

Engaged and participating in learning

Morwell Learning Village

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Crinigan Road Primary School, Tobruk Street Primary School and Commercial Road Primary School were merged to revitalise education in the Morwell area. Morwell Central Primary School was officially opened in 2017.

In 2016, the IGCYAP agreed to support the development of an Early Learning Centre and Community Hub located at Morwell Central Primary School. The Hub will incorporate a kindergarten, maternal and child health and long day care services, which were key elements of the Regeneration Project. The Primary School and Community Hub will deliver a full service school model to the Morwell community: the Morwell Learning Village.

The Morwell Learning Village is now being established as part of a new partnership with the Colman Foundation, called Our Place. Our Place will help integrate early childhood, school and adult education services, giving families access to a range of education and support services at a single convenient location. This work is now being led by the Department of Education and Training.

Morwell school community hub vision part 1.jpg

MORWELL SCHOOL Community Hub WORKSHOP 08.08.16



An example of the IGYAP's development work for Early Learning Centre and Community Hub located at Morwell Central Primary School

Early Years Taskforce

Led by the Department of Education and Training, the Early Years Taskforce of the IGCYAP is focused on ensuring all children who experience vulnerability are participating in and supported by early childhood services. .

The Early Years Taskforce has five strategies to progress work:

- Increase participating of children in OoHC and children known to Child Protection in early years services
- Improve the sharing of data and information about children
- Build more inclusive and equipped services to support vulnerable children
- Improve the early years' service identification and referral of children and families at risk of family violence.

The Taskforce also has oversight of the implementation of the [Supporting Children and Families in the Early Years: A Compact between DET, DHHS and Local Government \(represented by MAV\) 2017-2027](#)

The work of the Early Years Taskforce has included increasing the participation of eligible children in Early Start Kindergarten, a grant for children known to Child Protection and Aboriginal children to access free kindergarten at age three.

Through implementing a variety of cross-sector initiatives – including the development of a new email notification system notifies local governments in Inner Gippsland when a child enters OoHC to improve communication across service providers, developing new referral processes and enhancing existing strategies to identify eligible children, Early Start Kindergarten enrolments are continuing to increase across Inner Gippsland.

Other successful impacts to date include:

- Working with United Way, the Inner Gippsland CYAP has distributed 1,665 books to 210 children aged 0 to 4 years (children in OoHC and accessing Family Services). These included 187 from the Inner Gippsland Area and 23 from Traralgon East - Cameron Street PreSchool. Of the 187 in Inner Gippsland, 137 are currently enrolled and 50 have recently 'graduated' (i.e. turned five and started school).
- The books for the children in Inner Gippsland were funded by The Ian Potter Foundation, Perpetual, RE Ross Trust, Colliers Charitable Fund and through fundraising through the (United Way) school ball. The Kindred Spirits Foundation funded the books distributed to children in at the Cameron Street Preschool.
- Local government Municipal Early Years Plans reflect children in OoHC as a priority cohort

For school-aged children and young people, the Best Start in Life taskforce are focused on:

- School enrolment and attendance
- Implementation of the Education Partnering Agreement for children in OoHC, and
- Engagement in education by young people in residential care.

Impact to date includes:

- Established an Education Support Panel for all young people in OoHC to ensure they have a support plan in place from the moment they enrol in school
- Established an email notification system for Child Protection to notify schools when a child or young person enters OoHC
- Allocated financial resources to ensure young people in residential care have the supports and resources required to re-engage in education
- Developed and delivered professional learning sessions for schools regarding trauma informed approaches.

As a result of the shared commitment facilitated by the IGCYAP, relationships and links across universal, secondary and tertiary services have been enhanced. A new process to support communication between local government and agencies providing OoHC services has been established and trust across agencies has also increased, supporting greater collaboration throughout the Partnership.

This priority is further supported by the work of the [Aboriginal Early Years taskforce](#) [2] and the [Data and Measurement taskforce](#) [2].



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