program.

Contact: Donna Donzow (0458 756 682; donna.donzow@eon.org.au)



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CONNECTING REMOTE COMMUNITIES THROUGH IN-SCHOOL ARTS LEARNING

This project will provide children high-quality, evidence based music and arts programs that enhance their education, wellbeing and community involvement. The program will be delivered with the community and school at Bulman, in the Elsey region. It will consist of on-site/ in-class arts education for one full week each term for all students as well as professional learning for local teachers and community. The Song Room and its Teaching Artists will build local talent and potential work opportunities with schools across the region.

Community Partner: The Song Room

Service delivery area: Bulman

Eligibility: Bulman School Students
and educators

Contact: Katie Hull-Brown

03 9521 3990; khullbrown@songroom.org.au



Get Involved

The Communities for Children Committee (CCC) provides guidance to the facilitating partner, The Smith Family, in the development, direction, progress of the Katherine Region Communities for Children Facilitating Partner program.

Membership is open to community members with an interest in the welfare of children including parents and carers, service providers, government agencies, local authorities and school personnel.

Interested? Get in touch!

Contact Us

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Katherine Region Communities for Children Facilitating Partner is funded by the Australian Government and facilitated by The Smith Family.