

The Mid Murray Family Connections (MMFC) Network has successfully transitioned from a Network who 'talks' to a Network that secures outcomes for children and their caregivers across the Mid Murray. This can be partially attributed to the adoption of a new place-based governance model for the collaboration at the end of 2017.

We now have three Working Groups covering the vast geographical region of the Mid Murray. The North Working Group covers the Morgan and surrounds area. The Central Working Group covers the Swan Reach and surrounds area. And the South Working Group covers the Mannum and surrounds area. This way each group is made of partners who work and live in these communities and are the experts about what their local communities need to thrive.

This new governance model has supported all the Working Groups to hit the ground running in terms of our partners working together to secure outcomes on behalf of the MMFC Network. I am pleased to report Work Group North have successfully secured an outcome for their community (Messy Morning Family Fun Day for National Families Week). Work Group Central are soon to implement one of their projects for their community (pop-up Parent Child Mother Goose sessions). And Work Group South are in the throes of organising their project for the community (Healthy, Happy Families Day in partnership between MMFC, Mannum Community College and Mannum Football Club).

Stay tuned for the wonderful work our partners are delivering on behalf of the MMFC network.

KIRAN KING, MMFC Coordinator, Mid Murray Council.



## Mid Murray Family Connections (MMFC)

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

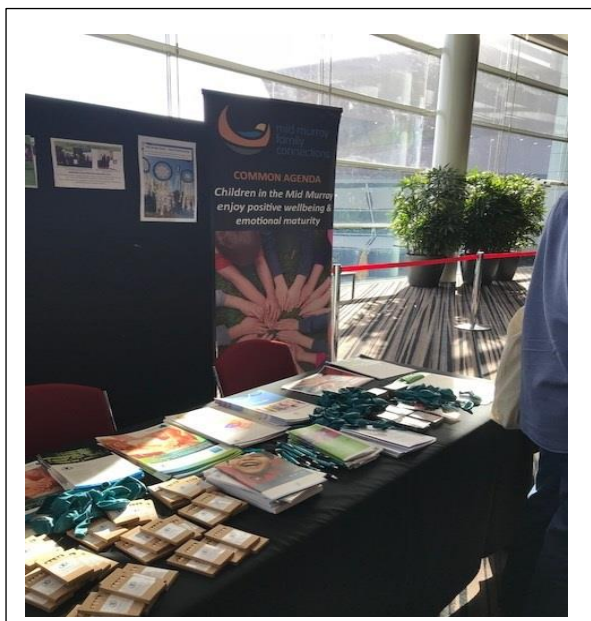
2018 is shaping up to be the year that the network found its feet...

#### *Training for Convenors and Facilitators:*

January and February were spent supporting our Convenors and Facilitators with Collective Impact 101 training, Results Based Accountability 101 training and one on one supervision sessions. We also spent time supporting this leadership group with learning how to use the resource pack the MMFC team developed to support our leadership team with leading their Working Groups.

#### *Together SA Symposium:*

The MMFC team and Network were fortunate to be invited by our partners Together SA (leaders of Collective Impact in SA) to participate throughout their impressive Symposium. Both Russell Peate (CEO of Mid Murray Council) and I spoke at the VIP breakfast in the morning - we were the only Collective Impact Initiative invited to speak at this session. Various members of our network also presented at the Symposium (Colin Nieass, Bobbie Taylor, Kristy Castle, Amy Loechel and myself). We also had an impressive stall on the day showcasing our work and wonderful new banner.



#### *Port Adelaide football Club:*

It was all about football for Mid Murray Students in March when Port Adelaide Football Club partnered once again 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 Cambrai Primary School and Mannum Community College on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. The sessions focused on the connection between sport, school attendance, healthy lifestyle behaviours and healthy minds. A football clinic was also offered to students at Mannum Community College after school.

#### *DCSI Grant:*

A \$5,000 Department of Communities and Social Inclusion Grant was secured by the MMFC team to support training and coaching opportunities for the Convenors and Facilitators of the MMFC network in March.

