

## Case study | Starting a Hub

# Learning about the community

Learn more about Community Hubs with these real-life examples. In this case study, Valerie Karaitiana, principal of Dallas Brooks Primary School, tells us how she worked with school staff to understand what activities and services would work best for families.

## What was the challenge?

Many of our children were starting school with no English. We've had a kindergarten on site since 1997. We realised that to help educate children, we had to help educate their parents so they would value education and pass those values on to their children. We decided to focus on expanding our kindergarten to include 3 year olds and expand our playgroups. By building up these groups we were able to connect with more parents.

## What worked? What didn't?

We employed an Arabic and a Turkish multicultural aide to chat to parents when they dropped their children off at kindergarten. From those discussions we established adult education classes on site, where Certificate 3, 4, and Diploma courses are delivered by a registered training provider.

Getting families to send their children to 3 year old kinder is still a problem area because the places are not subsidised.

**"Parents have to bring children in to kindergarten and sign them in – that's when you can start talking to families, build relationships and refer them to services."**

## Your advice?

Try to employ bilingual Hub workers and volunteers from the neighbourhood to work with families—people whom families know they can go to get help, whom they feel safe and comfortable with.

View all case studies at  
[www.communityhubs.org.au/resources](http://www.communityhubs.org.au/resources)

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Community Hubs is a national program that links families and their preschool children to services and support, learning opportunities or the wider community. Community Hubs makes it easier for families to access the assistance they need by bringing local education, health, community and settlement information and services into a familiar and friendly place such as a school or community space.

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