

# Connecting the Doveton Community



**ourplace**  
education is the key to the door

# Our Place Doveton

**Our Place supports the education, health and development of children and families in the Doveton 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. This plan has been developed with a focus on families and community involved with Doveton College.**

## OUR PLACE DOVETON VISION

We are a welcoming, inclusive, safe, and supportive environment; building belonging, embracing diversity, championing learning and empowering children and families.

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 receive the support needed to thrive.
- Creating ways for children and families to be involved in the Doveton community by taking part in activities.
- Supporting easier access to health and wellbeing services for families and children.
- Providing opportunities for parents and carers to take part in learning, volunteering, and employment pathways.

## WHO WE ARE WORKING WITH:

Our Place works with key partner organisations to support children and families in the Doveton community. We also work with many other local organisations to provide assistance or services onsite or nearby.

Our Partnership Group includes:

- City of Casey
- 54 Reasons
- Doveton Neighbourhood Learning Centre
- Doveton College
- Department of Education
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

## TALKING TO THE DOVETON 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 100 parents and carers and 51 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.

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



## Priority 1

# Children in the Doveton community grow up healthy and happy

**A child's greatest learning and development period is between the ages of 0 to 6. It is important for them to have access to good quality learning opportunities, healthcare services, and interesting experiences. If any problems with their health or development are spotted early on, the right help at this time can have a positive impact on their whole life.**

### THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

We heard that more support is needed for children in Doveton to grow up healthy and happy. Children are starting school behind their peers in areas like physical health and social connection.

We also heard that more activities, support and services are needed for children aged 0 to 6 to make sure they are developing well, and that early learning services, primary schools, and health services can work more closely together so children get the help they need more easily.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Work with services and families to ensure that a broad range of supports are available and accessible for children.
- Provide a wide range of social and learning opportunities on site.
- Make it easier for families and children to connect with services.

## Priority 2

# Families can access key health and early learning services

**When parents are supported to engage in their children's learning, children achieve better at school and attendance improves. 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 Doveton community often find it challenging to access health services to support their children's development in the early years. We heard that families are positive about Doveton College being a key location to access services.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Facilitate services working together so that families can access support more easily at Doveton College and in the community.
- Make it easier for families to find and use health and early years services





## Priority 3

# 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

Job opportunities and employment pathways were a high priority for families in Doveton. Families in Doveton often find it difficult to find employment and engage with adult learning opportunities.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Support families and carers to access pathways to employment through volunteering, community participation and adult learning
- Support families and carers to access and engage in adult learning.



## Priority 4

# Families in Doveton and connected and engaged

### THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

Many families in Doveton are experiencing challenges in making social connections. There is a need for opportunities to build a sense of community and connectedness. We heard that parents and carers are interested in social opportunities to connect with each other.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Keep providing activities for families to connect with each other and pursue interests.
- Work with local partners to provide community events for families.

## Improve attendance for families and children

School attendance is crucial so that children and young people can access education and develop the necessary knowledge and skills to participate in society. Because parents and carers have the biggest influence on young children, we are committed to supporting their engagement and wellbeing. Participating in activities of interest builds connectedness amongst parents and fosters a sense of belonging in the community.

### THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

There has been a decline in attendance for families and children since the COVID pandemic. There are numerous challenges for families enabling some children getting to school.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Work with families to Consult further with the local community to understand barriers to attendance.
- Encourage increased participation across all areas at Doveton College





### 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 Doveton is located at Doveton College.



If you would like to contribute, have any questions, or want to know more, you can visit us in person or contact [doveton@ourplace.org.au](mailto:doveton@ourplace.org.au)



You can find out more information at <https://ourplace.org.au/our-sites/doveton/>



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.

