

MITCHELL EARLY YEARS PLAN 2012-16 - YEAR FOUR ACTION PLAN 2015-16 (CONT.)

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Attachment

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

15 AUGUST 2016

7.6

**MITCHELL EARLY YEARS PLAN 2012-16 -
YEAR FOUR ACTION PLAN 2015-16**

**Attachment No: 1
MEYP Year Four Action Plan**

MITCHELL SHIRE

Early Years Plan 2012-2016

Year 4: Action Plan 2015 – 2016

Final Progress Report – June 2016

Introduction

The purpose of the Annual Action Plan is to identify those actions and activities to be progressed within the nominated year. This guides planning and service delivery across the shire and via council activities to generate improved outcomes for families in Mitchell Shire.

The Annual Action Plan has been developed in partnership with members of the Mitchell Early Years Reference Group (MEYRG) and Council offices. It is anticipated that the actions will be driven by the members of the MEYRG and Mitchell Shire Council (MSC). Where possible initiatives and activities will be undertaken collaboratively by agencies and members across the shire of Mitchell.

The Annual Action Plan should also be reviewed alongside other strategic documents that inform planning and delivery of services. These include the Mitchell Access and Inclusion disability Plan and the Municipal Health and Wellbeing plan.

Goal 1: Embed the MEYP into council planning & processes

Specific Actions 2015 - 2016	Person /Dept responsible	Process/Impact measure	Progress April 2016	Timeframe
1.1 Promotion of MEYP				
<p>1.1.1 MEYP is discussed with key stakeholders to ensure relevant feedback and opportunities are provided to ensure knowledge of Mitchell priorities is shared to support future opportunities for collaboration.</p>	MEYRG - Members MSC – Early Years Services and Strategic Planning	All key stakeholders consider MEYP issues in planning and delivery of services and opportunities for collaboration are explored and utilized within 6 months of plan development.	MEYP raised at Educator meetings, with DET contacts and support workers. MEYP raised at MCH nurse team meetings and included in annual team work plan.	Jan 2016 Green
<p>1.1.2 Meetings to be held on a quarterly basis with agenda and minutes distributed accordingly.</p>	Chair MEYRG MSC – Co-ord Public Health	Meetings conducted quarterly.	Quarterly meetings conducted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2015 • November 2015 • May 2016 	July 2015 - June 2016 Green

Goal 2: Planning for population growth in the Shire: ensuring timely provision of infrastructure & family-friendly public spaces.

Specific Actions 2015 - 2016	Person /Dept responsible	Process/Impact Measure	Progress April 2016	Timeframe
2.1 Early Years Infrastructure Planning – scheduling works, monitoring progress & contingency planning.				
<p>2.1.1 Commence work on the design and construction of an Early Years facility at Wallan Primary School.</p>	MSC - Early Years Services	Early Years Facility construction commenced at Wallan Primary School.	<p>Concepts designs finalized November 2015. Tender process Dec 2015 – Jan 2016. Construction commenced March/April 2016. Interface Growth Funding (IGF) received for the Wallan Integrated Community Learning Facility.</p>	<p>Oct 2015 - March 2016 Green</p>
<p>2.1.2 Opportunity for MEYRG members to provide input into planning processes in relation to placements of new facilities. MEYRG also provides input into service delivery models for new infrastructure projects and greenfield development sites.</p>	MEYRG - Members MSC - Sustainable Communities Directorate; Social Planner	<p>Consultation with Early Years services and providers informs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilmore Structure Plan • Seymour Structure Plan • Precinct Structure Plans • Mitchell Shire Community Infrastructure Guidelines • Beveridge Early Years Facility 	<p>MSC staff contributed to structure plan meetings. MSC Children’s Services and Public Health Coordinators contributed to Mitchell Community Infrastructure Guidelines development. MSC Social Planner provided input into IGF application for Wallan Integrated Community Learning Facility.</p>	<p>Ongoing Jul 2015 – June 2016 Green</p>
<p>2.1.3 Develop data set with current figures from census, enrolments for Kindergarten, Birth Notifications etc. to inform planning etc.</p>	MEYRG - Members MSC - Social Planner and Economic Development	Data Set developed and made available as indicated.	Nil progress.	<p>Dec 2015 Red</p>

Goal 3: Managing reforms in early childhood education to maintain & improve kindergarten participation rates across Mitchell.

