

2022 Year in Review – Queensland Community Hubs

Community hubs are designed to create social cohesion in some of the most disadvantaged communities. They are welcoming places where families from diverse backgrounds, particularly women with preschool children, can connect, share, and learn together.

Hubs are embedded in primary schools and harness existing school infrastructure, local government, and community services. Hubs bridge the gap between families and the wider community, connecting families with each other, their schools, local services and support, and providing a gateway to health, wellbeing and education services.

This report highlights the achievements of our community hubs in Queensland. For a national view, please read our 2022 Year in Review at <https://www.communityhubs.org.au/news-events/2022-year-in-review/>

The 21 hubs in Queensland are located in primary schools in Brisbane (five sites), Ipswich (five sites), Logan (five sites), Rockhampton (three sites) and Townsville (three sites)¹. A complete list of host schools is shown in Table 1, Appendix A. In Term 1 2023, we will welcome three hubs in Toowoomba, bringing the size of our Queensland network to 24 hubs.

Local support for hubs is provided by Access Community Services (Ipswich and Logan), Communitify QLD (Brisbane), Multicultural Australia (Rockhampton and Toowoomba), and The Smith Family (Townsville).

In 2022, Queensland hubs engaged with families in a variety of ways. They delivered early childhood programs and conversational English classes, as well as vocational pathways including education and training opportunities for hub participants. This was despite having a delayed start to the school year due to COVID restrictions and poor weather.

Key highlights from 2022:



1,963 families engaged with Queensland hubs



1,493 early childhood sessions were conducted across 21 hubs



665 conversational English classes ran across 16 hubs



54 out of 110 local organisation partners were early childhood focused



77 jobs were secured by hub participants



449 referrals were made to early childhood services, such as maternal and child health

¹ Community hubs are funded by the federal government through the Department of Home Affairs, the Scanlon Foundation, state governments and participating schools. The Queensland Department of Education's Early Childhood Education and Care division currently funds hubs in Ipswich and Logan under the Community Services Act 2007. In 2022, CHA applied to extend this funding to hubs in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, and Townsville.

Engagement

Engagement activities provide hub leaders with the opportunity to build strong relationships with families and facilitate connections to their school and local services. Hub leaders develop the hub space and the program offerings to address the needs of their host school and the local community. Activities include 'coffee and chats', sewing and craft, and gardening as well as food hamper collections.

Across 2022, hub leaders made 2,790 referrals to external support services with the most common being family support (831), emergency aid (252) and preschool (229). In addition, the Queensland community hubs partnered with 110 local organisations. For a complete list, see Table 2 Appendix A.

Early childhood

Early childhood programs such as playgroup act as a soft entry point for families to attend other hub activities, form friendships with other community members or be referred to external services. Early childhood activities often take place in a hub, providing families with a comfortable and safe environment to connect.

In 2022, 54 out of the 110 partners who worked with Queensland hubs were early childhood providers, which reflects how hubs respond to the needs of their communities by delivering valuable playgroups and children's language and literacy activities. Last year, every Queensland hub offered early years programs that were either place-based or online. In addition, 13 hubs ran targeted school readiness programs like 'Get Set for Prep' and 'Step into Prep'.

Our music teacher Anne attends playgroup every Monday to bring the most joyful music and singing program for the children to grow and develop. Music in our school provides opportunities for social integration and language development also creativity with dance. Anne's music caters to children's needs and likes developing social interaction, having positive experiences and enjoyment together.

Developmental outcomes as to why Anne's music is valued by me...RAMSR is a series of rhythmic movement activities that encourage beat synchronization and challenge one or more of the executive functions in a fun and engaging way. Activities are supported by rhythmic auditory cuing and include start/stop (inhibition) games, reversal of instruction games (shifting), and working memory games. Sessions end with a calming series of movements to target emotional regulation.

Hub leader, Marsden State School, Logan

English

English language activities enable migrant families to build English language skills and increase confidence to participate in the community. Various types of English classes are delivered including conversational and introductory sessions to formal accredited classes.

