

Little Fellas Family Fun Day 2012

Southern Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

**Funded by the Australian Government through
Communities for Children Plus Cardinia Shire
and City of Greater Dandenong Building Strong Aboriginal Youth Project**

Background:

Building Strong Aboriginal Youth is the Southern Metropolitan Regional (Closing the Gap) response to Healthy Transition to Adulthood.

In consultation with the Aboriginal community, Aboriginal organisations and mainstream services, six priority areas were identified through the *Building Strong Aboriginal Youth Plan*:

1. Culture and Identity
2. Healthy Lifestyles
3. Hearing the voices of Aboriginal young people
4. Strengthening Families and Respectful Relationship
5. Aspirations
6. Early Years

Promoting the importance of early year's development to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ASTI) communities is a strategic area of action for the Early Years priority.

The early years of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child's life are fundamental to a thriving transition from youth to adulthood. Closing the Gap data identified underuse of early year's services by Aboriginal and Islander community. The family fun day was developed to optimize engagement of parents and carers in participation and discussion of early year's development and access to services.

Southern Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) is committed to supporting and strengthening families' knowledge of childhood development and access to services.

Southern VACCA's participation in this event has strengthened the presence of ASTI community, knowledge of services and contribution within the Southern metropolitan region.

VACCA's Koorie Kids Playgroups and the Bunurong Playgroup (of the Dandenong Aboriginal Cooperative) were the core focus of this early year's promotion. Southern VACCA was a vital participant in the creation of this event and took the opportunity to reach out to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families not currently participating in playgroups. The event was a great opportunity to build Southern VACCA's and VACCA's Koorie Kids Playgroups' profile in the region.

Participants:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and community members from City of Greater Dandenong, City of Casey, Cardinia Shire, City of Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Shire.



Aim:

The promotion of early year's development and access to services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the Southern Metropolitan Region.

Objectives:

1. Promote the importance of early years to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;
2. Provide cultural activities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0 – 4 and their parents and carers during a family fun day;
3. Engage parents and carers in activities and conversation about early year development and access to early years services;
4. Offer healthy physical activities for older children aged 5 and older in netball, football and tennis;
5. Create an opportunity for community to participate in a combined game of Marngrook at the end of the event.

Organisational Objective:

Increase knowledge, within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, of Southern VACCA services.

Methodologies of evaluation:

Attendance, Registrations and Evaluations
 Participators' Evaluation sheet
 Collation of participators' evaluations
 Speech Bubble photography/ Anecdotal
 Children's Activity Cards
 Participating VACCA staff evaluation
 Collation of VACCA staff evaluations
 De-briefing with Contributors post event
 Collation of Contributors' de-briefing
 Guidelines for Stakeholders

Appendix one
 Appendix two/A
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 Appendix seven

Evidence supporting this activity:

Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework:
 Priority Area of VIAF and National Partnership Agreement

Working with communities, and cultivating networks and building relationships. CAFCA Practice Sheet *Working with Indigenous children families and communities* Price-Robertson, Phys; McDonald, Myfanwy; Lewis, Peter; Bamblett, Muriel; 2011.

Improve access – transport; providing community events; adequate time to build relationships with groups. Cortis, Natasha; Katz, Ilan; Patulne, Roger. 2011 *Closing the Gap, Engaging hard-to-reach families and children: Stronger Families and Communities Strategies 2004-2009*

Participation in events between communities and service providers; Recognition of cultural components in organising community groups. Ayon, Cecilia; Lee, Cheryl D, 2009, *Building strong communities; an evaluation of a neighbourhood leadership program in a diverse urban area*. Closing the Gap 2011

Communication, consultations and collaboration with Aboriginal communities – in particular with their organisations can allow for non Indigenous services to adapt programs or services to cater to the particularities of the needs identified by communities. SNAICC *Working and Walking Together*. pp .4, 2010

Impacts:**1. Promote the importance of early years to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;**

The event was promoted throughout the Cardinia, Casey, Dandenong and Frankston regions. There was less promotion in the Mornington Peninsula area. One family travelled from the northern Darebin Council and family members came from as far away as Bendigo. There was heavy participation in the early year's area and children older than five were also seen participating in the early years activities. Comments on evaluation forms indicated an appreciation of the learning achieved through the early year's activities, in particular, the oral health activity. Contributors expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discuss early year's development with community.

