



Our vision for change

Improving child wellbeing and school readiness for our children and learning what it takes to create change for all Western Australian children.



EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP

Bidyadanga

Yija Tili

(True Sparks)

Early Years Community Plan

2023



earlyyearspartnership.org.au

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) – Telephone: 13 14 50

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service. For more information visit: www.communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs

Why we need change

In Bidyadanga and surrounding areas nearly

1 in 2



children are considered developmentally vulnerable at the time of starting school.¹



¹ Commonwealth of Australia and Department of Education, Western Australia, 2019. Early childhood development for children living in Western Australia by region: Australian Early Development Census 2018. Accessible via <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/vnnm73>.

Note: Child development data specific to Bidyadanga is not available due to the small population so this data is incorporated into the larger data set of Roebuck SA2.

How we will create change

These five priority areas, and associated actions, form the roadmap for change for children living in Bidyadanga, these are:



Child development – to increase the number of children meeting developmental milestones and entering school developmentally ready (as measured by the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and Australian Early Development Census tools (adjusted for cultural relevance as appropriate).



Parent health – to strengthen cultural identity and overall wellbeing of parents and carers to enable positive parenting practices.



Family financial wellbeing – all children aged 0–4 years live in households with an adequate standard of living.



Community physical and social aspects – to create the physical and social infrastructure in the community that strengthens the cultural identity of families and supports families to care for their children.



Community service aspects – to provide culturally safe, coordinated health and wellbeing service delivery in the community.

It is important to note, that the Bidyadanga La Grange Council did not want culture as a standalone priority area, rather they wanted to acknowledge that Aboriginal culture and language underpins all priorities to improving child wellbeing, which has been expressed throughout this community plan.



Who will be involved

The Bidyadanga community, State Government, the Minderoo Foundation and Telethon Kids Institute (TKI) as evidence and evaluation partner, are working in partnership to create change. The Western Australian Government participates via the Department of Communities (lead partner), Department of Education and the Department of Health. Bidyadanga Aboriginal Corporation La Grange Inc. (BACLG) are the Connected Beginnings partner.

What we will do to create change

The detailed Yija Tili – early years plan that outlines action for change can be found at earlyyearspartnership.org.au





Bidyadanga Priorities

Child Development

Aim: To increase the number of children meeting developmental milestones and entering school developmentally ready (as measured by the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and Australian Early Development Census tools [adjusted for cultural relevance as appropriate]).

Objective 1:
To increase the number of children attending universal health checks with a child health nurse.

Local level action

- **LA1.** Co-design and implement strategies to improve attendance at child health checks.

Systems level action

- **SA1.** To explore innovative models of delivery of child health checks (e.g. online).
- **SA2.** Provision of transport options to assist parents and children to attend child health checks.

Objective 2:
To increase engagement with early education through more children regularly attending early learning programs such as playgroups and KindiLink.

Systems level action

- **SA3.** To ensure that KindiLink has appropriate facilities including child-friendly bathrooms.
- **SA4.** Provision of transport options to help parents take children to early learning activities.

Objective 3:
To increase parent knowledge of early brain development.

Local level action

- **LA2.** Distribute the Brain Boxes education tool (supplied by the Early Years Partnership) to professionals working with families in early years settings.
- **LA3.** Engage in conversations/activities about the importance of brain development.
- **LA4.** Continue participation in early years programs, for example, Building Babies Brains.

Parent Health

Aim: To strengthen cultural identity and overall wellbeing of parents and carers to enable positive parenting practices.

Objective 1:
To improve the physical and mental health of dad's and carers with young children to enable positive parenting practices.

Local level action

- **LA5.** Provide holistic service provision in a culturally safe space to support men's mental wellbeing and parenting practices, this could include parenting yarning circles, perpetrator accountability programs and mental health counselling.

Systems level action

- **SA5.** To develop a culturally appropriate space for men to engage with their own health and wellbeing as caregivers, their parenting practices and their child/ren's wellbeing.
- **SA6.** Establish a sustainable operational model for program delivery from the men's space.

Objective 2:
To improve overall parent and carer health.

Local level action

- **LA6.** Provide regular health and wellbeing classes for men and women.
- **LA7.** Promote and continue to provide annual health checks for men and women (i.e. Indigenous Health Checks – MBS 715).
- **LA8.** Co-design culturally appropriate parent wellbeing programs.
- **LA9.** Reinstate Palya Mayi (good food) into the local food store. Palya Mayi is a coding system to assist with the easy identification of healthier choices at the local store.
- **LA10.** Co-design an in-store initiative that includes recipes with shelf promotions of healthy and cheaper food choices within store (and package with cooking demonstrations where resources are available).

