

## Priorities 3 & 4

# Families are connected and involved in their children's learning

When parents are involved in a child's learning, it helps build the importance of education. It also helps build children's aspirations for themselves.

### THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

Parents and carers want to be more involved with their children's learning and were eager for opportunities to connect with the College.

We heard from services that more work needs to be done to make parents aware of existing services and support for their children's learning.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Facilitate the delivery of activities at Seymour College where parents or careers can connect with their children's learning.

# 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

Parents are eager for more opportunities to undertake further learning and have more opportunities to get involved in the local community. We heard from services that families would like to access more programs and activities – including adult education, volunteering opportunities and support groups.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Support parents and carers to take up adult learning opportunities.
- Facilitate opportunities for parents and carers to connect with community.



### 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 Seymour is located at Seymour College.



If you would like to contribute, have any questions or want to know more you can visit us in person or contact:

#### Liz Tregenza

Our Place Partnership Manager

#### Louis Bowden

Our Place Community Facilitator

#### Georgia Cannizzo

Our Place Community Facilitator at [seymour@ourplace.org.au](mailto:seymour@ourplace.org.au)



You can also visit the Our Place Seymour Facebook page at [facebook.com/OurPlaceSeymour](https://facebook.com/OurPlaceSeymour)



Our Place welcomes all families and children. We acknowledge the First Nations people of Australia and Traditional Custodians of the lands that we live and work on. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

ourplace  
Seymour



KIDS  
FIRST™



Education  
and Training



Families,  
Fairness  
and Housing

# Connecting the Seymour Community

ourplace  
education is the key to the door

## Our Place Seymour

Our Place supports the education, health and development of children and families in the Seymour community. We listen and respond to the needs of the local community. We help schools to be the central place for life-long learning and support services. We connect people and services through the local school and Seymour Family and Community Centre to improve outcomes for children. Our Place has a 10-year commitment to the Seymour community.

### OUR PLACE SEYMOUR VISION

Every child thrives in resilient strong families and community and has the best learning and developmental opportunities to succeed in life.

We achieve this by focusing on:

- Providing early learning opportunities, playgroups, children's health care and support for parents and carers.
- Creating school environments where children get the support they need to thrive.
- Creating ways for children and families to be involved in the Seymour community by taking 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 Seymour community. We also work with other local organisations to provide assistance or services onsite or nearby.

Our partners are:

- Seymour College
- Kids First Australia
- Mitchell Shire Council
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

### TALKING TO THE SEYMOUR COMMUNITY

Our Place has consulted and listened to the community during the past year. We want to understand the community and how children are engaging in early years services and schools.

We listened to 50 parents and carers and 42 community organisations during our consultations. 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.

