

# Communities for Children FP

Raymond Terrace, Karuah, Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest and Tanilba Bay-Lemon Tree Passage, NSW

Program Overview 2024-2026



**The Smith Family**

Learn today, change tomorrow.



This is a strong community that values and supports all children and families to grow and thrive.

## Priority areas

- **Growing and Thriving:** Children being safe at home and in the community, age-appropriate child development, access to quality early learning, positive school transition and engagement, and child and youth participation.
- **Strong:** Supporting child and family physical and mental health, positive and respectful relationships, connection to culture and parent education and skill building.
- **Connected:** Good access to services and opportunities, promotion of inclusion, diversity and belonging, children and families to connect with each other, intergenerational connections and child friendly communities.

**Communities for Children Facilitating Partner (CfC FP) is a place based initiative that develops and facilitates a whole of community approach to support and enhance early childhood development and wellbeing for children from birth to 12 years.**

Communities for Children Raymond Terrace - Karuah has been operating since 2004. The site includes Tanilba Bay-Lemon Tree Passage and Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest.

In December 2021 the Facilitating Partner completed extensive Community Strategic Planning to inform priorities for 2022 -2026. This involved data analysis, community consultation and forums and priority setting. The Facilitating Partner contracts service delivery to address identified and demonstrated community needs (through the following five Community Partners), and actively supports service provider networks, sector engagement and capacity building.

A Committee of local leaders and influencers continues to guide, advise and inform Communities for Children, and is the basis for a Collective Impact coalition.

**Community Partners are funded to deliver services within the Raymond Terrace CfC FP site for children aged from birth to 12 years and their families.**

### **CHILD WELLBEING PROJECT**

The Child Wellbeing Project is an activity delivering Evidence Based Programs in primary schools to children aged 5-12 years including DRUMBEAT and Seasons For Growth. These support emotional wellbeing, healthy relationships and emphasise teamwork. They focus on increasing children's confidence, establishing positive relationships and prompting engagement with learning.

Both programs operate within school settings and in partnership with teaching and support staff. A qualified social worker is an accredited in facilitation delivers the programs. They can also offer brief family work interventions for parents/carers of children that may need extra support.

**Community Partner:** Samaritans Foundation

**Service delivery area:** Raymond Terrace, Karuah, Tanilba Bay-Lemon Tree Passage, Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest, Salt Ash Public School.

**Eligibility:** Children aged 5 - 12 years attending participating schools.

**Contact:** Montana Green 0400 271 677  
[montana.green@samaritans.org.au](mailto:montana.green@samaritans.org.au)

### **KARUAH PLAYGROUP**

Karuah Playgroup addresses social isolation in Karuah Aboriginal Community by connecting parents/carers of young children aged 0-6 with one another and support services. The group is also enhanced by the Abecedarian Approach Australia (3a), an Evidence Based Program that uses Learning Games and other approaches to further enhance connection between parents/carers and their children and build language and social skills.

The group also offers further capacity building opportunities for parents/carers to facilitate community connectedness and strengthen relationships with relevant services and supports. The playgroup model is staffed and supported by qualified early childhood educators and speech pathologists.

**Community Partner:** Firstchance.

**Service delivery area:** Karuah.

**Eligibility:** Children aged 0-6 years and their parents/carers.

**Contact:** Kerrie Mullard (02) 4910 3130  
[Kerrie.Mullard@firstchance.org.au](mailto:Kerrie.Mullard@firstchance.org.au)



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## STEPS TO STARTING SCHOOL

Steps to Starting School is a dedicated school readiness and transition activity for children aged 3-6 years old and their parents. The activity is inclusive of children with developmental vulnerabilities and children who are not participating in formal early learning environments. The focus is on building parents' capability to support their child's development and provide a home environment that supports a positive transition to school. Qualified educators, family support workers and speech pathologists support this activity.

**Community Partner:** KU Children's Services

**Service delivery area:** Tanilba Bay Public School and Tea Gardens Public School.

**Eligibility:** Children aged 3-6 years and their parents/carers, especially those in the year before school and upon commencing school (in classroom support).

**Contact:** Sarah Kwok, 0417 176 013  
[Sarah.Kwok@ku.com.au](mailto:Sarah.Kwok@ku.com.au)



## Growing Resilient Emotionally Attuned and Thriving (GREAT) Relationships

The GREAT Relationships project supports positive and respectful interpersonal relationships by working with parents/carers, children and professionals. It supports parent capability by addressing barriers to secure attachment, respectful parenting and healthy parent-child relationships.

This is through the delivery of Bringing Up Great Kids, Bringing Up Great Teens, 1,2,3 Magic, Parents Not Partners, Building Connections and other evidence based parenting programs. These programs are designed to build parent/carer knowledge and skill to meet their child's needs and support their development and positive parenting practice. Brief individual counselling support is also provided.

GREAT Relationships also works in schools to deliver student relationship programs for students aged 8-12, focused on addressing gender norms, healthy relationships and positive transition to high school.

GREAT Relationships also supports the capacity of the child and family services sector in relation to working responsively with vulnerable and disadvantaged clients. This could include practice development sessions and capacity building workshops such as trauma informed practice.

It is staffed by a qualified family worker and a counsellor.

**Community Partner:** Interrelate Limited

**Service delivery area:** Raymond Terrace, Karuah, Tanilba Bay-Lemon Tree Passage, Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest, Salt Ash Public School.

**Eligibility:** Parents/carers with children aged 0-12 years; children aged 8-12 years.

**Contact:** Bianca Teixeira  
[bianca.teixeira@interrelate.org.au](mailto:bianca.teixeira@interrelate.org.au) 0448 122 845



## OUR HEALTH RULES!

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Our Health Rules! Is a community health activity that engages parents/carers with the aim of improving health literacy, building skills and influencing positive behaviour change through hands-on and community-based programs.

Our Health Rules! provides a range of regular community health and cooking groups, led by a community Dietician. This includes a child feeding intervention program (PICNIC) and food literacy programs which aim to promote healthier eating, cooking skills and food utilisation for families who may be experiencing food insecurity.

**Community Partner:** The Family Action Centre, University of Newcastle.

**Service delivery area:** Raymond Terrace, Karuah, Tanilba Bay-Lemon Tree Passage, Tea Gardens-Hawks Nest.

**Eligibility:** Parents/carers of children aged 0-12 years.

**Contact:** Anne Hills  
[anne.hills@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:anne.hills@newcastle.edu.au) 0437 459 598



## FACILITATING PARTNERS (FP)s

As Facilitating Partners, our work involves a whole of community approach to supporting children and their parents/carers grow, thrive, connect and share strength.

We regularly engage in community conversations, seek community voice to guide our work and connect with various interagency discussions and forums.

We facilitate the Karuah Interagency to bring collective action and systems approach to collaborate, network, support referrals and relationships among services.

We use data, research and evidence to support quality outcomes and understand trends and changes.

Based on regular feedback and understanding of data and trends we support and commission capacity building of the service sector through funded training.

Through our work we advocate and share the voices, needs and strengths of children, parents and carers in our community.



Raymond Terrace-Karuah Communities for Children Facilitating Partner is funded by the Australian Government and facilitated by The Smith Family.

## Contact Us

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