



Priority 3 & 4

Families are supported and connected to their children's learning

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

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

We heard that education is a high priority for families in Carlton, who hope that their children grow up to be happy, well-educated and employed. Remote learning in 2020 and 2021 meant that families, teachers and students worked more closely together, and we heard that families would like this to continue.

The Carlton Learning Precinct community is diverse. We heard that creating cross-cultural understanding and safety during children's education would help families to be more engaged in their children's learning.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Work with Carlton Learning Precinct services to help parents and carers understand more about how they can support their children to learn.
- Improve communication between learning providers and families to better support families with their children's learning.

Families in Carlton feel connected to the community

Participating in activities of interest builds connectedness amongst parents and fosters a sense of belonging in the community. Schools can provide a welcoming environment where parents and carers have opportunities to get to know each other and build a community.

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

We heard that families want to better connect with Carlton Learning Precinct and local support services. Some families found it hard to access services due to complicated referral processes.

We heard that more could be done to create a welcoming and friendly place for children and families in Carlton. Many families also indicated a strong desire for opportunities to improve their English skills.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Create opportunities for parents to connect onsite and become an active part of the school community.
- Partner with other organisations to deliver adult learning opportunities to Carlton Learning Precinct.
- Link parents and carers with volunteer opportunities that encourage a sense of belonging in the local community.
- Work with local services and families so that parents' voices are heard and included.



How to get involved?

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



Our Place Carlton is located at Carlton Primary School. If you would like to contribute, have any questions, or want to know more, you can visit us in person or contact:



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

- Sarah Rogers**
Partnership Manager, Our Place Carlton
 - Khadra Omar**
Community Facilitator, Our Place Carlton
 - Marie Holmes**
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You can find out more information at <https://ourplace.org.au/our-sites/Carlton/>



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.



Connecting the Carlton Community



Our Place Carlton

Our Place helps 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. We listen to and respond to the needs of the local community.

Our Place has a 10-year commitment to supporting the education, health and development of children and families in the Carlton community.

OUR PLACE CARLTON VISION

Families at Carlton Learning Precinct are resilient, connected and succeed in their endeavours.

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 Carlton community by taking part in activities.
- Assisting 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 Carlton community. We also work with many other local organisations to provide assistance or services onsite or nearby.

Our Partnership Group includes:

- Carlton Primary School
- Gowrie Victoria
- City of Melbourne
- cohealth
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

TALKING TO THE CARLTON COMMUNITY

Our Place has consulted with 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 90 parents and carers and 13 community organisations during our consultations. Statistical information about the community, school and early years services was also collected from a range of sources.

Our consultation and planning built on the long term work of our partners in the community and the existing relationships and knowledge that they have developed. 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.



Priority 1

Children in the Carlton 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. Identifying 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 Carlton to grow up healthy and happy. Children are starting school behind their peers in areas like language and social skills. We also know that families are finding it difficult to access support for children with additional needs.

We know that families greatly value the local Maternal and Child Health service. However, families need more assistance accessing early years services including early learning, health and Allied Health services to ensure children are developing well and getting the help they need earlier. Local services told us that referral processes, funding guidelines and service capacity were the main barriers for accessing services.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Connect families and carers with early learning opportunities before children start school.
- Improve coordination between services onsite so children can get access to the support they need early.
- Bring new services and initiatives to Carlton Learning Precinct to improve health and wellbeing support.

Priority 2

Children are engaged and supported in their learning

Learning and social opportunities throughout childhood help children achieve as learners. Early learning and development, high-quality schooling and enrichment activities help ensure that children are on the right path to success in all areas of life.

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

Many children are starting school behind their peers in literacy and numeracy skills. While they show strong improvement during the first year of primary school, many are not reaching the expected standard in years 3 and 5.

We heard that many children would benefit from more exposure to early learning opportunities prior to kindergarten but limits on who is eligible and a lack of resources has meant these opportunities are not always available. We also heard that children needed more opportunities for after school activities that support wellbeing, learning and social connection.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Connect early years services with families to better support early learning at home.
- Partner with local organisations to deliver enrichment activities for children that encourages social connection, learning support, physical activity, wellbeing, and safety.
- Work with parents, early learning services and other services across Carlton Learning Precinct to make sure there is a consistent approach to children's learning as they move from early learning to school.

