



CHILDREN COMMUNITIES CONNECTIONS 2012 CONFERENCE

Child and Youth Friendly Gawler "Our Journey"

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Gawler

The Beginning – Casual Conversations

- * UNICEF – Child Friendly Cities
- * Early years (0-8) education
- * Fraser Mustard – neuroscience research
- * State Reform Agenda: SA – A Child Friendly State
- * Australian Early Development Index
- * Changing profile of the Town of Gawler
- * Need for community and infrastructure development for all ages

Child Friendly Gawler Forum – Nov 2011

- * Auspiced by Tony Piccolo, MP
- * Objectives
 - ✓ initiate child friendly discussion
 - ✓ social and economic benefits
 - ✓ use of AEDI data to build a better Gawler
- * Outcomes
 - ✓ identification of needs, deficiencies and priorities
 - ✓ formation of steering committee



CYFG Steering Committee

- * Cross-sectional membership
- * Monthly meetings – maintain momentum
- * Developed Strategic Action Plan
- * Goals
 1. An informed, caring and inclusive community
 2. Safe and accessible places and spaces
 3. A great start for every child
 4. Quality services and facilities
- * Objectives for each goal
- * Priority actions for 2012-2013
- * Delivery – responsibilities, partnerships, funding



SA Government Agenda

- * SA Government Focus Areas
 - ✓ Every chance for every child
 - ✓ Safe communities, Healthy neighbourhoods
- * New Child Development Legislation
- * DECD Strategic Initiatives Team
- * Child Friendly Accreditation Pilot Project
- * Children's Centres Outcome Framework



CYFG Current Actions

- * Council in-principle support
- * Pilot project for development of accreditation process
- * Information forums
 - ✓ AEDI
 - ✓ how to engage with children and youth
- * Community consultations
 - ✓ open space and recreational needs
 - ✓ playgrounds
- * Agency audits



CYFG – Why Successful?

- * From ground up
- * Level of collaboration
 - ✓ wide representation
 - ✓ growing interest
- * Shared vision
- * Agenda addresses community, agency and individual needs
- * No other body exists to address these issues
- * Town of Gawler in-principle support



CYFG – Challenges

- * Maintaining interest
- * Ongoing engagement of community
- * Securing wider agency and business support
- * Securing media support
- * Securing funding
- * Achieving UNICEF accreditation



CYFG – The Panel

- * David Pedler – Electorate Office (Tony Piccolo)
- * Aaron Phillips – Education and Childhood Development
- * Stan Salagaras – Lend Lease Communities
- * Ida Donaghey – Gawler Awakening Network
- * Barry Neylon – Councillor, Town of Gawler



Children's Centres
for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting



Children's Centres bring together care, education, health, developmental and family services for families and their young children from birth to eight years of age. They help parents and children to get the support they need, when they need it, within their own community. Children's Centres strengthen communities and focus everyone's attention on the importance of children and families.

At a Children's Centre parents and carers receive professional advice and support from experienced staff that have knowledge of the latest research about child development and learning, parenting, healthy living and family support.

Children's Centre staff work together to connect families to the services they need. Some services are offered at the Children's Centre, others might be offered nearby. Though not all services may be offered at a Centre, professionals work with families to make it as easy as possible for them to get the services they need.

No two Children's Centres are exactly the same. Services and programs reflect the community's needs and may change as the community's needs change.

Attributes of Child Friendly Lend Lease Communities

1. Creating communities which are generally **stronger** and, in particular, responsive to the needs of all **families** with young children.
2. Creating communities which respond to the specific needs of **young children**.
3. Creating communities which provide young children and their families with **access** to the full range of services they need from the beginning of the new community.
4. Creating communities where the **physical infrastructure** is designed and operated with regard to the needs of young children and their families.
5. Creating communities where the whole community develops **ownership** of those places, processes and arrangements which will continue to make the community a better place in which to be a child, or to raise a child.

Features of Child Friendly Lend Lease Communities

- * **Setting up seamless and integrated early years services**
 - ✓ "one-stop" shop of services
- * **Sharing ownership and commitment** for creating a child friendly environment across the community
 - ✓ three tiers of government, community organisations, residents & children
- * **Building durable and sustainable relationships and partnerships**
 - ✓ between service providers
 - ✓ between service providers & the community
 - ✓ between LL project team & service providers, government agencies, stakeholders, etc
- * **Establishing appropriate models of management or governance**
 - ✓ governance of early years integrated services centres
 - ✓ community governance arrangements
- * **Creating the urban infrastructure**
 - ✓ interactive design, collaborative planning & building of child friendly places