## Children are engaged and supported in their learning

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

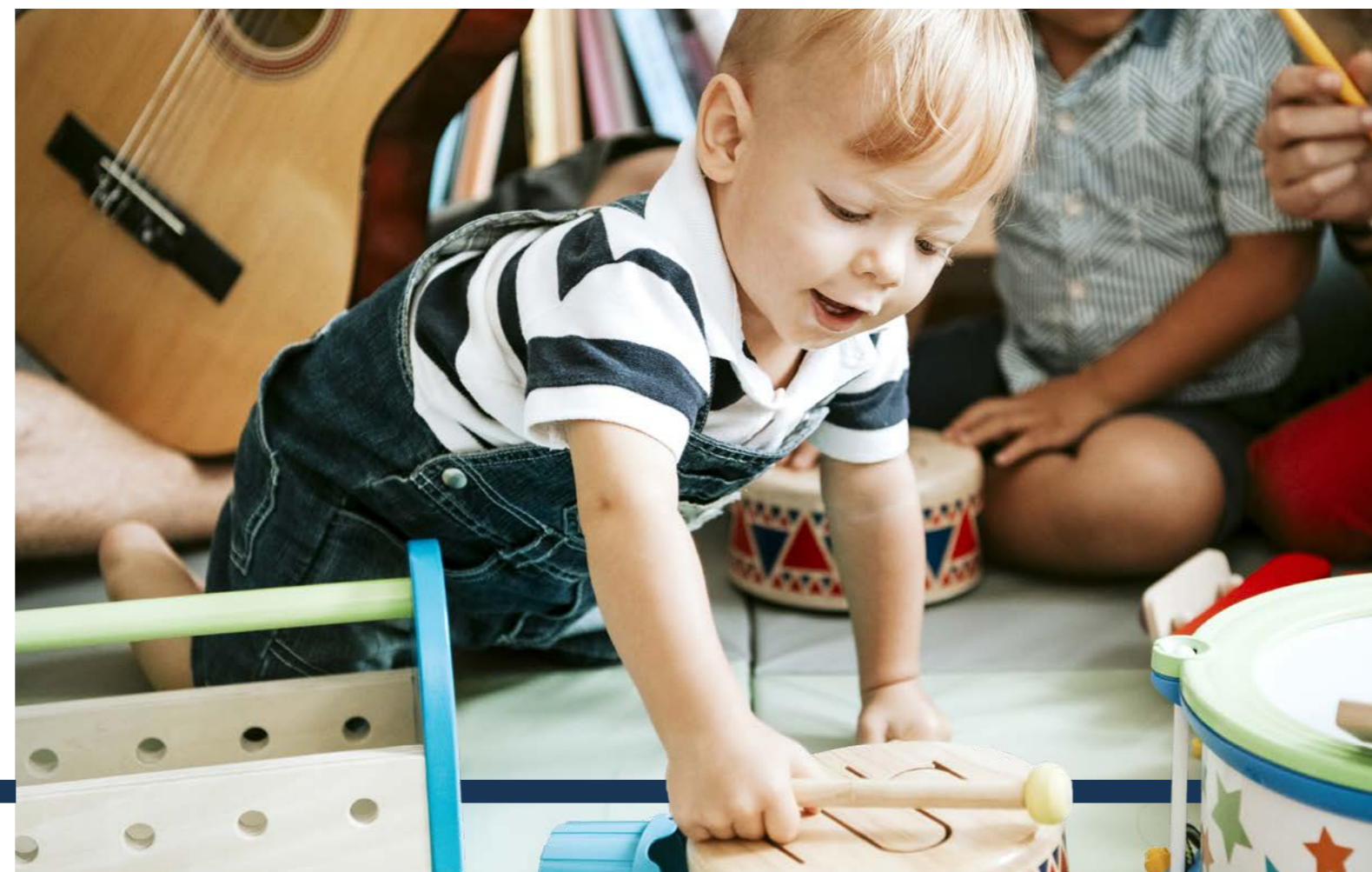
We heard that more support is needed for children in Seymour to grow up healthy and happy. Although parents and carers are enrolling their children in kindergarten, attendance levels are low. Many children starting school are behind in language and cognitive skills.

We know that school attendance at Seymour College is lower than other similar schools in Victoria, and that a significant number of students do not feel a sense of connection with the College. We also know that while progress is being made, some students at Seymour College are not progressing in literacy and numeracy skills as well as they should be.

Families felt there could be more opportunities for them and their children to become involved with the College.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Work with Kids First Australia and Seymour College to make sure there is a consistent approach to children's learning as they move from early learning to school.
- Partner with early learning services so that children regularly attend positive and stimulating early learning before they start school.
- Partner with local clubs and organisations to deliver before or after-school activities that primary school children are interested in.



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



## Priority 2

## Supporting families

Because parents and carers have the biggest influence on children, we are committed to supporting their overall wellbeing. We also want to make it easier for families to access services for their children.

### THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

Families in the Seymour community find it hard to access support for their children.

We heard from families that the service system was hard to navigate, and that families had little knowledge of what was available.

We heard that there are limited services to support children's health and wellbeing, and that services could work together better to support children's development.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Work with partners to provide services at Seymour Family and Community Centre, particularly services for new parents and carers.
- Make it easier for families and children to connect with services.