



SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY CENTRES (SaCC)

Annual Results Based Report 2016

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INTRODUCTION

The Schools as Community Centres (SaCC) program supports children aged birth to eight years in communities experiencing marked challenges of disadvantage.

In 2016 there was a total of 44 SaCC projects hosted by NSW Public Schools and led by a local facilitator. Many of the SaCC programs deliver outreach activities in other local public schools and all welcome families from local schools into their programs.

Core initiatives of the SaCC program include:

- Supported playgroups
- Early literacy activities
- Transition to school strategies
- Parenting programs
- Adult learning
- Health and nutrition initiatives.

There is flexibility in the SaCC program to enable local communities to implement additional initiatives specifically addressing the needs of families and young children in their area.

Reporting on outcomes for families with young children

SaCC projects are required to report each year on progress against performance measures through the SaCC Annual Results-Based Report.

In 2016, 40 SaCC projects provided data gathered for the Annual Results-Based Report. The report summarises the state-wide collection of data for the SaCC program for 2016.



OVERVIEW OF INVESTMENT IN NSW:

In 2016 a total of 44 SaCC projects were hosted by NSW public schools.

Thirty-six of the SaCC projects operated 4 or 5 days per week with the other 8 SaCC projects operating 2 or 3 days per week.

In 2016 SaCC projects were hosted by:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Albion Park Rail PS | Cessnock PS | Glenroi Heights PS | Punchbowl PS |
| Alexandria Park CS | Condobolin PS | Gorokan PS | Queanbeyan PS |
| Anna Bay PS | Curran PS | Goulburn PS | Rosemeadow PS |
| Ashcroft PS | Dareton PS | Granville South PS | Sanctuary Point PS |
| Auburn North PS | Dee Why PS | Irrawang PS | Telopea PS |
| Blue Haven PS/ Northlakes PS | Dubbo West PS | Kempsey West PS | The Meadows PS |
| Bonnyrigg PS | Fairfield PS | Lakemba PS/Wiley Park PS | Windale PS |
| Buninyong PS | Farmborough Road PS | Marrickville West PS | Woodberry PS |
| Cabramatta PS | Fennell Bay PS | Moree East PS | Woy Woy PS |
| Canley Vale PS | Forbes North PS | Narooma PS | Wyoming PS |
| | Franklin PS | Narrandera PS | Wyong PS |
| | Glebe PS | | |



AT A GLANCE... 2016 RESULTS FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Families

- 5,339 families with young children birth to 8 years regularly participated in SaCC projects. This is an average of 134 families per project
- 1,057 or 20% of these families identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 1,774 or 33% of these families identified as having a culturally and linguistically diverse background
- 233 or 5% of these families had a parent aged less than 21 years
- A further 4,750 families participated in SaCC projects on a short term or occasional basis.

Children

- 7,325 children birth to 8 years regularly participated in SaCC projects. This is an average of 183 children per project

- 74% of these children were below school age
- 18% of children who participated identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Islander
- 26% of children who participated identified as having a culturally and linguistically diverse background
- 9% of children aged 5 years or less participating in SaCC projects were identified as having additional needs.

Partnerships

- 1,043 initiatives for families were delivered by SaCC projects across NSW
- 85% of SaCC initiatives were delivered in partnership with human service agencies.



MEASURING RESULTS FOR THE SaCC PROGRAM:

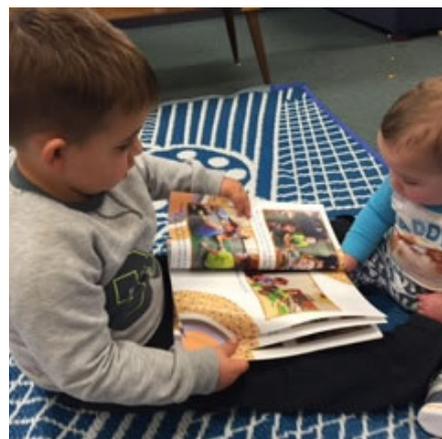
The Schools as Community Centres Evaluation Framework (2008) assists the Student Engagement and Interagency Partnership unit to monitor results for families with young children who participate in the SaCC program.

The framework identifies a set of common outcomes and performance measures for the SaCC program that determine whether families and children participating in SaCC initiatives are better off.

Results-based accountability has been used as the framework for the development of outcomes and performance measures.



Children are physically well and healthy



Children have literacy and numeracy skills appropriate for their age



Children have social and emotional skills appropriate for their age



Parents are confident, connected to their community and its services and equipped to support their children's development

OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN:

While there are many positive outcomes for families and children from their participation in SaCC initiatives, the framework outlines three core SaCC outcomes and three optional SaCC outcomes (SaCC projects report on at least one of the optional outcomes) which are tracked on a state wide basis.

Core outcomes of the SaCC program are:

- Increased supportive connections
- Increased use of health and community services, resources and activities
- Increased social, emotional and communication skills for school preparedness.

