



Improving adult learning and employment opportunities

Education and employment for parents and carers is directly linked to how well their children do at school and develop in life.

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

Unemployment and financial stress were some of the most significant concerns for families in Corio.

Families found it hard to access learning or employment services.

There is a strong need for local learning, training, volunteering and employment opportunities.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Facilitate activities for families to connect with each other and pursue interests.
- Partner with other organisations to deliver adult learning opportunities on site and employment support.
- Link parents and carers with volunteer opportunities and support them with pathways to employment.



How to get involved?

Our Place believes that community collaboration is vital to developing a shared approach for improving outcomes for children. We will continue to listen and engage with the community as it helps us know what is working and where further effort is needed.



Our Place Northern Bay is located at the Korayn Birraleee Family Centre, adjoining to the Northern Bay Wexford campus.



If you would like to contribute, have any questions or want to know more you can visit us in person or contact by emailing northernbay@ourplace.org.au



You can also visit the Our Place Northern Bay Facebook page at facebook.com/OurPlaceNorthernBay



Our Place acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands that we live and work on, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Connecting the Corio Community



ourplace
Northern Bay

Northern Bay College

VICTORIA
State Government
Education and Training

VICTORIA
State Government
Families, Fairness and Housing

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

ourplace
education is the key to the door

Our Place Northern Bay

Our Place supports the education, health and development of children and families in the Corio community. We listen to and respond to the needs of the local community and help schools to be the central place for life-long learning and support services. Our Place has a 10-year commitment to the Corio community.

OUR PLACE NORTHERN BAY VISION

Together we create a strong foundation of lifelong learning where all children and families feel proud, happy, healthy and safe in our connected community. We achieve this by focusing on:

- Providing early learning opportunities, playgroups, children's health care and support for parents and carers as required.
- Creating school environments where children get the support they need to thrive.
- Creating ways for children and families to be involved in the Corio community and take part in activities.
- Supporting children and families to access health and wellbeing support services they need.
- Providing opportunities for parents and carers to take part in learning, volunteering and links to job pathways.

WHO WE ARE WORKING WITH

Our Place works with key partner organisations to support children and families in the Corio community.

We also work with many other local organisations to provide assistance or services onsite or nearby.

Our partners are Northern Bay College, City of Greater Geelong, Department of Education and Training, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

TALKING TO THE CORIO COMMUNITY

Our Place has consulted and listened to more than 70 parents and carers and 50 community organisations during the past year.

We want to understand the community and how children are engaging in early years services and schools.

Statistical information about the community, school and early years services was also collected from a range of sources.

The following priorities are based on the findings from these consultations.

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Our Place's vision is that all children and their families succeed in life.

Children in the Corio community grow up healthy and happy

A child's greatest learning and development period is between the ages of 0 to 6. This is when children need the greatest support. Picking up any health or development issues early can have life-long benefits.

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

We heard that more support is needed for children in Corio to grow up healthy and happy. Many children starting school are behind in physical health, language, social and writing skills. We also know that families are finding it difficult to access support for children with additional needs.

We also heard that more activities and services are needed for children aged 0 to 6 to make sure they are developing well.

Service providers told us there needs to be a stronger focus on children's development at home and in early learning settings. We heard that services are very complex and hard to access.



THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Provide activities like playgroups, story time readings and sessions for children and families.
- Encourage a range of early learning activities and opportunities so that every child participates in early learning before they start school.
- Support services and families to identify development vulnerabilities in children and get the help they need early.
- Work with early learning services and Northern Bay College to make sure there is a consistent approach to children's learning as they move from early learning to school.
- Provide support programs and resources for parents and carers.



Supporting families

Because parents and carers have the biggest influence on children, we are committed to supporting their skills and overall wellbeing.

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

Families in the Corio community find it hard to access support in their roles as a parent or carer.

It was particularly hard for first time parents.

The main concerns are long wait times, complicated referral processes, and the location and cost of support services.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Bring services and activities to Korayn Birraleee Family Centre and connect families to support.
- Facilitate the delivery of activities at the School and Family Centre where parents or carers can connect and learn with each other.
- Make it easier for families to access different services by telling their story only once when seeking support.
- Work in partnership with parents and carers to support their children's learning and development.