Family Financial Wellbeing

Aim: All children aged 0–4 years live in households with an adequate standard of living.²

Objective 1:
Improve employment readiness and opportunities within Bidyadanga to increase household incomes.

Local level action

- **LA11.** Provide opportunities for employment readiness through the Women's Centre, Early Years Centre and Men's Space.
- **LA12.** Engage employment agencies to support caregivers with children 0–4 years with employment readiness.
- **LA13.** Mentor the local early years workforce to build capacity for sustainable employment.

Objective 2:
To index welfare payments to reflect the increased cost of living in 'very remote' communities, and thereby increase household income of local recipients.

Systems level action

- **SA7.** Early Years Partnership Board to engage with the Australian Government regarding the need for a 'very remote' category in the Remote Area Allowance to ensure welfare payments reflect the cost of food, fuel, and power in very remote communities.

Objective 3:
To streamline paperwork requirements across government services (Centrelink, Medicare) to ensure families are able to access financial services they're eligible for.

Local level action

- **LA14.** Continue to work with the government agencies and banking teams that deliver services in Bidyadanga to simplify access to services.

Systems level action

- **SA8.** Identify and adopt existing or future technology that streamlines paperwork requirements for all government (Centrelink, Medicare) and/or business (banking) financial services.

Objective 4:
To improve access to banking for community members in Bidyadanga.

Local level action

- **LA15.** Continue to work with local banking partners to identify barriers to access and co-design locally streamlined service delivery for both deposits, withdrawals and transfers.

Community Physical and Social Aspects

Aim: To create the physical and social infrastructure in the community that strengthens the cultural identity of families and supports families to care for their children.

Objective 1:
To improve access to fit-for-purpose housing in Bidyadanga.³

Systems level action

- **SA9.** To identify opportunities to work in partnership with BACLG to define fit-for-purpose housing and increase the number of fit-for-purpose houses available in Bidyadanga for community members either through new construction or refurbishment of existing housing as per demonstrated need and available funding.

Objective 2:
Reduce the overall cost of living in Bidyadanga through sustainable and reliable energy supply.

Systems level action

- **SA10.** To investigate options to increase renewable power utilised by households in Bidyadanga through:
 - a. exploring renewable energy options relevant to the Bidyadanga community and developing costings for the preferred option.
 - b. implement preferred renewable energy option, dependent on available funding.

Objective 3:
To create a community where families feel confident and safe raising their children.

Local level action

- **LA16.** Provide a safe space for youth to engage with healthy recreational activities.
- **LA17.** To co-design with youth a coordinated set of actions that promote engagement and re-orient their activities away from crime. Specific programs to be explored include: Fair Game, Garnduwa, The Yiriman project/ranger program.
- **LA18.** Strengthen advocacy skills to empower community members to act locally against behaviour that impacts on child wellbeing, e.g. family violence, drug and alcohol, late night parties.

Systems level action

- **SA11.** Develop a community participation mechanism for the Council to provide feedback on how government funding and programs are distributed or delivered in the community.
- **SA12.** Develop a community cultural centre.

Community Service Aspects

Aim: To provide culturally safe, coordinated health and wellbeing service delivery within Bidyadanga.

Objective:
To ensure all services within Bidyadanga are culturally safe, well networked, and accessible to all community members.

Local level action

- **LA19.** To continue to raise community awareness of and connection to services that visit Bidyadanga.
- **LA20.** Engage services in current culturally safe community spaces (family centre, women's centre, clinic and men's space) and ensure good communication between service providers to support ease of transition for community members between services.
- **LA21.** Connected Beginnings partners facilitate connections between community members and service providers.
- **LA22.** Provide a mechanism to support all service providers to be culturally aware.

Systems level action

- **SA13.** To increase the number of accommodation options available in Bidyadanga for visiting service providers.
- **SA14.** Develop a formal partnership agreement between local services, to share information about families, to reduce the need for families to repeat their stories and increase holistic support that can be provided.

² Australia is a party to seven core international human rights treaties including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). ICESCR recognises that everyone has a right to adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/rights-and-freedoms/right-adequate-standard-living-including-food-water-and-housing>

³ Fit-for-purpose can mean housing that is safe, functional and built for the environmental conditions. A co-design approach needs to be taken with Aboriginal communities to ensure the housing supplied meets their needs. A one-size-fits all approach doesn't allow for appreciation of how deep connections to country and kinship groups affect improving outcomes for Aboriginal families.