

## *Background to the Northern Gold Coast area ...*

**O**ur site is located in the Gold Coast/Brisbane growth corridor and is Australia's fastest population growth area, comprising of six widely dispersed and largely unconnected community areas, encompassing Oxenford, Pimpama, Coomera, Upper Coomera, Cedar Creek and Ormeau.

The 'Needs Analysis' compiled by the Community Researchers and project staff highlighted that there was virtually no existing service providers in the area to support families, limited public transport, no premises specifically designed for service provision activities and schools have reached capacity with no planning intended for additional facilities within the next few years. A survey recently revealed the Northern Gold Coast region has a 12% population of 0 - 5 year olds compared to 7% which is the average for the rest of the Gold Coast.

The Northern Gold Coast Communities for Children **vision** is to create a connected 'child friendly' community, where young children and their families have greater self-reliance and self-determination and are provided with opportunities to maximize health and wellbeing, learning capacity, emotional support and community cohesion.



### *Contact Details ...*

#### **Northern Gold Coast Communities for Children Initiative**

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**Improving the future and outcomes  
for young children, their families and  
the broader community in the  
Northern Gold Coast area.**



**Stronger Families and  
Communities Strategy**

**An Australian Government Initiative**

*The Northern Gold Coast Communities for Children initiative is funded by the Australian Government as part of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy.*

## **Northern Gold Coast**

### **Communities for Children**



*Supporting the growth ...*

**Community partners  
working together to foster and nurture  
young children, their families  
and our community**



# Northern Gold Coast Communities for Children

A range of community development strategies that are empowering community members to have a greater self-reliance and self-determination.

## Strengthening Family Relationships

### Strategies:

This strategy focuses on enhancing parents' capacity to cope and skilfully manage their life circumstances and parenting ability. The strategy encompasses antenatal and postnatal advice and support, service referral, life skills training, peer network facilitation, and family management from a parent advocate worker.

### Activities

- **Young parents Program** - childbirth and new parents program
  - Supported baby playgroups
- **Family relationship program** • Parenting programs
  - Filial play groups • Super parents series
- Babysitting training program for young women - • Parents in Action support groups

## Creating Community Connections

### Strategies:

Community Researchers support, encourage and foster community group interaction, which will help enrich social networks and assist new and old residents to engage with the broader community. Community Researchers are working alongside community members to create neighbourhood projects.

### Activities:

- Mobile Community Centre
- Assisting community members to develop neighbourhood projects
- Family fun days and community events
- Street Development Party days
- Community research

## Children's Development

### Strategies:

**Ready Set Learn** program works with child care staff and other service providers to implement functional programs within the daily routines of the centres. The aim is to extend knowledge of early childhood intervention practices and outcomes through research, training and role modelling interventions and building relationships with parents and professionals.

**Kids In Action** program is educating children and parents on the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle for their families with a focus on enhancing creativity and development through interactive play and physical activities.

**Read and Grow**-fun and interactive storytelling sessions with a creative activity for the parent and child.

**Small sports**-group based 'games' which are fun and engaging for children. The activities are designed to create distinctive improvements in children's behavioural, social and cognitive skills.

## Early years Hubs

### Strategies:

The community 'child focused' centres are the first point of call for many families looking for information and assistance. The community centres are buzzing 'hubs' which provide multiple networks of support to families with young children, facilitate information sharing and resources between service providers, and encourage community networks and peer support groups between families and parents accessing services at the 'hubs'.

### Activities

- Parent drop-in centres
- Motor skill activities
- Pram pushing
- New mums group
- Nutrition and cooking classes
- Story telling mornings
- Book worm program
- Children's activity mornings
- Breakfast clubs
- Infant Massage
- Step stones to prep

## Building Social Infrastructure

### Strategies:

This strategy is a whole of community focus that links community, government and non-government agencies to leverage services through a 'group voice', and explore innovative 'grass roots' initiatives to improve community well being.

### Activities:

- Supported and building community groups
- Business advocacy/brokerage
- Government advocacy/brokerage
- Community advocacy
- Annual Northern Gold Coast Community Festival.