Specific Actions 2015 - 2016	Person /Dept responsible	Process/Impact Measure	Progress April 2016	Timeframe
3.1 Local area planning for NQS Reforms				
<p>3.1.1 Kindergarten Participation Rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor available kindergarten places & population of 4 year olds in Mitchell Shire. Identify more precisely who is missing out & why. Regularly review the outcomes of the National Quality Framework Assessment and Ratings Visits to inform service delivery and innovation. Engage with all local LDC Centre’s on plans for funded kindergarten places 2014+. 	<p>MEYRG - Members MSC - Children’s Services</p>	<p>Planning for current and future places is consistent with demand. Successful results from Ratings and Assessment visits. Quality Improvement Plans address outcomes and recommendations from ratings and assessment visits.</p>	<p>Current available places filled, waiting lists in place.</p> <p>2015-16 Service Improvement Plan submitted to DET.</p> <p>In progress.</p>	<p>Nov 2015 Green</p>
<p>3.1.2</p> <p>Detailed planning, modeling and PR work undertaken to manage shire-wide impacts of the introduction of new ratios in 2016.</p>	<p>MEYRG - Members MSC - Early Years Services</p>	<p>Modelling complete for new ratios. New workforce models developed and implemented.</p>	<p>Planning for introduction of new ratios in 2016 completed. Recruitment underway and almost complete for 10 new positions.</p>	<p>August 2015 Jan 2016 Green</p>
<p>3.1.3</p> <p>MEYRG to review and present on issues relevant to Mitchell Shire identified in the DEECD Early Years Strategic Plan 2014-2020, Improving Outcomes for all Victorian Children. http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/department/earlyyearsstratplan.pdf</p>	<p>MEYRG - Members MSC - Children’s Services</p>	<p>Identify areas of concern specific to Mitchell Shire and explore opportunities to address concerns.</p>	<p>Nil Progress.</p>	<p>Dec 2015 Red</p>

Goal 4: Addressing Disadvantage - for Mitchell's most vulnerable young children

Specific Actions 2015 - 2016	Person /Dept responsible	Process/Impact Measure	Progress April 2016	Timeframe
4.1 Addressing Disadvantage in Mitchell.				
4.1.1 PLAYGROUPS Develop a resourcing & partnering strategy to initiate more playgroups and supported playgroups in Broadford & Seymour and other social isolated areas including culturally diverse areas. i.e. Wallan	MSC – Early Years Services with local facility owners, services provider agencies, service clubs, churches and community groups, Playgroups Victoria	Collaboration amongst stakeholders results in introduction and maintenance of playgroups which address need.	Nil Progress.	Sept 2015 Red
4.1.2 MEYRG to consider local initiatives/campaigns to boost community and family valuing of education and supporting increased attendance at school (Prep-Yr. 2).	MEYRG – Members MSC –Children’s Services	AEDI results demonstrate improvement. Local educational initiatives identified and promoted.	Free school readiness information evening provided for all of community by MSC in Wallan, presenter Kathy Walker.	Oct 2015 Green
4.1.3 Establish partnerships with Ante natal services at local hospitals and develop protocols/pathways to identify and support vulnerable families.	MSC – Co-ord Public Health	Protocols and pathways with Seymour and Kilmore Ante natal services and MSC MCH Services demonstrate seamless service delivery and enhanced family experience.	Communication with KDH midwife to establish discharge information requirements for MCH service. Public Health Coordinator and MCH nurse attended KDH midwives team meeting to provide MCH service overview. Child FIRST has engaged KDH and Northern Hospital in discussions regarding collaborative practice, and has presented to antenatal classes on Family Care’s range of services.	Dec 2015 Green
4.1.4 Agencies will collaborate to explore the establishment of projects which will assist to identify and address areas of disadvantage.	MEYRG – Members MSC – Early Years Services	Projects identified and incorporated into future planning or funding opportunities.	Child FIRST/Family Service will be convening a Vulnerable Families	Sept 2015 Orange

