

# Communities for Children FP Bankstown, NSW Projects Overview 2022-2024



**We are a resilient, culturally diverse community enhancing opportunities for families and children to thrive in safe and healthy environments.**

## Priority areas

- **Resilient and diverse** - Focusing on safety, belonging and respectful relationships at home, across generations, faiths, cultures, genders and ages. Supporting connection to culture and community participation for positive mental and physical health.
- **Thriving through continuous learning** - Investing in parents as children's first teachers, including access to early learning and developmental support for positive school transitions. Lifelong learning and participation from birth, with particular focus among children 0-12 (and may include up to age 18) and their families.
- **Connecting and collaborating** – Community members, leaders and services partner together to create a strong, child friendly city. Networks are expanded, increasing opportunities for community members to meet their own needs and to serve others.

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

Bankstown Communities for Children site commenced in 2012 and supports the Bankstown local government area pre-amalgamation boundaries, as well as Lakemba, Punchbowl and Wiley Park. The City of Canterbury Bankstown has a population of nearly 394,380 people and is one of Australia's most culturally diverse communities. 2021 census data indicates that 47.74% of residents do not speak English well or at all. The children and families of Canterbury Bankstown are supported by over 130 primary and high' schools, and over 200 community organisations and agencies. It is the aim of Bankstown Communities for Children Facilitating Partner that these institutions and organisations work together to support a thriving Bankstown community.

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## Koori Connections

A group of programs for whole of family cultural learning and activity targeting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children aged 0 – 12 years and their families. The Koori Kids Club, provides weekly activities for children aged 9-12 years such as painting, football, basketball, music, dance, jewelry making and more. Families Connect to Culture includes a range of culturally embedded experiences including Aboriginal dance, budget cooking, art and craft, weaving, gardening, dreamtime stories and more. Parent Yarn-ups will be held 2x per year, providing parents/ carers the opportunity to share what they would like more of in the community, as well as contributing to an artwork which all will receive a copy of. Aboriginal Parenting Programs and an annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Event are also part of Koori Connections. Each activity utilises culturally embedded approaches to engagement and learning, with two facilitators.

**Community Partner:** Bankstown Community Resource Group (BCRG)

**Service delivery area:** Bankstown and Revesby

**Eligibility:** Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children aged 0 – 12 years and their families.

**Contact:** Kristie Montesin, 9796 2931, 0413 825 271  
[Kristie.m@bcrg.org.au](mailto:Kristie.m@bcrg.org.au)



## The Respect Project and Unity

The Respect Project has been approved as an Evidence Based program, providing a 2-term school-based arts program for boys in Year 5 and/or Year 6 to promote respectful attitudes and behaviors towards girls and women. And now girls benefit from

a similar program – UNITY - promoting respectful relationships with friends, family, peers and themselves. Participants explore issues around gender and respectful relationships and develop and produce a video or performance exploring their views on gender and respect. These programs encourage participants to challenge negative stereotypes and to take on leadership roles in promoting respectful relationships in their school community.

Each school is invited to perform at mid or end of year events in the local community. The activity will be delivered in 7 schools per year.

**Community Partner:** Outloud

**Service delivery area:** Primary schools in Bankstown LGA pre-amalgamation boundaries plus Lakemba, Punchbowl and Wiley Park.

**Eligibility:** Boys and girls in Year 5/6 attending participating schools.

**Contact:** If your school is interested, contact Craig Taunton, 9793 8324, [craig@outloud.org.au](mailto:craig@outloud.org.au)



## Building a Bridge to High School

This project delivers whole of school year cohort (universal) events and activities designed to inform and motivate Year 5 and 6 children as they transition to high school. Activities and events may include; cyber bullying safety sessions, high school orientation days and incursions involving team work activities, as well as a range of events with inspirational speakers. A number of targeted activities and group programs are delivered to school identified students who may need extra support to successfully transition. These activities include evidence based programs such as DRUMBEAT, Peaceful Kids, Cool Kids and Seasons for Growth. Parenting and family support is also provided to parents/carers of students at both the universal and



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targeted level, with parents/carers having access to a variety of programs including Peaceful Parents and Tuning in to Kids/Teens. This support enables families to have a deeper understanding of this key transition point and the Australian education system, and if required, access further support and education to assist their children on their journey to high school.