2. Provide cultural activities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0 – 4 and their parents and carers during a family fun day;

Cultural early year's activities included a flip book, using traditional art imagery and community heroes; Scribble Sands; Koorie Ways to Praise your Child; healthy lifestyles; and singer, Jayden Lillyst. Staff and contributors felt that there could have been more specific cultural activities offered for the children. Suggestions included Aboriginal and Islander orientated face painting, rather than fantasy painting; an Aboriginal storyteller in our story area; children being able to play in the game of Marngrook;

3. Engage parents and carers in activities and conversation about early year development and access to early years services;

Contributors found it difficult in the numbers of children who were keen to participate in the activities to have consistent discussions with adults. However, by the comments on the participants' evaluation forms, the messages got through. Activities need to be clear in their execution to impart the message.

4. Offer healthy physical activities for older children aged 5 and older in netball, football, tennis;

Life Be In It, netball, football and the game of Marngrook were all offered for all children, with most of the participants being over five. Parents and staff commented that they thought the younger children, both boys and girls, would have benefited from having the opportunity to play a game of Marngrook, rather than it being just available for the boys and young men. However, there was enthusiastic participation in all the sport offered.

5. Create an opportunity for community to participate in a combined game of Marngrook at the end of the event.

A game of Marngrook was well participated in by boys and men, painted up and with the traditional possum skin ball. Other events finished to encourage all community to go over and watch the game while contributors finished up. This seemed to work well, except that many contributors and activity facilitators were not able to join community to watch the game. Families came back to say goodbye and exclaim over how much they learnt about the game from just watching it and how much more the boys and young men looked to be learning about culture by participating.

Organisational Objective:

The event was promoted across four shires and councils; the flier was printed in many school newsletters; the email promotion travelled even more broadly with participants coming from significantly further afield; 3KND broadcast from the event and included interviews from organizers. There has been a significant increase of contacts to Southern VACCA Koorie Kids Playgroups of community families wishing to attend playgroup and mainstream organizations requesting cultural input. Family Services program has mentioned contact from previous family clients, who attended the event, requesting assistance. Southern VACCA appears to have been well promoted across the region.

Description of activity

The *Little Fellas Family Fun Day* was for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the southern metropolitan area, targeting Koorie Playgroups.

The family day consisted of a range of activities, for children and parents, that had good parenting and early year messages for parents. The primary focus of these messages was communicated verbally, by facilitating conversations and interacting with parents in play based settings. The event had a focus on creating pride in Aboriginal culture, by having Aboriginal organisations create a culturally safe environment, lead activities and create access to cultural activities on the day.

Event: Little Fellas' Family Fun Day

Venue: Netball Centre, Greaves Reserve, Bennett St, Dandenong

Date: Tuesday 25th September 2012

Time: 11am to 3pm

Activities:

- Older children (5 years on) participated from 11 am to 2pm in the following activities:
NetSetGO! Jumping Castles
Auskick Life Be In It
Tennis
- Younger children (0-4 yrs) participated in early year's fun activities, where parents were engaged in discussion of early year's development and access to services. Activities were run by:
Southern VACCA Playgroups Healthy Lifestyles DDACL
Cardinia and Dandenong Libraries Dandenong Healthy Children
Casey Best Start and Children's Services and Leaping Lizards program
Cardinia Play Start, mobile playgroup
- Marngrook all in together game



Engagement of families:

- NetSetGO! and Koorie Auskick Programs running weeks prior were part of the engagement of families to the day.
- The event was planned through school holidays to maximize opportunity for families to attend.
- Stakeholder guidelines were developed to ensure spirit of day and relevant follow up protocols adhered to.

Importance to Southern VACCA

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families were strengthened through information about early years development, play-based activities and the opportunity for conversation with professional VACCA early years staff;
- The profile of Southern VACCA was built with local ATSI organizations, community, LGAs, government departments and other mainstream services; through the promotion of the event.
- Southern VACCA's playgroups, Koorie Connect and other programs were promoted to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and mainstream services;
- Engaged with and utilized services by Mission Australia, South East Water and local service organizations to support the day;
- Partnered with Closing the Gap's Healthy Transition to Adulthood and City of Greater Dandenong Best Start programs, DEECD Wannik Unit and other stakeholders; which built Southern VACCA's profile in the region.

