

New Family Centre launched in Salisbury

As part of our strategic planning process at Salisbury Communities for Children based at the Salvation Army Ingle Farm, we ask children what is important to them and we ask parents what they would like to see to support them in their communities. Children consistently tell us their families are important. Parents tell us they would like a centre where their children can play and they can talk about the issues they are having to work through in their families. Having successfully developed a family support hub in Ingle Farm in partnership with Lutheran Community Care, which is now being rolled out across northern suburbs schools, in 2015 we began look at how we might best support families in the Salisbury CBD area which has had a major influx of refugees over the past few years. The Salisbury Family Centre emerged from that process.

Salisbury Family Centre is a partnership between families in Salisbury, Salisbury Communities for Children, Salisbury Primary School, Lutheran Community Care, Save the Children, The Australian Refugee Association, Relationships Australia, local community groups and agencies supporting families. It offers a range of playgroups, parent groups, music & movement, groups for new arrivals and parenting information for families with babies and children in the preschool years and during pregnancy. Activities are funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services and co-designed with local families.

The centre at Salisbury Primary School (entrance via Harvey Avenue) was launched in May 2018 by local Mayor Gillian Aldridge and attended by parents, local community leaders, representatives of supporting organisations and young children. It was great to see the launch led by children from the school and hear children from multiple nationalities singing “We are Family” together. A ‘What’s important to me’ children’s art exhibition was also featured at the event which was also part of National Families Week. School principal Carol Scerri has been instrumental in the development of the centre and local community groups & agencies have worked well together to ensure it will provide the kind of support vulnerable families need to give their children a better start in life. Further information can be found at www.salisburyc4c.org.au



Captains David & Kylie Collinson and Family & Community Services Director Jacquie Dell at the launch.