

2022 Year in Review – South Australian 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 South Australia. For a national view, please read our 2022 Year in Review at <https://www.communityhubs.org.au/news-events/2022-year-in-review/>.

The nine hubs in South Australia are located in primary schools in Playford (three sites), Port Adelaide Enfield (one site), and Salisbury (five sites)¹. A list of host schools is shown in Table 1, Appendix A. In 2023, we will welcome one new replacement hub in Playford.

Local support for South Australian hubs is provided by Lutheran Care.

In 2022, South Australian 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.

Findings from the Community Neighbourhood Development survey conducted twice-yearly by the South Australian government found 87% of respondents felt better connected to people after regularly engaging with their hub, and 47% of participants used the hub to connect to local community services. This survey also showed 89% of volunteers felt a sense of purpose and 100% felt better connected to people because of their role as a volunteer in their community hub.

Key highlights from 2022:



691 families engaged with South Australian hubs



612 early childhood sessions were conducted across nine hubs



659 conversational English classes ran across eight hubs



44 local organisation partnered with South Australian hubs



25 jobs were secured by hub participants



88 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 hubs in South Australia are funded by the Department of Human Services until 2026.

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 452 referrals to external support services with the most common being preschool (66) and family support (55). In addition, the South Australian community hubs partnered with 44 local organisations. For a complete list, see Table 2 Appendix A.

We have a group of Myanmar families who recently enrolled children at our school. On enrolment the families were introduced to the community hub, initially referred to The One Box food program. Dee is a parent of four children who now attends playgroup, English classes and citizenship classes. Her warm and bubbly nature is infectious. She has joined in with enthusiasm and keenness to learn and take everything on board. She is the one who stays behind to help with tidying up, doing dishes, making sure others are involved, especially other families from her cultural group. Indeed, she has become an important leader for her group, and role model for many other women who come to the hub. She actively helps other women in the English and citizenship classes and is keen to join in with any projects to help the hub. She is a true inspiration, and her positivity despite a very challenging life permeates and enlivens our hub. It is humbling to be with such a strong, resilient and generous woman who has grown in confidence and self-belief over her time in the hub. She has seized every opportunity and is happy to share her opinions and ideas and her support for others is amazing.

Hub leader, Paralowie R-12 School, Salisbury

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, 17 out of the 44 partners who worked with South Australian hubs were playgroup 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 hub offered playgroup programs that were either place-based or online. In addition, two hubs ran targeted school readiness programs.

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, eight South Australian hubs delivered English sessions place-based, offsite, or online, with a total of 138 adult attendees, 66% were women with a dependent child². Hubs are a welcoming and familiar space for participants to learn English, and through these sessions 36 referrals were made to the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP). In addition, 11 partner organisations worked with hubs to deliver conversational and formal English classes.

Racheal is new to the hub this term but has been in Australia since 2007. Racheal started AMEP when she first arrived in Australia but soon left as it was too hard juggling a young family and study. Racheal learnt all her English through watching children's television programs, the news and movies. When she first arrived in the hub, she was nervous and scared of what to expect. After the class she said, "I think I am in love with this place" and now comes to multiple classes. Her young daughter loves creche and playgroup and is learning lots of new things. Racheal has become friends with other English students and other group participants. She is always sad when it is time to leave as she has a real love for learning. The hub has made a difference for her and her young daughter as she told us that she is so thankful to have found us because her life at home during the day was very lonely and her daughter was always bored. She is happy that now they both have somewhere to come and be with other people and she doesn't feel alone anymore.

Hub leader, St Mary Magdalene's School, Playford

Vocational pathways

Hubs help create career pathways and nurture core skills by delivering informal and formal training activities. Across 2022, vocational activities included resume writing, CPR First Aid courses, and job readiness workshops.

For some, working or volunteering in hubs is their first employment experience and in 2022, 62 people volunteered in a South Australian hub. Hubs also made 20 referrals to education and training services and delivered 114 formal and informal training sessions. They also engaged nine partner organisations to equip participants with work ready skills, and 25 jobs were secured by hub participants during the year.

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

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

Appendix A: Host schools and partner organisations – South Australian community hubs

Table 1: Host schools – South Australian community hubs, 2022

LGA	School name
Playford	Elizabeth Park Primary School ³
Playford	Elizabeth Vale Primary School
Playford	Playford College
Playford	St Mary Magdalene's School
Port Adelaide Enfield	St Brigid's School
Salisbury	Karrendi Primary School
Salisbury	Para Vista Primary School
Salisbury	Paralowie R-12 School
Salisbury	Salisbury Primary School
Salisbury	St Augustine's Parish School

³ Opens community hub in Term 1, 2023.

Table 2: Partner organisations – South Australian community hubs, 2022

Organisation name
Access to Care
Anglicare Australia
AnglicareSA
Austral-Asian Community Church
Australian Refugee Association
Believe Housing Australia
Belinda Cole
Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide
Catholic Education South Australia
Centrelink
Department of Education South Australia
Department of Human Services South Australia
Family Zone Ingle Farm
Flinders University
Foodbank Australia
Good360 Australia
Hallam Senior College
HIPPY Australia
JET Creche
Kerry Prier
Kickstart for Kids
Kids Helpline
Kilburn Community Centre
MyTime
Novita
Parenting SA
ParentsNext
Playford Communities for Children
Playford Library
Playgroup SA
Raising Literacy Australia
Relationships Australia
SA Dental
SA Health
Save the Children
Sing&Grow Australia
St John Ambulance Australia
St Luke's Modbury
Sue O'Reilly
Talking Matters
The One Box
The University of Adelaide
Woolworths Supermarkets
Yonna Pettigrew