

Communities for Children FP Bankstown, NSW Projects Overview 2024-2026



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.

Koori Connections

A suite of programs available for Bankstown First Nations Family and Children delivered at Bankstown First Nations Cultural Hub and Resource Centre. Creating opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0 – 12 years and their families. Programs include, **Koori Kids Connect** (Seasons for Growth), Educational activities delivered in Local public schools weekly for children aged 6-12 years. Activities include cultural art with symbols on a canvas, weaving, jewelry making, sand art. **Families Connect to Culture** includes a range of culturally embedded experiences for First Nations Families and Children, including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander dance, budget cooking, art and craft, weaving, dreamtime stories. Activities enable children and families to build knowledge and understanding around culture and the importance of self-expression through creativity **First Nations Youth Group**, activities for First Nations children and youth 10-16 years to build connection to culture and enhance physical and mental well-being. **Parent Yarn-ups**, 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. **First Nations Parenting Programs**, building on the strength and resilience of parents in a culturally safe and community setting. Annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Event Celebrating Culture, History, and Arts. Each activity utilises culturally embedded approaches to engagement and learning, with two Identified First Nations facilitators.

Community Partner: Bankstown Community Resource Group (BCRG)

Service delivery area: Bankstown LGA and Local Primary Schools

Eligibility: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children & Youth aged 0 – 16 years and their families.

Contact: Kristie Montesin, 9796 2931, 0478 130 365
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. RESPECT Participants to **Alumni Mentors**, the program expanded to involve alumni, now Year 10 students in high school, who are trained to facilitate RESPECT workshops with current primary school participants. Alumni mentors have taken up roles as leaders in their school communities and articulated their long-term commitment to values of respect and equality. **UNITY Project** for girls, teaching healthy relationships, consent, and body image. 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 Approximately 10 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



Building a Bridge to High School

This project delivers whole 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 cyberbullying safety sessions, high school orientation day incursions involving teamwork activities, and various events with inspirational speakers. Several 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 are also provided to parents/carers of students at both the universal and targeted level, with parents/carers having access to a variety of programs including **Peaceful Parents** and **Tuning into 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



Play2Learn Bankstown

Two-hour weekly universal playgroups are delivered during school terms at Bankstown South Infants School, Bankstown Public School, and Georges Hall Public School.

Quality early learning environment with facilitated play to support early childhood development and transition into primary school, with support and referrals to specialist services providers.

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 well-being and resilience.

Community Partner: 54 Reasons/Save the Children Australia

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

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

Contact: Misty King, 0423 607 065

misty.king@54reasons.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:

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- An in-school arts program for all students in participating schools, assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to integrate into their school environment.
- A Creative Community Project involving parents, students and the school sharing their skills, resources, and cultural knowledge through participation in a collaborative 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.

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: Roxy Kavanagh, 0402 868 334

rkavanagh@songroom.org.au



STARTTers Early Childhood and Caregiver Support Project. EC-CSP

The key aims of the **(EC-CSP)** 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-CSP Early Childhood Counsellor/Project Officer seeks and maintains collaborative partnerships with practitioners and venue operations where EC-CSP 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 is having difficulty engaging in the ECE environment and where children have a disability or may display dysregulated behaviours requiring therapeutic support.

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

Maria Voukelatos, 0452 146 186

Maria.Voukelatos@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, 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: 1300 254 657

admin@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 with 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. 3

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

Contact: Rial Kidson: 0429 182 724

rial.kidson@koorana.org.au



Strong Safe Families

Strong Safe Families (SSF) is a child-centred, 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:

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- **Better Beginnings programs for parents** with children under age 3, promoting play between parent and child as a vital early learning and development activity.
- **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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