In 2022, 16 Queensland hubs delivered English sessions place-based, offsite, or online, with a total of 194 adult attendees², 70% of whom were women with a dependent child. Hubs are a welcoming and familiar space for participants to learn English, and through these sessions 39 referrals were made to the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP). In addition, 10 partner organisations worked with hubs to deliver conversational and formal English classes.

² Based on regular attendees in CHA-funded English classes in Term 1 and 2, and new attendees in Term 3 and 4, 2022.

Vocational pathways

Hubs help create career pathways and nurture core skills by delivering informal and formal training activities. Across 2022, vocational activities included participants gaining a food safety certificate, taking part in accredited courses or participating in sewing classes or work ready sessions.

For some, working or volunteering in hubs is their first employment experience and in 2022, 317 people volunteered in a Queensland hub. Hubs also referred 193 people to education and training services and delivered 289 formal and informal training sessions. They also engaged 20 partner organisations to equip participants with work ready skills, and 77 jobs were secured by hub participants during the year.

For more information, visit www.communityhubs.org.au or contact:

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Appendix A: Host schools and partner organisations - Queensland community hubs

Table 1: Host schools – Queensland community hubs, 2022

LGA	School name
Brisbane	Acacia Ridge State School
Brisbane	Grand Avenue State School
Brisbane	Inala State School
Brisbane	Watson Road State School ³
Brisbane	Zillmere State School
Ipswich	Fernbrooke State School
Ipswich	Kruger State School
Ipswich	Riverview State School
Ipswich	Staines Memorial College
Ipswich	WoodLinks State School ⁴
Logan	Marsden State School
Logan	St Francis College
Logan	St Paul's Primary School
Logan	Woodridge North State School
Logan	Woodridge State School
Rockhampton	Berserker Street State School
Rockhampton	Lakes Creek State School
Rockhampton	Waraburra State School
Toowoomba	Darling Heights State School ⁵
Toowoomba	Harlaxton State School ⁶
Toowoomba	Newtown State School ⁷
Townsville	Aitkenvale State School
Townsville	Kelso State School
Townsville	Wulguru State School

³ Left the network at the end of Term 4, 2022.

⁴ Left the network at the end of Term 4, 2022.

⁵ Did not provide data in 2022 as they start operations Term 1, 2023.

⁶ Did not provide data in 2022 as they start operations Term 1, 2023.

⁷ Did not provide data in 2022 as they start operations Term 1, 2023.

Table 2: Partner organisations – Queensland community hubs, 2022

Organisation name	
123 Grow Child Care	Hands On Art
Act For Kids	Happy Feet Fitness
Aitkenvale Uniting Church	Head Start
ALDI	HIPPY Australia
Anglicare Southern Queensland	Integreat Queensland
Australian Red Cross	Ipswich City Council
Baptcare	Jabiru Community Youth and Children's Services
belong	John Paul College
Bendigo Bank	Kaela's Patch
Bidgerdii Community Health Service	Kellogg's Australia
Blue Fin Fishing Club	Kids Helpline
Brisbane City Council	KindyLinQ
Brisbane South Primary Health Network	Kiwi Kids Education and Care
C&K Woodridge North Community Kindergarten	Koobara Kindergarten and Pre-prep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation
Camp Australia	Kummara Association
Carers Queensland	Kurbingui Youth and Family Development
Central Queensland Indigenous Development	Lilli Pang
Central Queensland Multicultural Association	Logan Central Library
Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN	Logan City Council
Centrelink	Logan Together
Centro Church	Mercy Family Services
Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Metro South Health
Churches of Christ	Mission Australia
Community Gro	Music therapy
Country Women's Association of Victoria	Musicability
Creche and Kindergarten Association	Officeworks
Deadly Choices	OzHarvest
Diversity with Dance	ParentsNext
Domestic Violence Action Centre	PCYC Queensland
Eat Up	Phoenix Education
Elliot Springs Community Hub	Physi Kids
Family Life	Play Matters Australia
FamilyCare	Playgroup Queensland
First 5 Forever	Positive Partnerships
Foodbank Australia	Project Partnerships
Footloose Dance Fitness	QLD Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma
Fuel for Schools	QLD Statewide Tenant Advice and Referral Service
Griffith University	Queensland Country Women's Association's
	Queensland Department of Education