Planning:

The following strategies were employed to hold a family fun day, to promote the importance of early year's development and services available to families:

- *Marketing:*
 - Identified key services within the Southern Region across City of Greater Dandenong, City of Casey and Cardinia Shire including representatives from council, education, health and welfare.
 - Invitations were extended to Elders, in particular, Aunty Di Kerr to conduct the Welcome to Country.
 - Worked with event coordinating team, which included partners across regions, to develop a plan for the event.
 - Maintain notes of actions and tasks for coordinating team to follow up.
 - A list of service providers and stakeholders was developed and acknowledged.
 - Utilized Koorie and mainstream networks in the Southern metropolitan region to distribute information and fliers.
- *Stakeholder contributions:*
 - Stakeholders were identified and invited to participate in the event.
 - Strong partnerships and commitments with stakeholders and Southern VACCA were developed for future projects, new partnerships and networks.
 - Increased the profile of early year's development and access to services for the ASTI community through provision and participation in activities on the day.
- *Community engagement:*
 - Distributed the flier through Koorie networks and local agencies, including newsletters, schools and mainstream networks.
 - Ensured that the venue was disability accessible.
 - Made certain that activities were cultural and family based.
 - Southern VACCA to provided transport to event for VACCA client families.
- *Evaluation:*
 - Speech bubble photographs were success for participant feedback.
 - Activity cards for children with space for child feedback were well utilised.
 - Evaluation forms distributed to and collected from participants on the day needed more contributors collecting.
 - Follow up sheets for activity facilitators were taken by activity facilitators to follow up.

Identified agencies participating:

Southern VACCA

Cardinia and Casey Libraries have Legs program

LGAs: City of Greater Dandenong; City of Casey; Cardinia Shire

Casey, Cardinia and Dandenong Best Start programs

Southern Health: Cardinia Casey Community Health Service

City of Greater Dandenong: Healthy Children Team

Auskick

NetSetGO!

Dandenong and District Aboriginal Co-operative/ Healthy Lifestyle Program

Confirmed Sponsors:

South East Water hydration trailer

Mission Australia – fresh fruit

Rotary – BBQ



Stories of the day:**MarnGrook**

All activities ceased at 2pm so families were free to walk across to the oval and watch a traditional game of MarnGrook. The game is played with a possum skin ball. It was the first time that many people had seen the game, the ball or the traditional body painting that went with it. Boys and young men were painted up and played with great abandon.

"I learnt so much from just watching the game," was an older man's comment.

"It was awesome to see the game played and understand so much more about where football comes from," was a comment from a young man.

Other observers queried why only males were able to play. Concerns raised about non-participation by girls highlights differences in understanding. Memories and follow up from older family members suggested that the game was played by all children or with differing traditions. Another thought that the little ones played first, all together, before the males. This brought home, not only how much knowledge has been lost but, how important cultural experiences like a game of MarnGrook are to promote discussion, wondering and referral to Elders.

All participants and observers agreed that it was great to see the game played.

**Toothbrushes and Teeth**

Southern Health's Cardinia Casey Community Health Service provided an early year activity about oral health which was a big hit. A giant toothbrush and games to play ensured that children were well engaged. Staff spoke with parents about dental health and heard parents discussing dental visits and the way the team showed them how to clean teeth. Parents were amazed to discover how many teaspoons of sugar were in Ribena. Staff discussed with parents and carers about access to local dentists and answered questions.

Families enjoyed this activity so much that parents mentioned it on their evaluations forms. It had significant impact.



Parents were encouraged to learn that each tooth needed six seconds of attention with each brushing. They were very interested in the information provided and appreciated the activities and efforts the facilitators had gone to (even dressing up as a toothbrush). Parents were overheard discussing the activity and what they had learnt. They were also glad to receive information about local services. One little girl returned repeatedly to brush the giant teeth.

What worked well:

All staff, facilitators and contributors were identified by a Little Fellas Family Fun Day cap. Many families asked if the event was annual when they approached staff, facilitators and other contributors. Adults and children commented on the fun day they had had and hoped that it would happen again next year. Facilitators and contributors also thought the day had been very successful and looked forward to it happening again. The objectives for the event were achieved. The consensus was that the day had gone well, been well organized and would do well to be repeated.

Set up

There were many comments from contributors, service providers and participants on the good organization and clear lay out. Comments were made about how wonderful it was to have food available all the time and not have to queue. Rotary organized the barbeque in a professional manner and having the Council Ambassadors organize the salad and upkeep of the food was excellent.