<p>4.1.5 Establish a working group to monitor and review the Starting out Strong: Giving Victoria’s children a great start through better Maternal and Child Health document in relation to development and implementation of outcomes.</p> <p>4.1.6 Provide leadership to the implementation of Victoria’s Vulnerable Children Strategy 2013-2022, Our Shared Responsibility in Mitchell Shire. http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/764281/Victorias_vulnerable_children_strategy.pdf</p> <p>4.1.7 Monitor the process of the implementation of the Early Childhood Agreement for Children in Out-of-Home Care.</p>	<p>MEYRG – Members MSC – M&CH Services</p> <p>MEYRG - Members MSC –Children’s Services and M&CH Services</p> <p>MEYRG - Members MSC –Children’s Services and M&CH Services</p>	<p>Evidence of advocacy activities on behalf of Mitchell Shire in relation to issues impacting on service planning and delivery. Issues addressed and recommendations implemented as indicated.</p> <p>Strategy discussed at MEYRG and issues and initiatives identified and addressed.</p> <p>Vulnerability indicators for Mitchell Shire reducing over time.</p> <p>Children in Out-of-Home Care are integrated into local services etc within agreed timeframes.</p>	<p>Committee with other local agencies including MSC and Nexus. MSC representation on the Northern Health Project which aims to improve children’s learning, health and development. MCH service, Nexus and FamilyCare have registered with ‘Patchwork’ and will explore joint training opportunities and implementation in 2016. Family Services has created a new “Demand Team” to focus on families with young children and meeting the demand of the growth corridor in Southern Mitchell.</p> <p>Starting out Strong document is not progressing at this stage.</p> <p>Discussion in progress re: establishment of Mitchell Vulnerable Families committee with FamilyCare and NEXUS.</p> <p>Challenges with the system still remain, notifications are not coming through correct channels. Where notifications have been made</p>	<p>July 2015 – June 2016 Red</p> <p>Oct 2015 Orange</p> <p>June 2016</p> <p>Aug 2015 Orange</p>
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<p>http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Document/childhood/providers/edcare/ecagrchildrenoutofhomecare.PDF</p>		<p>Mitchell providers contribute to program review and evaluation.</p>	<p>support processes have been put in place. Quarterly report provided to DET. Meeting at DHHS Oct 2015 to discuss overall implementation, some areas progressing better than others. Regional meeting with DET, DHHS and stakeholders in December to address and improve implementation processes in our region. Outcome: provided with contact details of team manager DHHS Seymour; Quarterly meetings planned with DET & DHHS; OoHC contact person will be invited to OoHC client care meetings and Regional Implementation Group (RIG) meetings. Nil further progress.</p>	
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Specific Actions 2015 - 2016	Person /Dept responsible	Process/Impact Measure	Progress April 2016	Timeframe
4.2 Transition Planning				
<p>4.2.1 Evaluate and review the transition process from kindergarten to primary school and promote a stronger representation at the existing transition network group facilitated through Wallan Secondary College.</p>	<p>MEYRG – Primary School Members MSC – Children’s Services</p>	<p>Evaluation of transition process for 2014/15 completed and recommendations addressed by children’s services providers and primary schools.</p>	<p>MSC Educational Leader and Educators attend existing network group (kindergarten through to high school). The establishment of a sub group for kinder to prep transition is being investigated by Educational Leader to improve understanding and collaboration.</p>	<p>July 2015 Green Dec 2015 – Jan 2016 Orange</p>