Optional SaCC project outcomes are:

- Increased knowledge on parenting and child development
- Increased parent confidence
- Improved parenting practices in early literacy childhood.

A TOTAL OF 5,339 FAMILIES RAISING CHILDREN BIRTH TO 8 YEARS REGULARLY PARTICIPATED IN INITIATIVES DELIVERED BY SaCC PROJECTS IN 2016.

Families:

- 4,602 parents and/or carers participated in SaCC initiatives. Of the total regular families attending SaCC initiatives, 332 or 7% of participants were fathers or male carers, 262 or 6% were grandparents and 209 or 5% were other relatives or carers
- A further 4,750 families with children birth to 8 years participated in SaCC project initiatives on a short term or occasional basis.

Children:

- 7,325 children aged up to 8 years participated regularly in initiatives delivered in 2016 by SaCC projects across NSW
- Of the children who participated regularly in SaCC initiatives, a total of 2,730 (37%) were aged less than 3 years and 2,662 (36%) were aged from 3 years to school age. A further 1,933 (26%) were school aged (5-8 years).

Community members:

- For each SaCC project, an average of 571 adults attended events aimed at fostering community cohesion, delivered through partnerships between SaCC projects and local human service networks
- A total of 1,552 community members without young children participated in initiatives delivered by SaCC projects across NSW.

SaCC PROGRAM INITIATIVES

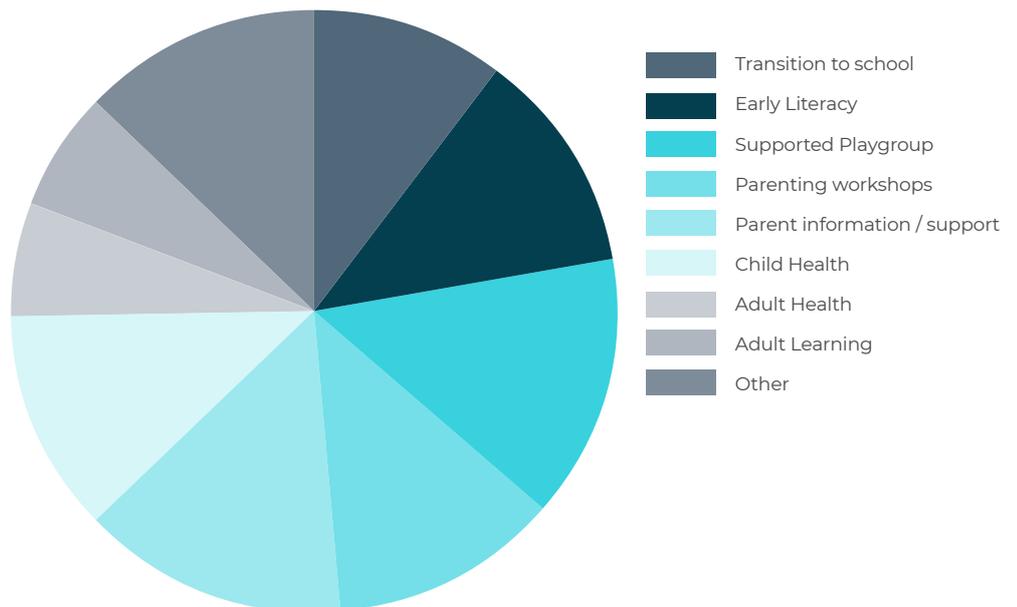
In 2016 SaCC projects delivered a total of 1,088 initiatives to support families raising children birth to 8 years.

literacy, parenting programs, transition to school, adult learning and health and nutrition initiatives, SaCC projects also provided a range of other activities that address the needs of local families.

In addition to common SaCC initiatives such as supported playgroups, early



The chart below shows the type and proportion of SaCC project initiatives across NSW for 2016:



