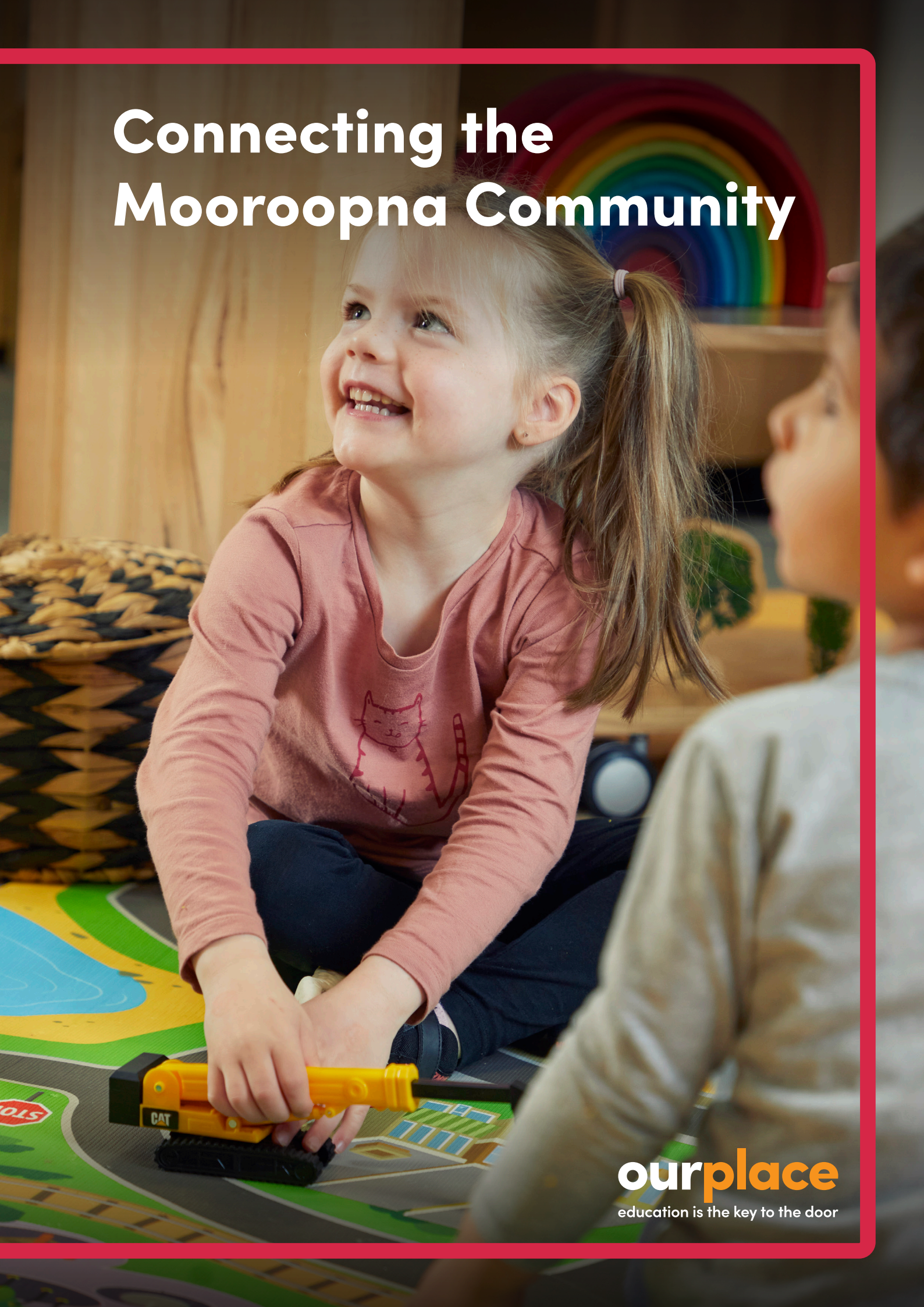


Connecting the Mooroopna Community



ourplace
education is the key to the door

Our Place Mooroopna

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 services 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 Mooroopna community.

OUR PLACE MOOROOPNA VISION

We are a united, welcoming and inclusive environment. We embrace diversity, encourage belonging and nurture learning, empowering and enabling our children to achieve their best.

