

# COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN EAST GIPPSLAND

The Communities for Children (CfC) program began in East Gippsland in 2004. It is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services to improve outcomes for children and families. UnitingCare Gippsland (UCG) facilitates the program in East Gippsland.

## FACILITATING PARTNER ACTIVITIES

(delivered by *UnitingCare* Gippsland)

### Community Links

The Community Links activity has a key role in facilitating partnerships/networks and developing referral pathways across community service organisations that support children and families to access services easily. The Community Links activity promotes the services and funding opportunities that the Communities for Children Program have available, enabling opportunities to value add to existing services and identify gaps in services for children and families.

### Working & Learning Together – Professional Development & Training

CfC offers a range of professional development and training opportunities to further develop the awareness and capacity of our community partners and broader service providers to embed inclusive practice into their programs, services and activities. Please visit the UnitingCare Gippsland website for further information about future professional development opportunities— [www.ucgipps.org.au](http://www.ucgipps.org.au)

### Innovation Activities – Linking Schools, Early Years & Services

Support Early Childhood programs, Schools and Services to implement collaborative strategies to support children and families at key transition points. The Partnership group will plan, develop, implement and evaluate locally relevant strategies and activities to develop new models of working collaboratively. The focus of this activity will be Lakes Entrance and potentially some work in Bairnsdale.

### Children's Evaluation & Consultation

Development of a resource to support Community Partners and service providers more broadly to capture children's voices in evaluation and consultation.



## CfC TEAM CONTACT DETAILS

PHONE:

[\(03\) 5152 9600](tel:(03)51529600)

EMAIL:

[c4cteam@ucgipps.org.au](mailto:c4cteam@ucgipps.org.au)

WEBSITE:

[www.ucgipps.org.au](http://www.ucgipps.org.au)

## COMMUNITY PARTNER ACTIVITIES

### **GLCH East Bairnsdale**

The BOUNCE BACK! Wellbeing & Resilience Program addresses the environmental building blocks and the personal skills for fostering resilience in children and young people. The program focuses on coping skills to help children and young people respond positively to the complexity of their everyday lives. Children are taught how to 'bounce back' after experiencing sadness, difficulties, frustrations and hard times. Bounce Back will be implemented during school holidays with follow up during the school term. Strengthening East Bairnsdale sports project – co-ordination to further establish and consolidate connections between the East Bairnsdale community and local sporting facilities, eliminating barriers and maximising participation opportunities.

### **GLCH Bumps to Babies**

The Bumps to Babies (BTB) group (formally the Youth Pregnancy and Parenting Support Group) has been very successful in engaging young mothers and their children. The focus of this activity is to support the young mothers to transition to other activities and services beyond direct involvement with the Bumps to Babies program. A key element will be involving the participants in identifying activities and services of interest

### **GLCH Pizza & Parenting**

Casual parenting discussion nights for fathers. Coordinated by MCH Service of FYCS Unit GLCH. A significant component of this activity will be the actual development of the sessions and engagement of fathers. The facilitators of this activity will develop strategies and approaches which are supported by the research and the previous work conducted through the Father Inclusive Practice Scoping Project. This activity will inform and utilise the Father Inclusive Practice resources (rollover funding activity).

### **Good Beginnings Volunteer Family Connect**

The Volunteer Family Support Program involves recruiting and training volunteers to visit and support families in their own homes within Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance and Orbost. Volunteers are matched with a family with children between 0-6 years old, who have expressed a need for regular outreach visits to provide social and parenting support.

### **Good Beginnings Play 2 Learn**

Play 2 Learn is a community based, supported play and learn program for under school age children that successfully engages hard to reach families from vulnerable communities.

### **Good Beginnings Baby Massage**

Developed based on attachment theory and the importance of the parent-infant relationship development.

### **Swifts Creek P 12 Schools as Hubs**

The Schools as Hubs coordinate will link families with services and with other families through a range of soft entry activities (literacy activities, rhyme time, book bags, kinder gyms, transition programs).

### **ORH Parents under Pressure**

An enhanced outreach home-based program to help the parents work towards their own parenting goals. The program will be individualised to suit each family with families supported to work towards goals both within their own resources and networks and through engaging with the wider community and appropriate support services.

### **ORH Puppets & Play**

This activity provides preschool children with an opportunity to engage in physical activity with their parents on a weekly basis. This activity is run at multiple locations across Orbost and surrounding towns through primary schools. The 'bringing up great kids' program will provide parent learning strategies within Puppets and Play.

### **LEAHA Parenting Hub**

This activity will provide a flexible program that will evolve and be driven from engagement with families. The development of the parenting hub will provide a space for parents to share their on the ground wisdom. This will be supported with evidence based activities and services matched with the needs identified by families to improve the outcomes for children and families.

### **Berry Street Community Wellbeing Program**

Activity will be a combination of capacity building through mentoring/coaching and direct service delivery with the focus of supporting families affected by trauma and emotional issues. The activity will work with approximately 2 – 3 early childhood settings and 2 – 3 primary schools in the Bairnsdale area.

### **UnitingCare Gippsland Little Green Frog**

Little Green Frog will use the unique position it has in regards to the ability to reach rural and remote communities and focuses on facilitation in building the capacity of other services (including Community Partner activities) to deliver services and activities in rural/remote communities. Little Green Frog will facilitate and link rural communities with Community Partner activities and services and support them to be able to reach these communities.

### **UnitingCare Gippsland Wellbeing Programs Activity**

Provide opportunities for schools to link with services to support the emotional wellbeing of students and families through the provision of a suite of evidence based early intervention programs including;

- Drum beat
- Secret Agent Society

This activity includes the provision of Secret Agent Society and Drumbeat training and the resources to support the programs.