<p>4.3 Addressing Disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal families: Engaging with Aboriginal families</p>				
<p>4.3.1 Consult and collaborate to build and maintain relationships with Koolin Balit and Koorie Engagement Support Officers to consider developing joint programs to support aboriginal families.</p>	<p>MEYRG - Members MSC – Community Development & MCH Services.</p>	<p>MEYRG has representation from indigenous community. Minimum of one presentation at MEYRG from indigenous support agency.</p>	<p>FamilyCare consults with Koolin Balit and the Koorie Engagement Support Officers to support aboriginal children and families. MSC Community Development Officer participates in several external committees focusing on cultural diversity including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGPro Indigenous Special Interest Group • Seymour Local Aboriginal Network • Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network <p>Participation with these committees has assisted in building and maintaining relationships as well as developing awareness of and opportunities to collaborate on initiatives, programs and grant opportunities relevant to culturally diverse communities. MSC Community Development partners with LAN to promote aboriginal activities in the Shire i.e.: Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, Cultural Diversity Week MSC Public Health Coordinator met with local Koorie Engagement Support Officers to improve collaboration between the two services. Goal is to promote the service to MCH nurses regarding the availability of KESO workers to</p>	<p>Sept 2015 Green</p>

			provide practical support to aboriginal families, which will assist with increased engagement in the MCH service. Flyers to be distributed to all MCH centres.	
4.4 Training & Development				
4.4.1 Identify opportunities to provide joint training session across agencies.	MEYRG – Members MSC – Organisational Development	Training Needs Assessment completed, training calendar developed and training provided.	Child FIRST/Family Services is keen to deliver joint training sessions across agencies in relation to vulnerability. Child FIRST Alliance delivers quarterly Protecting Children’s Forums focusing on working with vulnerable families and disadvantaged families. July forum focused on child development, cumulative harm and permanency planning. FamilyCare presented on its range of programs and services at the quarterly MEYRG meeting. Child FIRST is keen to work in partnership with early years services providing community education sessions to kindergartens and childcare centres in relation to referral pathways and maintaining strong relationships with antenatal and maternity services at local hospitals.	Dec 2015 Green

Goal 5: Taking action to reduce service gaps in the areas of allied Health therapists and specialist services, and Respite Care.

Specific Actions 2015 - 2016	Person /Dept responsible	Process/Impact Measure	Progress April 2016	Timeframe
5.1 Allied Health and Specialist Services				

<p>5.1.1 Increase access to high quality paediatric allied health services to anyone working or living within the Mitchell Shire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively promote eligibility and services available under the Better Start and Helping Children with Autism initiatives to families, GP's and other services to increase local uptake. Proactively advertise space for a paediatrician at the Wallan GP Super Clinic to increase local access to specialist services and opportunities for coordinated care. 	<p>MEYRG members Nexus</p>	<p>Increase in provision of speech pathology and occupational therapy services through Nexus. Increase in the provision of allied health services for children with disabilities under the Better Start and Helping Children with Autism initiatives.</p>	<p>Speech pathology and occupational therapy hours increased from early 2016 enabling Nexus to provide Better Start and Helping Children with Autism services to local families of children with disabilities/autism. Paediatrician, Dr Yoni Ajzner, commenced providing services at Wallan GP Super Clinic in February 2016; currently practicing every Wednesday, appointments are available following a referral from a GP.</p> <p>A multi-disciplinary autism diagnostic assessment service will commence in April 2016. The service will be available through the Helping with Children with Autism package, following referral by a paediatrician or psychiatrist. The service will be provided by a psychologist and speech pathologist/occupational therapist, as recommended by Autism Victoria.</p> <p>MSC will promote new and upcoming available spaces within council facilities for an increased integrated and collaborative approach to allied and specialist service delivery.</p>	<p>March 2016 Green</p>
<p>5.2 Respite Care for families with children who have a disability.</p>				
<p>5.2.1 Monitor the process of the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).</p>	<p>MEYRG – Members, Family Care, Nexus, Scope, MSC</p>	<p>Advocacy on behalf of Mitchell Shire in relation to issues impacting on service planning</p>	<p>MSC Community Development currently monitors progress of the NDIS implementation and provides advices and recommendations to</p>	<p>April 2016 Orange</p>

