



Schools as Community Centres (SaCC)

Annual Report 2022

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Introduction

Each year, more than 5000 families participate in SaCC activities, including:

- supported playgroups
- early literacy activities
- transition to school strategies
- parenting programs
- adult learning
- health and nutrition initiatives.

Schools as Community Centres (SaCC) programs are hosted by NSW public schools and led by a local facilitator who coordinates and manages a range of community engagement initiatives supporting families with young children. In 2022 there were a total of 48 SaCC programs hosted by NSW Public Schools.

There is flexibility in the SaCC program to enable facilitators to implement additional initiatives which address 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 2022, 39 SaCC programs provided data for the Annual Results Based Report. This report summarises the results they achieved.



2022 results for families with young children



Children

- **5,128** children aged 0-8 years regularly participated in SaCC programs.
- **2,620 or 51%** of children were aged less than 3 years.
- **2,508 or 48%** of the children were aged from 3 years to school age.
- **1,009 or 19%** of children were identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Islander.
- **1,829 or 35%** of children were identified as having a culturally and linguistically diverse background.
- **413 or 8%** of children aged 5 years were identified as having additional needs.



Families

- **5,223** families regularly participated in SaCC programs.
- **1,009 or 19%** of these families identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- **1,829 or 35%** of these families identified as having a culturally and linguistically diverse background.
- **279 or 5%** of these families had a parent aged less than 25 years.
- **297 or 5%** of participants were fathers or male carers.
- **172 or 3%** were grandparents.

Community members/ Partnerships

426 or 82% was the total number of SaCC initiatives aimed at fostering community cohesion, delivered in partnerships with local human service agencies



Initiatives

517 initiatives for families were delivered by SaCC programs across NSW.



In 2022, SaCC programs were hosted by the following schools:

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
Bathurst West PS	Dubbo West PS	Kempsey West PS	The Meadows PS
Bomaderry PS	Fairfield PS	Lakemba PS	Wiley Park PS
Bomaderry PS	Farmborough Road PS	Marrickville West PS	Windale PS
Bonnyrigg PS	Fennell Bay PS	Moree East PS	Woodberry PS
Buninyong PS	Forbes North PS	Narooma PS	Woy Woy PS
Cabramatta PS	Franklin PS	Narrandera PS	Wyoming PS
Canley Vale PS	Glebe PS	Northlakes PS	Wyang PS



SaCC program initiatives

In 2022, SaCC programs **delivered a total of 517 initiatives to support families** raising children birth to 8 years.

In addition to common SaCC initiatives such as supported playgroups, early literacy, parenting programs, transition to school, adult learning and health and nutrition initiatives, **SaCC projects also provided a range of other activities** which address the needs of local families.



Feedback from families

“I have been struggling with depression and almost ended up in Bloomfield (the mental ward of the hospital). Tidda’s has shown me that I can do it. I have enjoyed working with you all and I am more confident in myself now.”

“I struggled at first as a stay-at-home dad but this play group has been fantastic! There are quite a few dads that come along and both me and my child have made great friends.”

“You girls literally kept me alive. Just before coming to Tidda Tradies I tried to kill myself. If it hadn’t been for Tidda Tradies God knows where I would be.”

“After attending these sessions I felt a lot calmer about how to deal with my anxiety and fears and have strategies to help my child. The group interacted well together and we have become friends.”

“With long waiting lists for childcare in this area (especially 0-2) this playgroup has saved us. Such a great environment to socialise with other mums and kids. We love this playgroup.”

“Parenting is both the hardest and most rewarding job in the world. The SaCC playgroup provides a safe, supportive, judgement-free zone to share the ups and downs, to reflect on and explore new ideas and to learn and grow. Without the SaCC playgroup, I would feel very isolated as I live on a farm outside of town. Without playgroup, my mental health would suffer as I would not have that connection with other parents and the support provided so generously by Mel.”

“I don’t know what I would have done without this group! Xxx gets so excited when I ask her if she wants to see Jen. I think I was struggling with post-natal depression, but this group and you have helped me so much!”

“I’ve been to a few Queanbeyan Fathering Project meetups now and have always had a fantastic time! One of the highlights was painting handprints with my little one—it was such a special moment that I will treasure forever. I also appreciated the opportunity to connect with other new dads and share experience and advice. The atmosphere was relaxed, welcoming and inclusive. Brendan and Paola did a great job of creating a supportive and enjoyable environment. I highly recommend this group to any new dads in the area looking for a supportive community to connect with.” –Ryan H



We acknowledge the homelands of all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and pay our respect to Country.

Say hello

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