

The Mid Murray Family Connections (MMFC) Network has achieved significant milestones this year. We have successfully transitioned from a network who 'talks' to a network who secures outcomes for children and their caregivers across the Mid Murray. This successful transition was honoured with the MMFC network winning the "Play your Part" award with the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) for SA.

And whilst our focus has been on securing outcomes, the learning we have gained along the way has also been invaluable. This has allowed us to move forward as a collaboration in finding tailored and regional solutions. These solutions will support us to address the unique opportunities and barriers that we face undertaking this complex work.

I thank each and every one of you for your commitment and dedication in securing better outcomes for children and their caregivers . We are now in an excellent position to unlock opportunities for the Mid Murray.

Have a wonderful festive season. Be merry and stay safe. I look forward to seeing you all again the New Year, ready to continue where we left off in 2017.

KIRAN KING

MMFC Coordinator, Mid Murray Council.



## Mid Murray Family Connections (MMFC)

### What we've been up to...

2017 has been a significant year for the MMFC network. We have witnessed the MMFC Collective Impact Initiative move into a phase of coordinated action.

#### **Port Adelaide football Club:**

It was all about football for Mid Murray Students in February when Port Adelaide Football Club partnered with the Mid Murray Council's MMFC, OPAL and Fun 4 Youth programs as part of the Australia Post AFL Community Camp. Port Power players inspired students to think big at Truro, Swan Reach, Blanchetown and Cadell Primary Schools on 13 February 2017. The sessions focused on the connection between sport, school attendance, healthy lifestyle behaviours and healthy minds.

#### **National Families Week:**

The MMFC team ran well attended and successful awareness raising activities in partnerships with Mannum, Morgan and Swan Reach Kindergarten for National Families Week. Much fun was had with the colouring in competition and prizes awarded. Prizes were awarded and a big thanks the following sponsors who donated prizes - Mannum Hotel, Commercial Hotel, Riverview Café, Wallis Cinema's and Games World.

#### **Work Group Updates:**

Four Work Groups secured outcomes on behalf of the MMFC network.

- 'Mid Murray Mums' closed Facebook page was launched, where parents with pre-school children can connect informally. 3 parents were recruited to moderate the group.
- A poster to promote the importance of play was developed and will be circulated to the community.

- A filmmaker from DECD was engaged to interview children and their families to highlight why attendance and engagement are so important for educational success; with the objective to use this tool in 2018 to promote school attendance.
- A mural trail across the Mid-Murray will be created, showcasing the importance of families in the community (with pre-school and school children participating in the creation of the mural). This complex project will happen over the course of a few years.



#### **Schools as Community Hubs' Project:**

We have worked closely with Mannum Community College to support direct service provision from the school to build on the concept of 'Schools as Community Hubs'. CAMHS, headspace and ac.care (in 2018) will be providing outreach services from the school site.

We hope to build on this concept at other school sites across the Mid Murray in 2018.

#### **DCSI Grants Workshop:**

In partnership with DCSI, a grants workshop was offered to the greater Mid Murray community to support them with preparing grants applications. The training was well attended, by both MMFC network members and the greater community. We thank DCSI for this support.

### **Mid-Murray Family Connections Website:**

A website for parents and their children across the Mid Murray was launched. The website is a dedicated space to support parents to access play, learning, health, fitness, support and educational opportunities for children and themselves.

The website is also currently being administered by a local resident and MMFC network member.



### **Parent Child Mother Goose Facilitator Training:**

Grant funding was secured to deliver Parent Child Mother Goose Facilitator training to current playgroup facilitators, pre-school educators, school Chaplains and parents across the Mid Murray. We hope that this upskilling opportunity will result in enhanced playgroup experiences for children and their caregivers as well as more playgroup opportunities for the community.

### **MMFC Network Review:**

A review of the MMFC network has been ongoing for the last few months of 2017. A survey was sent out to network members, seeking their feedback about the functioning of the network and to also check on the

health of the network. From this feedback 3 new governance models' were developed and taken to both the Strategic Leadership Group and the network.

A governance structure has been adopted aligning place based Work Groups in the Mid-Murray region. This will Ensure that members are aligned to a Work Group where they either live or work and hence the 'experts' of their communities, choosing and leading projects to secure outcomes that are important to them.

### **What we've achieved...**

MMFC network won the 2017 'Play Your Part' award with the National Association of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect for South Australia (one of the two recipients).

### **Where we're going...**

We are busy...recruiting and training 3 community members to take on the roles as Co-Facilitators of each place based work group. This will help ensure the sustainability of the work, as well as imbedding the work in the community..

### **To join the Mid Murray Family Connections Network contact:**

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