<p>Continue to respond to demand for respite care services for families of children with a disability as funding becomes available.</p>	<p>Access & Inclusion Committee Members</p>	<p>and delivery. Issues addressed and recommendations implemented as indicated.</p> <p>Analysis demonstrates number of hours of respite care available across Mitchell Shire meets targets/expectations.</p>	<p>Council as indicated with regard to potential impacts on services and programs within Mitchell Shire. Information and details of local NDIS information sessions is forwarded to the Access & Inclusion Committee when updates become available. The NDIS rollout will not commence in Mitchell Shire until 1 January 2019</p>	<p>2015-2016</p>
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Goal 6: Improving the health & safety of young children in Mitchell

Specific Actions 2015 - 2016	Person /Dept responsible	Process/Impact Measure	Progress April 2016	Timeframe
<p>6.1 Health & Safety of young children</p>				
<p>6.1.1 Deliver improvements in recreational facilities across the Shire as identified in Council Plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitchell Play Space Strategy 	<p>MSC - Leisure & Culture, Recreation & Open Space Services</p>	<p>Adoption and implementation of Mitchell Play Space Strategy. Play space renewal with all abilities access improvements is an identified capital project in the draft 15-16 budget.</p>	<p>Successful Interface Growth Funding projects include Hadfield Park Play space, Wallan and Kilmore Play space – Hudson Park. Hadfield Park Play Space community consultation session held in Nov 2015. Moore Court Kilmore Play space renewal to be completed end of May 2016. Specifications and tender documentation for Hudson Park Play space renewal being developed for delivery date late 2016. Jaimie Poorter attended the Wallan Play space community consultation</p>	<p>Aug 2015 and ongoing Orange</p> <p>Apr 2016 Orange</p>

			to inform the Shire about the feedback received from the Latching onto Breastfeeding campaign parent needs surveys around parks having adequate shade and universal change facilities for mums to breastfeed comfortably.	
<p>6.1.2 Collaborate to provide specific activities and initiatives to address health, safety and education in families with young children focusing on:</p> <p>1. Preventing/reducing family violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elly campaign to raise awareness of family violence. <p>• Monitor the implementation of Department for Education and</p>	<p>MEYRG – Members MSC – Early Years Services, M&CH Service, Community Engagement, Health & Wellbeing and Emergency Management</p>	<p>Decrease in the incidence of family violence and related statistics.</p> <p>Advocacy on behalf of Mitchell Shire in relation to family violence issues. Expression of interest to participate as a pilot site for the revised Practice Guide.</p>	<p>Elly the Elephant Facebook page one post per week raising awareness of Family Violence. One media article delivered in relation to Elly the Elephant campaign. FamilyCare attended the White Ribbon event in Wallan and will be involved in the “Elly the Elephant” family violence campaign. Nexus and MSC continues to move Elly across the Mitchell Shire – maintaining the resources that are provided with the display and checking for feedback. Community Development Officer and Health and Wellbeing Officer attended the Family Violence forum on 16 December 2015.</p> <p>A number of actions identified and planned in the 2015-16 MCH Service Improvement Plan to address and monitor activities being undertaken to support families’ experiencing family violence.</p>	<p>2015-2016 Orange</p> <p>2015-2016 Green</p>