#### *Australian Early Development Conference:*

I attended the AEDC conference run by the Federal Department of Education in Melbourne during mid March. AEDC data is gathered every three years and has now been collected for 2018 and will be released in 2019. It was beneficial to hear from researchers, academics, senior public servants and coal face workers, about emerging research, best practice and different community led initiatives who formed in response to AEDC data. I learned a great deal from this conference, which will flow into the collaboration.

#### *tafeSA Wellbeing and Resilience Training:*

The MMFC team and tafeSA have worked together over the last 6 months to bring a 2 day training course to the Mid Murray community. The training was geared to anyone and everyone in the community who were interested in developing knowledge and an ensuing skill base about well-being and resilience. The training occurred over two days in March and April. Despite homework being required, the training was well attended and well received from a wide array of participants.

### ***The Little Big Book Club:***

The MMFC team met with Raising Literacy Australia to discuss their evidence based literacy programs. Through the course of the meeting, it was discovered there were no current distribution points for the 'Little Big Book Club'. So, the MMFC team agreed to work with libraries and council offices to ensure that families in the region had access to a free baby, toddler and pre-school reading pack. Each pack contains approximately 5 great books for families to enjoy. Stay tuned about where families can go and pick up their reading packs.

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

Multiple events were run across the Mid Murray Community by our partners – Mannum Kindergarten and Mannum Community College for National Families Week in May. The week culminated in Work Group North (Morgan and surrounds) securing their first outcome for families in the Morgan and surrounds area. Messy Morning was run on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. It was well attended by children and their families.



### ***Emerging Minds Infant and Child Mental Health Training:***

The MMFC and Emerging Minds partnered to bring Infant and Child mental health training to the MMFC Network. The training will also be offered again later in the year to Morgan and surrounds community. The training is for anyone interested in developing their knowledge and ensuing skills sets (community and professional streams).

### ***MMFC Video:***

At the recent TSA Symposium, the MMFC team were asked if we had a video to introduce the MMFC network and our work. We did not! But we are working with the local PR company CommShake to develop a video introducing our work and what we do. This resource will be forwarded to all our partners for their use once it has been developed. Stay tuned...

### ***Children's Centre:***

The MMFC team and partners continue to work together to develop up this concept for the Mid Murray community. I recently visited the 'Go Goldfields Collective Impact Initiative' to see how they went about developing and delivering a Children's Centre. Stay tuned...

### ***Literacy Programs:***

The MMFC team have partnered with Raising Literacy Australia to develop up a multi-year literacy program. Stay tuned...

### ***Common Approach/Language:***

Common Approach training delivered by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth has now been delayed until the second half of 2018. Thankyou to Meg Quarmby, who has agreed to undertake the training to become an accredited facilitator. This training will then be rolled out to all our partners in 2019.

### ***ac.care Financial Counselling Services:***

A big thankyou to our partners at ac.care for working with the MMFC team to bring their services out to the Mid Murray community. The financial counselling team are now providing services from Mannum Hospital on a fortnightly basis. Please contact ac.care at their Murray Bridge office, should you know of anyone requiring the service.

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

- Working Group North has rolled out their first project for 2018 – Messy Morning for National Families Week.
- Working Group Central are in the process of rolling out pop-up Parent Child Mother Goose sessions in June and July with future sessions TBA.



- Working Group South are busy organising a Community Fun day.

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

The website is live and please promote to the greater community as a one stop shop for all families for play, learning, health, social and support opportunities. We are tracking the data since its launch late last year and it is great to see increasing use of this online resource.



### ***MMFC network banner:***

We now have a fantastic banner promoting the MMFC Network. We invite our partners to also use the banner at any events in which they are representing the MMFC Network. Please contact me either on email

[kking@mid-murray.sa.gov.au](mailto:kking@mid-murray.sa.gov.au)

or on 8569 0100 to organise a loan of the banner

### **Member Profile:**

**Lisa Edwards –Co-Facilitator of Working Group North, Mum extraordinaire, Member of governing council for Morgan Primary School and Morgan playgroup participant. Born in Adelaide, raised in Cadell and now living in Morgan. Lover of camping and the great outdoors.**



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