

## Checklist | Starting a Hub

# Learning about your community

### Learning about your community is essential for bringing the right mix of services and activities into your Hub.

It can be helpful to begin by exploring what your community has, what it needs and the bigger picture of what might be influencing this.

#### What do we have?

Tap into your community partnership group, families and school to uncover strengths in your area that your Hub could use. Strengths might include:

- ✓ **relationships:** what informal and formal relationships do we have with institutions or organisations, or religious, cultural, athletic or recreational groups?
- ✓ **skills:** what skills—and capacity to contribute these skills—do people in our area have?
- ✓ **resources:** what built or natural resources do we have access to, e.g. buildings or parks?
- ✓ **services:** what education, health, community and settlement services are in our area?

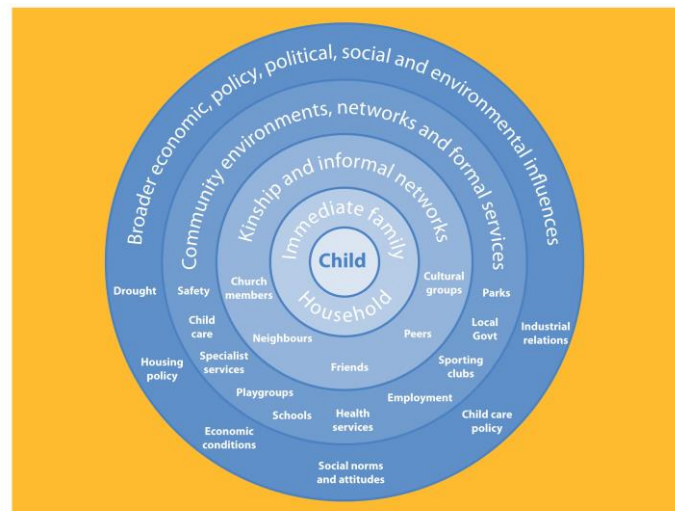
#### What do we need?

There are lots of ways that you can find out what families in your area need support with:

- ✓ run a **focus group**
- ✓ conduct a **survey** via email, mail or phone
- ✓ run an **information session**
- ✓ meet with **parent groups**
- ✓ work with **multicultural education aides** to reach culturally and linguistically diverse people
- ✓ find out what family needs **staff** see in their work—speak with them individually, at a staff meeting or try an email survey
- ✓ talk with parents who are not engaged in the school—they may have the **greatest needs**.

#### What's the bigger picture?

There are lots of layers in children's lives that influence their development. These range from their family right through to influences like economics, policy, politics and the environment. Data from these layers can also be used to inform planning and action in your Hub.



Reference: Bronfenbrenner (1979).

#### Find out more at:

[www.communityhubs.org.au/running-a-hub/starting-a-hub](http://www.communityhubs.org.au/running-a-hub/starting-a-hub)