**Community Partner:** Woodville Alliance Limited

**Service delivery locations:** Bankstown Public School, Bankstown West Public School, Condell Park Public School

**Eligibility:** Children in Years 5 and 6 and their parents/carers

**Contact:** Diana Roberts, 9724 3807, 0412 617 188, [DRoberts@woodville.org.au](mailto:DRoberts@woodville.org.au)



## Play2Learn Bankstown

Two-hour weekly universal playgroups are delivered during school terms from 9:15am to 11:15am at Bankstown South Infants School on Wednesdays, 9:30 to 11:30am at Sefton Community Centre on

Thursdays and 9:30am to 11:30am at Georges Hall Public School Hall on Mondays to support early childhood development and transition into primary school.

The playgroups support vulnerable and disadvantaged families living in these areas, especially culturally and linguistically diverse families, to engage in their children's development through play based activities that can be utilised in everyday life. The playgroups also provide on-site support from a Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist to ensure families have soft-entry access

opportunities to these vital allied health services. A Family Support Worker is also available on-site to provide advice and referral to parents/carers supporting them in parenting skill development and family wellbeing and resilience.

**Community Partner:** Save the Children Australia

**Service delivery locations:**

Monday – Georges Hall Public School Hall

Wednesday – Bankstown South Infants School

Thursday – Sefton Community Centre

**Eligibility:** Children aged 0 – 5 years and their parents/carers

**Contact:** Ronojoy Fleissgarten, 0499 567 605, [ronojoy.fleissgarten@savethechildren.org.au](mailto:ronojoy.fleissgarten@savethechildren.org.au)



## Kaleidoscope

The Kaleidoscope program seeks to address the compounding problems of poor mental health and educational disadvantage to ensure that Bankstown's children have the best possible start in life. The program will be delivered in four Bankstown schools. Kaleidoscope has three components:

- An in-school arts program for all students in participating schools, assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to integrate in their school environment.
- A Creative Community Project involving parents, students and the school sharing their skills, resources and cultural knowledge through participation in a collaborate creative arts activity.
- A capacity building workshop for teachers and leaders in participating schools to increase confidence through knowledge of resources and networks for continued arts engagement.

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**Community Partner:** The Song Room

**Service delivery area:** Primary schools in Bankstown LGA pre-amalgamation boundaries plus Lakemba, Punchbowl and Wiley Park.

**Eligibility:** In-school program: Children aged 5 - 12 years attending participating schools

- Capacity-building program: Teachers at participating schools

**Contact:** Antonia Fredman 0414 596 982  
[afredman@songroom.org.au](mailto:afredman@songroom.org.au)

Katie Hull-Brown, 0403 158 338,  
[khullbrown@songroom.org.au](mailto:khullbrown@songroom.org.au)



## Early Childhood Growing Playing Learning Together – EC-GPLT

The key aims of the **EC-GPLT** program are for children aged 0-6 years from refugee-like backgrounds including:

- Recovery from the impacts of trauma and the resulting disruption to development in all areas.
- Building engagement with their parents/caregivers in emotionally and developmentally supportive ways.

- Enhancing success in transition to, and continued engagement with, school and Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs.

STARTTS practitioners work with families toward these goals within the context of engaging with both their own culture and their new culture. The EC-GPLT Early Childhood Counsellor/Project Officer seeks and maintains collaborative partnerships with practitioners and venue operations where EC-GPLT groups are run. This may include playgroups, Schools as Community Centres, Community Hubs, Early Childhood Education services, disability services, or family support services. Additional support will be provided for children and their caregivers, particularly where the child or is having difficulty engaging in the ECE environment and where children have a disability, or may display dysregulated behaviours that require the child to receive therapeutic supports.

**Community Partner:** NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS)

**Service delivery area:** Bankstown LGA pre-amalgamation boundaries plus Lakemba, Punchbowl and Wiley Park.

**Eligibility:** Children aged 0-6 years and their families from refugee or refugee-like backgrounds.

**Contact:** Shauna Murphy:0402 595 393  
[Shauna.Murphy@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Shauna.Murphy@health.nsw.gov.au)



## Parent Child Mother Goose

Parent-Child Mother Goose (P-CMG) is an evidence based group programme for parents/ carers and babies or young children. It is designed to support the development of secure parent-child attachment,



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promote children's speech and language development and enhance families' community inclusion through the pleasure and power of using rhymes, songs, and stories together.

