

## Case study | Enriching a Hub

# Growing a Hub—ways to make it thrive

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's working with her school and community to grow and sustain her Hub.

## What was the challenge?

Our Hub is relatively new. We're contacting community groups in our area to let them know they can use the Hub's facilities for their activities as well as taking part in new ones. It's important to reach out, especially to groups of new arrivals or those who've been here a while who don't speak English. We do it by approaching families of children at our school first and through them we reach others in their communities. It snowballs from there. Otherwise many groups would never approach us because in their home countries schools were viewed as separate from community life. We're also working with Hume council to identify local businesses who might help fund the Hub. The council recently hosted a business breakfast and invited principals to talk about their Hubs.

## What worked? What didn't?

We were approached by the Bhutanese community. They wanted to hold their cultural festival in our school hall. That was a success. Next step is asking these families if they would like to join an after hours English class in the hall and a community gardening group at the Hub. Activities must suit the needs of the group. We had a group of mothers who spoke no English and wanted to learn it. We started using textbooks in the English class but that didn't work. Instead the women wanted to learn how to go to a shop and ask for a cup of coffee or how to catch a train. So our aide organised excursions for them to learn English in real life settings.

"We're seeing more parents willing to get involved in school activities because they've been involved with the Hub."

## Your advice?

Focus on one or two activities to engage families and do them well before you expand the number of activities in the Hub.

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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