



## Child and Family Hubs

An integrated means of enhancing equitable wellbeing for Australia's children and families



Thriving Queensland  
Kids Partnership  
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# What are child and family hubs?



**Support Across Ages:** Provide high-quality, joined-up support from conception to 12 years, supporting children, parents, carers, and communities. (Note: Youth hub models are also available for older age groups).

**Tailored Services:** These should be planned and delivered to meet the needs of the local community, and may include healthcare, early learning, playgroups, parenting programs, vocational training, cultural gatherings and/or life skills courses.

**Soft Entry Points:** Facilitate access for all families, including those not engaged with mainstream services.

**Variety of Settings:** These may include primary care, early childhood centre, schools and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations

**Widespread Adoption:** More than 460 integrated child and family centres across Australia.

## Impact of hubs



**Positive Outcomes:** Evidence from England's Sure Start hubs shows improved family functioning, children's emotional development, reduced hospitalisations, and improved educational achievement.

**Social Return on Investment:** The Community Hubs Australia program has shown a 350% return on investment.

## Core features of an effective hub



**Holistic Support:** Components at individual/family, community, and organisational levels, ensuring seamless, integrated support.

**"Glue" Function:** Integration of services and programs, supported by business oversight, staff support, community engagement, and shared information systems.

**Philanthropy is increasingly exploring and investing in hub partnerships to enhance wellbeing through integrated service delivery.**

# National Child and Family Hubs Network



**Established in 2022:** Funded by the Ian Potter Foundation, it unites leaders, service providers, policymakers, and academics to strengthen hubs.

**Vision:** All families have access to the right care and support through welcoming hubs, improving health and development outcomes.

**Strategic Plan:** A five-year plan focusing on investment, long-term funding, workforce capability, evidence-based implementation, and advocacy, set for release in the second half of 2024.

**Membership and Leadership:** Hosted by the Centre for Community Child Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, including its leadership of a cross-sectoral steering committee, with nearly 1000 Network members since November 2023.

**For more information, see [www.childandfamilyhubs.org.au](http://www.childandfamilyhubs.org.au)**

## ARACY's commitment to child and family hubs



**National Child and Family Hubs Network:** ARACY is part of the Network's Steering Committee, and contributed to its Strategic Plan.

**Resourcing and Evaluating Hubs:** Focus on workforce capability and integration of hub functions, using The Common Approach® to establish common language and practices.

**Train-the-Trainer Program:** Funded by the Australian Government, training delivered to practitioners in Taree, NSW, to build integrated service delivery.

**Research Partnership:** Partnering on the STARS for Kids project to study the impact of integrated hubs on children's development and families' needs.

**Queensland Project:** TQKP coordinated a project to map hubs and develop a best-practice framework for family hubs in Queensland, with a framework release set for August 2024.

ARACY strongly supports the vision and activities of the Network, and recommends that new place-based funding approaches be trialled to ensure sufficient, predictable, sustainable cross-sectoral resourcing that is informed by and responsive to community need to optimise wellbeing.

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Integrated services should be the default model, not the exception. Service providers operating in a silo should be required to explain 'why'. Silos are only designed to meet administrative needs of government, not the real life needs of human beings.

**Anne Hollonds**  
National Children's Commissioner



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