While the P-CMG programme benefits all families, it prioritizes families at risk for example teenage parents, isolated newcomers with little English, Indigenous families in isolated communities, families who may suffer abuse, addiction, poverty or post-natal depression as well as families whose children have special needs.

Parents/ carers participating in P-CMG gain skills and confidence that help to create positive family patterns.

The programme runs for 8-10 weeks during each school term, and participants are encouraged to remain with the group for a full year to gain maximum benefit.

**Community Partner:** Creating Links (NSW) Ltd

**Service delivery area:** Bankstown LGA pre-amalgamation boundaries plus Lakemba, Punchbowl and Wiley Park.

**Eligibility:** Parents/ carers and their children aged 0 - 5 years, with priority given to those not currently attending a pre-school program

**Contact:** Wafa Moksasi – 1300 254 657

[wafam@creatinglinks.org.au](mailto:wafam@creatinglinks.org.au)

## Foundations for Growth

Foundations for Growth is a program that aims to boost the long-term educational attainment and personal well-being of primary-age children with additional learning and behaviour support needs. The program, delivered in partnership with local primary schools, will bring together children, families, educators, and intervention professionals to identify challenges faced by individual students and to co-create strategies that unlock the potential for educational achievement and personal growth.

The program contains several components that can be applied flexibly to suit each school community's particular needs. These components align to the CfC FP Bankstown initiative and each component is related to the priority areas as below:

- Workshops for teachers and parents about child development topics (such as developmental milestones, speech and language development, mental health in children etc.).

- Therapeutic screening clinics for students to establish individual support needs.
- Professional recommendations and development of specific strategies to boost learning and wellbeing.

**Community Partner:** Koorana Child & Family Services Ltd.

**Service delivery area:** Bankstown LGA pre-amalgamation boundaries plus Lakemba, Punchbowl and Wiley Park.

**Eligibility:** Primary-age children with additional learning and behaviour support needs.

**Contact:** Susana Garcia: 0429 191 706;

[susana.garcia@koorana.org.au](mailto:susana.garcia@koorana.org.au)



## Strong Safe Families

Strong Safe Families (SSF) is a child-centered, whole-of-community approach focussed on early intervention and prevention.

Tailored to individual communities, SSF provides evidence-based and innovative programming to engage community members at the individual, relationship, family, sector and community levels. Through building community capacity and collaborative partnerships, the goal is a community-wide approach to developing strong, safe families. Examples of SSF programs include:

- **Tailored parent/ carer learning programs**, resources and activities to support carers and children to develop new skills, increase protective factors and connect with their local community. Examples include:
  - Better Beginnings programs for parents with children under age 3, promoting play between parent and child as a vital early learning and development activity.

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- Achieving school success programs delivered in community languages to parents/ carers of children 0-12 years.
- Online English as a second language health literacy programs delivered to non-English speaking parents/ carers with a child under 2 years.
- Evidence based parenting programs such as Tuning into Kids/ Teens, Bringing Up Great Kids, Circle of Security and others, delivered in community languages to parents with children aged 0-12 years.
- Rights, Relationships, Responsibilities (3Rs) programs provided in community languages to newly arrived parents and carers with a child under the age of 12. This program promotes safety, empowerment, belonging and respectful relationships at home and supports newly-arrived Australians to navigate and transition through local systems.

In addition, SSF will provide:

- **Online community sector training** for schools, childcare centres, religious outlets and health/ religious networks to support workers' future use and delivery of 3R's, *Achieving School Success*, *Better Beginnings* with their own clients.
- **Community events and workshops** for children and parents.
- **Online hub providing messaging and program resources** that foster positive social norms across the whole community.

**Community Partner:** Prosper Project Australia

**Service delivery locations:** Early years venues, primary schools and community venues across the Bankstown LGA pre-amalgamation boundaries plus Lakemba, Punchbowl and Wiley Park.

**Eligibility:** Children aged 0 – 12 years and their parents/carers with a particular focus on those from culturally diverse backgrounds; staff across community, education, health and religious sectors; whole of community.

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