

Connecting the Robinvale Community



Our Place Robinvale

Our Place supports the education, health and development of children and families in the Robinvale community. We listen to 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 Early Years Provider to improve outcomes for children. Our Place has a 10-year commitment to the Robinvale community.

OUR PLACE ROBINVALE VISION

Robinvale strives to be a thriving, diverse and innovative community where children, young people and families are happy, healthy and successful in reaching their potential.

We achieve this by focusing on:

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

Our partners are:

- Robinvale College
- Robinvale District Health Services
- Swan Hill Rural City Council
- YMCA Robinvale (The Y)
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

TALKING TO THE ROBINVALE 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 more than 80 parents and carers and 50 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.



Priority 1

Children in the Robinvale 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 even though families are in contact with early years services, many children starting school are behind in language, social and communication skills.

Service providers told us that identifying and supporting children in these areas was a key challenge.

We also heard from families that more awareness of available services and activities for children between 0-6 is needed. We heard that services are difficult to access due to limited availability and delivery options.

Service providers told us that there needs to be a stronger focus on support programs and resources for parents and carers.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Support parents and carers to help their children learn at home.
- Partner with health services to support children's health and development.
- Make it easier for families to regularly attend early learning services.
- Work with early learning services to improve the quality of services for the Robinvale community.

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

Priority 2

Students are engaged and connected to school

School is a very important time in a child's life. Education shapes the life of children and young people. It influences whether young people will find work after school, and what sort of job it will be. Education achievement relates to people's income, health and wellbeing.

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

We know that school attendance at Robinvale College is low compared to similar schools in Victoria.

We heard that students would like to be more connected with the school.

We know that Robinvale College and families would like to see improvement in student achievement in literacy and numeracy.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Support Robinvale College to create a sense of pride within the College.
- Partner with local organisations and volunteers to deliver activities that children and parents are interested in.
- Encourage students to have hopes and dreams for future learning.
- Support youth to build their knowledge of and access local employment pathways.



Priority 3

Families are supported and connected to the school

When parents are engaged in their children's learning, children achieve better at school and attendance improves.

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

We heard that families appreciated the connections and support from Robinvale College during the lockdowns in 2020, and that they wanted to keep the positive connection with the College moving forward.

We heard that parents and carers were eager for more opportunities to become involved with the College.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Create opportunities for families to connect at the College and feel welcome at Robinvale College.
- Work with service providers and families to build parents and carers understanding of the importance of engagement in their children's learning.



Improving adult learning opportunities

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

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

The Robinvale community is culturally and linguistically diverse. More than 30% of households spoke a language other than English as their first language, and over a third of families have both parents born overseas.

We heard that there was a strong need for locally delivered English classes and other learning opportunities.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Partner with organisations to deliver adult English classes locally.

Priority 4

Families are happy, healthy and well

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

Parents and carers in the Robinvale community are finding it hard to access support for their health and wellbeing.

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

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Make it easier for families to access the services they need locally.
- Facilitate services working together to better support families.



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 Robinvale is located at Robinvale College.



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

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You can also visit the Our Place Robinvale Facebook page at facebook.com/OurPlaceRobinvale



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.



Robinvale College

"Great Learning for a Thriving Community"



Education and Training



Families, Fairness and Housing