

Case study | Starting a Hub

Working together

Learn more about Community Hubs with these real-life examples. In this case study, Andrew Jones, principal of Broadmeadows Valley Primary School, tells us how he worked in partnership with a community service to provide learning opportunities for parents.

What was the challenge?

Activities like men's sheds and gardening clubs are important but they're not sufficient to engage parents in their kids' learning. We set up computer and literacy classes for parents. The initial take-up was good but then it dropped off. We felt we didn't understand the issue enough—the connection between adult learning and parent engagement and its impact on improving student learning. We looked at research. It showed parental engagement was more effective when it influenced the home environment, if it provided strong learning and positive role modelling in the home. So when our kids are getting ready for school in the morning, they're seeing their parents get ready for work or training too.

What worked? What didn't?

Our previous adult education classes didn't work well because they weren't part of a pathway to further training or employment. So we broadened our Hub into a community learning hub.

We formed a partnership with Banksia Gardens Community Services to work with individual families and deliver tailored training courses.

"We need to provide individual learning for parents, we shouldn't see parents as a generic group. They're individual learners just as our students are."

Your advice?

When you're establishing a Hub everything you do needs to be predicated on and linked to learning and you have to draw a ring around that. It's about education not welfare. We can refer people to welfare services but we can't be one.

View all case studies at
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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