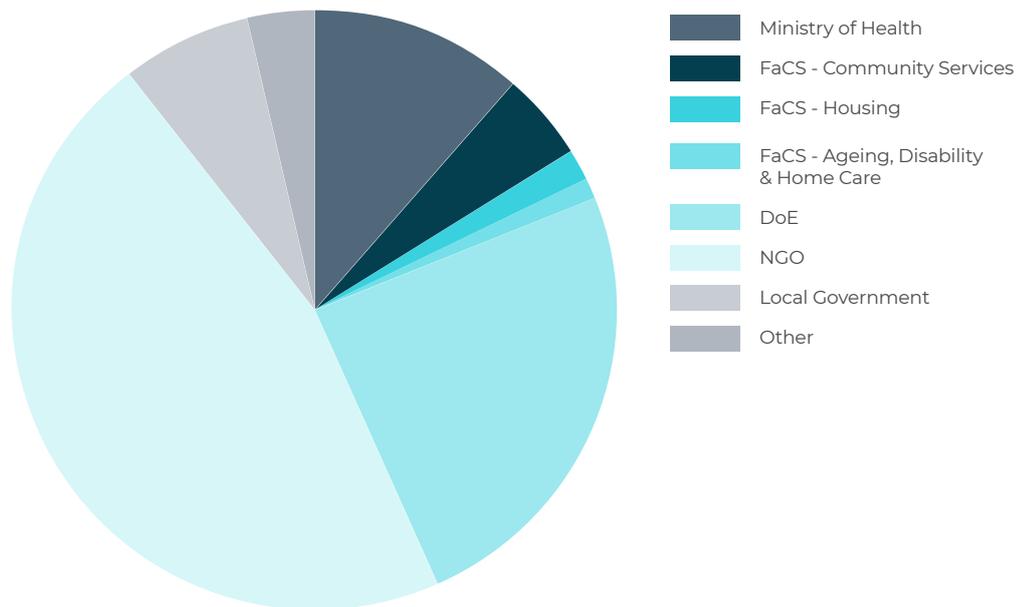
PARTNERSHIPS

A total of 1,041 local partnerships with human service agencies were involved in 2016 to implement SaCC project initiatives.

This includes 254 partnerships with the Department of Education (mostly outreach to local primary schools), 121 partnerships with the Ministry of Health and 482 partnerships with non-government agencies (NGOs).



The chart below shows the type and proportion of joint initiatives across NSW in 2016:



CASE STUDIES



I separated from my children's father after almost 12 years of being together. I moved back to Australia, a first-time single mother, with my then 3 year old daughter (now 6) and 7 months pregnant with my now 3 year old son.

I struggled for about a year to adjust to all the new changes in my life, even with the support of my family and friends. I finally managed to get my life on track. My past relationship was emotionally abusive and it drained me of my confidence, my self esteem and my personality. I firmly believe that my involvement with the SaCC program was a huge part of what helped me find myself again.

I've been involved with the SaCC program for about 2 years. While my daughter was in kindergarten, I started taking my son to a playgroup once a week. At first he was quite shy, like me, and very dependent but enjoyed his time there nonetheless. The SaCC Coordinator often suggested to me that a Zumba class might be helpful.

I finally agreed to try it and loved it! I'm so glad she didn't give up on me and only wished I had built up the courage to go earlier.

One of the hardest things I had to do was to leave my son in the child minding service provided with the Zumba class. I'd never had to leave him before with anyone other than my mum and sister. The first few weeks were heartbreaking! Although my son would cry, he was also quick to settle, but he would not participate in anything. He wouldn't eat or drink, he wouldn't participate in craft, storytime, singing or dancing. As hard as it was, I knew that with persistence, he would eventually get the hang of our new routine, and he sure did!

There's been such a massive change in my son's personality. He's become more social and independent and I owe it all to the SaCC program. Now, he loves it so much, he wants to go everyday! Thank you for all your wonderful programs and consistent support.

CASE STUDIES

I am a grandma who takes care of my granddaughter. I was looking for a playgroup to socialise my granddaughter. I tried to attend playgroups in my area, but there were no vacancies. When I received my local newspaper I looked at the noticeboard section and saw an ad for a playgroup where parents and grandparents were welcome. I began attending when school term started in 2016. I travel on 2 buses to get there as it's in the next suburb.

My granddaughter looks forward to going to it and enjoys the bus ride. She tells everyone on the bus that we are going to playgroup today. My granddaughter was so shy and would

not settle when she first started. Now she enjoys every minute of it! She has learnt so much - to share things, make craft, play with other children, put toys away, and wash hands before having a healthy morning tea of fresh fruit. She also enjoys storytime and dance time.

It's such a pleasure to be there, as all the mothers are very friendly and we all have a good time. It is so different to other playgroups I have been to with my other grandchildren. This playgroup is so organised - the facilitator does such a great job and everything just runs smoothly. It is such a joy to come along, have a happy day and see the smiles on the children's faces.

I have 2 kids and have been in Australia for more than 6 years. Last year I joined the SaCC program and as a result my life has positively changed. Being a mother of 2 kids looking after the house and taking care of the family, I felt lost. I was very depressed and had lots of negative thoughts. I started blaming my husband, fighting with him and cried for no reason. Migrating from overseas with no family support, I was very unhappy.

When my son started school, the Coordinator came to me and asked me to join a playgroup for my daughter, but I was very hesitant. A term passed and I thought I'd give it a go. There, I met many other mums and slowly started talking to them, sharing my problems. I then realised that I was not the only one facing such problems. There were many more mothers facing similar problems. Being a part of this group has let me know about many other things like

Zumba health and fitness. After our Zumba group, we do many activities such as art and craft, making friends, chatting about relationships, time management and participating in the 123 magic parenting program. My son has also learnt many things at playgroup, developed his social skills and has become very confident and happy since attending playgroup.

Life started changing. Now I am very happy and willing to do many things to make my life better. I have also started to encourage other mothers to come to the programs. I am willing to serve the community and I have started to get involved in many community activities, including dropping SaCC flyers in letterboxes in the local area.

My special thanks to each and every one connected with the SaCC program with lots of blessing.

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Further information:

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement and Interagency Partnerships
Level 14, 1 Oxford Street
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

02 9244 5360

education.nsw.gov.au