<p>Training (DET) project through the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) to adapt the Assessing Children and Young People Experiencing Family Violence – A Practice Guide for Family Violence Practitioners for use by MCH nurses.</p> <p>2. Identifying and supporting vulnerable families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCH use of Vulnerability Tool • Implementation of DSS grant funded project ‘Five for Our Families’ which is a place-based approach to improving early intervention and prevention service provision for vulnerable families in Seymour and Wallan. <p>3. Positive Parenting education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby makes 3 program delivered in Mitchell. 		<p>Identification and appropriate referrals made for vulnerable families within agreed timeframes.</p> <p>Year 1 of Five for Our Families Implemented</p> <p>Provide 2 Baby Makes 3 programs. Evaluations demonstrate participants improved knowledge and awareness.</p>	<p>Family violence info display board developed by MCH nurse at Kilmore for display. Family Violence resource card discussed and handed out at all MCH initial home visits. Safety Plan posters displayed in bathrooms at MCH centers. Safety Plans discussed with clients at MCH consultations. Expression of interest to participate in pilot unsuccessful.</p> <p>MCH service monitor vulnerable families and refer to appropriate services and agencies for support. Vulnerability Tool to be reviewed by MCH team for implementation. Year 1 of Five for Our Families implemented. Child FIRST/Family Services are involved in Five for Our Families project to improve prevention and early intervention service provision for vulnerable families in Wallan and Seymour.</p> <p>BM3 program – will not progress due to lack of funding and implementation difficulties</p>	<p>June 2016 Green</p> <p>March 2016 Red</p>
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<p>4. Injury prevention in the home</p> <p>5. Emergency preparedness and management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of tools and template to support children and families in planning and preparing from emergencies. • Pre-season awareness campaigns 		<p>Injury prevention and home safety program delivered through MCH service.</p> <p>Children in Emergency resources developed and implemented.</p> <p>Awareness campaign implemented.</p>	<p>MCH service provide injury prevention and home safety education at new parent’s groups and KAS consultations.</p> <p>Heat Plan preparation plan developed and implemented – Dec 2015.</p>	<p>Dec 2015 Green</p> <p>Nov 2015 Green</p>
<p>6.1.4 Support health promotion initiatives which seek to improve children’s health.</p> <p>1. Oral Health - Deliver Smiles4Miles</p>	<p>MEYRG – Members MSC - Children’s Services, M&CH Service, Immunisation Service</p>	<p>Program evaluation demonstrates improving oral health for target group.</p>	<p>Smiles 4 Miles story time session at Wallan library with 8 parents and 17 children attending. Smiles 4 Miles story time session resource kits distributed to all 4 MSC Libraries. Training delivered to 6 MSC cluster kindergarten educators from Kilmore and Wandong. Finalised and applied for 6 out of the 8 MSC cluster kindergarten Smiles 4 Miles awards – 1 was ineligible; awaiting documentation from other. All 8 MSC cluster kindergartens have registered for the Smiles 4 Miles program in 2016. 3 more early childhood services and 1 neighborhood house in Kilmore and Puckapunyal have been registered.</p>	<p>2015-2016 Green</p> <p>2015-2016</p>

<p>2. Immunisation Program delivered across Mitchell.</p>		<p>Immunisation program delivered with rates meet/exceed expectations.</p>	<p>7 childhood Immunisation sessions conducted across Mitchell Shire each month.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>3. Healthy Eating & Physical Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving Mum’s project in Wallan • Water safety program provided by Kilmore Leisure Centre • Community/Edible gardens including kindergartens 		<p>Increase in physical activity for mothers in Wallan.</p>	<p>Moving Mum’s project has ended. Nexus provides exercise programs suitable for this demographic as part of its exercise physiology program. Ongoing water safety programs provided at MSC Leisure Centre’s.</p>	<p>Dec 2015 Green</p>
		<p>Kindergarten gardens inform/educate children about health eating etc.</p>	<p>7 out of 8 MSC cluster kindergartens have sustainable edible gardens. 4 received gardening mentors/mentoring groups including Seymour Community Gardens, Flowerdale Primary Schools ‘kids teaching kids’ program, Wallan Home Harvest and Wallan Environmental Group and attending families. Wallan kindergarten has run scarecrow making and propagating seedling workshops with children, assisted by Wallan Home Harvest and Lower Hume PCP. 4 have linked edible gardens with Smiles 4 Miles program to educate children about growing, cooking and eating healthy food. Planning and compiling resources for 2 aboriginal gardening workshops in partnership with Koolin Balit for March and May 2016. Edible garden to launch at Wallan Multipurpose Centre early 2016.</p>	<p>Dec 2015 Green</p> <p>Nov 2015</p>

