



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

Derby

Wirriya Dunyji Ooba Babanil Ingun (Happy Strong Small Children)

Early Years Community Plan

2023



earlyyearspartnership.org.au

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

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Why we need change

In Derby approximately

1 in 2



children are considered developmentally vulnerable.¹



1 AEDC 2021.

How we will create change

Six key priorities have been identified locally to improve the wellbeing and school readiness of children living in Derby.



Child development

To increase the number of children meeting developmental milestones and entering school developmentally ready.²



Parent health and wellbeing

To improve the health and wellbeing of parents to enable positive parenting practices.



Family safety

To reduce the number of children (aged 0-4) who have interactions with family and domestic violence.



Family financial and wellbeing

Children aged 0-4 years live in households with an adequate standard of living.



Community service aspects

To provide a culturally safe and coordinated health and wellbeing system for families and children.



Community physical and social aspects

To create the physical and social infrastructure in the community that enables families to care for their children.

2 As measured by the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ3) and Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) tools (adjusted for cultural relevance as appropriate).



Who will be involved

The Derby community, State Government, the Minderoo Foundation and Telethon Kids Institute (TKI) as evidence and evaluation partner, are working in partnership to create change. The West Australian Government participates via the Department of Communities (lead partner), Department of Education and the Department of Health. Ngunga Group Women's Aboriginal Corporation are the Connected Beginnings partner.

What we will do to create change

The detailed Wirriya Dunyji Ooba Babanil Ingun - early years plan that outlines actions for change can be found at earlyyearspartnership.org.au



Aim: To increase the number of children meeting developmental milestones and entering school developmentally ready.

Objective 1:

To strengthen cultural identity and social confidence through supporting the transfer of cultural knowledge from Elders to children.

Local level action:

- **LA5.** Actively engage Elders in community events and early years education services to support the transfer of language and culture to children.

Objective 2:

To increase parent knowledge of early brain development, child wellbeing and school readiness.

Local level action:

- **LA7.** Distribute the Brain Boxes education tool (supplied by the Early Years Partnership) to professionals working with families in early years settings, e.g. Kindilink and playgroups.
- **LA8.** Engage parents in conversations/activities about the importance of brain development and school readiness in a variety of early years settings including Kindilink and playgroups.
- **LA9.** To engage local organisations (as far as possible) to deliver training to all early year's education staff about the impacts of trauma and effective methods to support individuals and families who have experienced trauma.

Objective 3:

To improve access to culturally safe early years education.

Local level action:

- **LA13.** Engage with early education providers to identify opportunities to incorporate Aboriginal ways of learning, being and doing into the curriculum, including out on country opportunities.

System level action:

- **SA4.** Increase the number of ACCO-led, culturally appropriate childcare places by supporting the design and development of an ACCO-led early years education centre for children.



Derby Priorities³



Parent health and wellbeing

Aim: To improve the health and wellbeing of parents to enable positive parenting practices.

Objective 1:

To ensure new parents feel socially supported to care for their physical and mental health after the birth of their first child.

System level action:

- **SA6.** Co-design and deliver support to new parents, especially for those who do not have a strong and positive kinship network locally.

Objective 2:

To reduce parents and caregivers' drug and alcohol consumption.

System level action:

- **SA7.** Work with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (Racing, Gaming and Liquor) and the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley to investigate the feasibility and requirements of introducing liquor restrictions or limits on the sale of alcohol, particularly related to school days.



Family safety

Aim: To reduce the number of children (aged 0-4) who have interactions with family and domestic violence.

Objective

To improve the safety of children, families and community members.

Local level action:

- **LA16.** Deliver culturally specific, on-country programs to promote family safety.
- **LA 17.** To provide opportunities for pro-active and prevention focussed two-way conversations, related to the role of Department of Communities (Child Protection), to raise awareness of the services provided by Child Protection and to also provide opportunities for Child Protection workers to hear directly from community members who engage with or are impacted by their services.

System level action:

- **SA10.** Support the delivery of a culturally secure men's behaviour change program.
- **SA11.** Source funding for the preferred model of culturally secure men's behaviours changes for those who commit family violence.



Family financial wellbeing

Aim: Children aged 0-4 years live in households with an adequate standard of living.

Objective 1:

Increase training, job readiness and employment opportunities in the Derby Community, including access to childcare, to increase household incomes and purchasing power.

Local Level action:

- **LA19.** Local Working Group to work with Kimberley training providers to support a wider variety of training courses relevant to local industries to support employment opportunities.
- **LA20.** Deliver life skills training and basic literacy and numeracy education to parents and caregivers.

System level action:

- **SA12.** To secure funding from the Commonwealth Department of Education Community Child Care Fund (CCCF) by accessing the restricted fund to supplement fee income for the proposed service to support families, to enable parents and carers to enter education, training or the workforce while supporting child development in a culturally safe environment (relates to SA4).
- **SA13.** To streamline paperwork requirements across government services (Centrelink, Medicare, births, deaths, and marriages) to support parents to access financial services they are eligible for after the birth of their child.

Objective 2:

To improve financial literacy including bill payment management.

Local level action:

- **LA22.** Improve awareness about availability of financial assistance programs (such as the Hardship Utility Grants Scheme (HUGS), WA No Interest Loans Scheme (WA NILS), electricity card app), by delivering culturally safe information sessions and resources in all communities.
- **LA23.** Provide energy coaching to reduce the cost of living.
- **LA24.** Provide food education training using generic labelled foods, to reduce cost of living.
- **LA25.** Provide access to affordable white goods to help improve hygiene.



Community service aspects

Aim: To provide a culturally safe and coordinated health and wellbeing system for families and children.

Objective 1:

To improve the cultural safety of the health and wellbeing service system.

Local level action:

- **LA26.** Work with local organisations to improve the cultural appropriateness of services and promote awareness of these to community members.
- **LA27.** Co-design and introduce a cultural awareness check and certification for service providers (similar to a Working with Children Check or a Working with Vulnerable Persons Check), including through awareness training for staff.

Objective 2:

To ensure services within the Derby community are well networked, coordinated and accessible to all community members.

Local level action:

- **LA28.** Connected Beginnings partners facilitate connections between families and service providers.
- **LA29.** Reduce barriers to engagement with services by creating a one-stop shop for people to access services or be put in touch with the right service.

System level action:

- **SA15.** 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.



Community physical and social aspects

Aim: To create the physical and social infrastructure in the community that enables families to care for their children.

Objective 1:

To improve access to housing.

System level action:

- **SA16.** Increase available housing supply by refurbishing vacant homes or building new stock subject to demonstrated need and available funding.

Objective 2:

To improve access to basic amenities that support child and family health.

Local level action:

- **LA 31.** To co-design with youth a coordinated set of actions that promote engagement and re-orient their activities away from undesirable behaviours.

System level action:

- **SA18.** Provide a safe space for youth to engage with healthy recreational activities.