We achieve this by focusing on:

- Bringing early learning opportunities, playgroups, children's health care and support for parents and carers all together at Mooroopna Children and Families Centre.
- Creating school environments where children get the support they need to thrive.
- Creating ways for children and families to be involved in the local community and join in activities.
- Helping children and families to access health and wellbeing support services they need.
- Providing opportunities for parents and carers to take part in learning and volunteering as well as links to job pathways.

WHO WE ARE WORKING WITH:

Our Place works with key partner organisations to support children and families in the Mooroopna community. We also join with many other local organisations to provide assistance or services onsite or nearby. Our partners are:

- Mooroopna Primary School
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
- Goulburn Valley Health

TALKING TO THE MOOROOPNA COMMUNITY

Our Place has consulted and listened to the community during the past year.

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

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.



Priority 1

Children in Mooroopna are involved in learning and social opportunities in the early years

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

Families make good use of the Maternal and Child Health services but there could be more support for children in Mooroopna to grow up healthy and happy. Many children are starting school behind their peers in physical health, social and learning skills. We also know that many children are not getting the opportunity to play and learn with their peers before starting school.

We heard more activities and services are needed for children aged 0 to 6 to ensure they are developing well. Service providers told us there needs to be a stronger focus on children's development in their early years. We heard the system to access services is complex and hard to access.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Encourage families to join in playgroups and early learning opportunities as much as possible.
- Support families to access and be a part of high quality early learning and development activities
- Encourage and support positive learning environments at home

Priority 2

To engage students and encourage regular school attendance

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

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

High levels of motivation and connectedness to school were reported but attendance levels for 90% of the time sit at 72%.

We know that regular attendance at school is often a challenge to many families particularly those with complex support needs. We also know that families feel welcome and are encouraged to attend when their culture is valued.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Ensure we are providing a culturally safe environment on site for children and parents
- Make it easier for families to attend on a regular basis by finding assistance for families that need extra support.
- Develop a common approach between the early years and school for supporting attendance





Priority 3

Children get access to the health and wellbeing support they need for happy and healthy development

The most important learning and development period for children 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. Having access to health and wellbeing services throughout their school years is important so children can get the most out of their education.

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

Services are generally located in Shepparton, which can make access difficult for Mooroopna families. There are also long wait times for public health services and a lack of bulk-billing GPs in Mooroopna. In addition follow up appointments and referrals are often missed.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Identify and promote relevant services available on site as well as those off-site
- Provide information and help to families to access the services that can help their child
- Provide more child-related services and activities at the Mooroopna Our Place site.



Priority 4

Families are happy, healthy and well and able to get help when they need it

Because parents and carers have the biggest influence on children's wellbeing, it is important to support the health and wellbeing of the whole family.

THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

Local agencies and services work well together and are interested in supporting the Mooroopna Our Place site. We heard that families find it hard to know what support is available for their health and wellbeing and getting the right help is a difficult process.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Provide a warm welcoming environment at Mooroopna Our Place site for parents to find out more about local services.
- Work with local services to provide assistance and solutions for families to maintain their wellbeing.
- Establish strong relationships with local services to support the needs of parents.

Connecting families to community learning and employment pathways

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

There is a high proportion of children in households with both parents unemployed and low levels of formal education in the adult community. There are also barriers to accessing affordable and skills focused training.

THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Provide social activities and learning programs for parents and carers on site
- Work with other organisations to support parents and carers find learning and employment pathways





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 Mooroopna is located Mooroopna Primary School, 16-18 O'Brien Street, Mooroopna.



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

Sally Bate

Partnership Manager

Caroline James-Wilson

Community Facilitator

Sophie Atkinson

Community Facilitator

at mooropna@ourplace.org.au



You can also visit the **Our Place Mooroopna** Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OurPlaceMooroopna



'We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Yorta Yorta and Bangerang peoples. We pay our respects to elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We recognise, celebrate and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of Australia. We acknowledge their unique cultural and spiritual connection to the land, sky, and water ways, as we strive for equality and safety in education and health.'



Education and Training



Families, Fairness and Housing