

Case study | Hubs in action

Delivering programs for families

Learn more about Community Hubs with these real-life examples. In this case study, Teresa DeMercurio, principal of Bethal Primary School, tells us how she delivered a sewing class for families in her Hub.

What was the challenge?

We wanted to engage mothers in an activity that they enjoyed so they could learn some English and get some skills and independence. The mothers were mainly from Arabic backgrounds, a mixture of recent and more established migrants.

What worked? What didn't?

We established a sewing group for two hours a week on a Monday afternoon. An aide works with the ladies. When we first started, the sessions were free and we provided all the materials. We started with 15 ladies but some people took the materials and didn't come back. That was a learning curve for us. Now ladies pay \$2 a session to get their materials. Those who kept coming to class have all finished their work. It's lovely to see them wearing the clothes they've made for themselves and their children. They're very proud of what they've made. Three of the ladies who started in the sewing group are now classroom helpers in the school.

"Work out ways to sustain the momentum of an activity and if parents aren't actively involved, don't be afraid to try something new."

Your advice?

You have to be flexible. Some activities, like playgroups, take off, while others don't.

View all case studies at
www.communityhubs.org.au/resources

Produced by the Centre for Community Child Health, January 2014

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.

Community Hubs is funded by the Australian Government in partnership with the Scanlon Foundation, the Migration Council Australia and Refuge of Hope.

The Community Hubs website and resources are funded by the Scanlon Foundation in partnership with Refuge of Hope and delivered in partnership with the Centre for Community Child Health at The Royal Children's Hospital and Murdoch Childrens Research Institute.