The mix of grandparents, parents, carers and children was commented on as was the numbers that attended. A few grandparents wished their grannies were present. By positioning the registration areas at the venue entrance and the entrance to the early year's area, we were able to capture most of the attendees. However there were still people arriving later in the day and those who came at the end who had not registered. We were very successful in attracting families from a wide range of post codes.

Stopping all events to encourage families to go over to the MarnGrook game worked very well.

Holding the event in the school holidays maximized participation. The flier went out right across the region, except Peninsula. Calls were received from groups like the Afghan Playgroup in Casey.

Two way radios assisted in keeping organizers in contact but were often unclear and difficult to hear.

Activities

The diversity of activities provided was very much appreciated by participants, staff and contributors. The most popular events were the jumping castles, the dental activity, the food and MarnGrook game.

The photo booth was very popular once participants realized that it was there. By the end of the day, the queue was substantial.

Culture

Families took great pride in participating in an Aboriginal cultural event and there were a number of comments to that effect. Participating in culturally relevant events and particularly MarnGrook created a great sense of pride for families.

Messages

The message for the day was about promoting early year's development to families. This was met reasonably well. We would benefit from an overarching theme to create a framework for the development of culturally appropriate activities promoting early year's development.

Collaboration

Many contributors mentioned how much they had appreciated being included in the working party or event and wanted to be involved again. Contributors went to a lot of effort to ensure their activities were culturally appropriate. Contributors commented that the guidelines were useful; however there was some reversal to providing service information on stalls rather than non-paper based activities. This needs to be addressed.

Improvements:**Set up**

The open plan nature of the setting would benefit from some changes. The tables and chairs under the marquee could move out onto the netball courts to open up access to the indoor area.

The tea and coffee room with baby facilities was underutilized and could do with direction from registration. Due to the different access points it was difficult to ensure that everyone was registered. It would be good to locate the registration points near areas of interest. The entry to the venue was good as was the entry to the Early Years area. A point of gathering at the oval and outdoor courts would also be useful, especially to collect registrations from latecomers.

While the activity cards worked well in encouraging participation, some children were bothered by the stickers falling off. Stamps or a new format will require some thought.

Transport was provided but very underutilized. There is no obvious solution to this issue as transport needs to be offered.

Head sets would be very useful to keep organizers in contact, especially should incidents occur.

The flier needed to identify that the event was for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families.

Activities

It would work well to start the event in the netball centre, without the distraction of outdoor activities. A central PA system and method of communication between staff would be greatly beneficial.

The jumping castles worked well to attract families into the Early Years area. It would be a good idea to have a climbing wall on the oval, shutting down while Auskick and MarnGrook were on, and a warrior ring (jumping castle style) on the netball courts. These would attract families to these locations where they could be directed to other events in turn.

The photo booth needed to be pointed out to families as they arrived and we made need two next year.

It was suggested that the face painting could be traditional rather than contemporary. The paintings that were put on children's arms would do well on faces too.

Concerns were raised about modeling healthy eating on a healthy physical activity day and that the fairy floss and slushies hyped the children up too much.

Culture

It was interesting to note that there was some differences in understanding of what makes activities culturally appropriate and that some individuals were able to observe more cultural activities than others. Requests were made for a greater Elder presence, particularly with the Scribble Sands activity. An Elder would have been an excellent addition to create stories in the sand.

Messages

To enhance the cultural appropriateness of activities offered and increase understanding of how activity based activities enable better engagement of families, an over arching theme to create a framework has been suggested. Cultural Safety is a suggested theme.

Collaboration

Contributors would benefit from a half day cultural awareness training session plus an half day preparation session, utilizing the guidelines and ensuring that early year's development remains the priority, rather than service promotion.

Recommendations:**1. Success of day**

95% of respondents were positive in their praise of the organization and cultural nature of the day. Families considered the day a great success. Staff and contributors were pleased with their participation and wanting to be involved next year. Staff lost count of the number of participants who asked if the event was annual.

We strongly recommend that the event is repeated next year with the view to being an annual event in the September school holidays.

We recommend that Southern VACCA seeks approval and funding for Little Fellas Family Fun Day 2013.

2. Changes to activities and improvement of set up

The organization of the day received many compliments and contributors were happy with the way families were encouraged to participate.

We recommend that the seating be moved out onto the netball courts to facilitate access to the Early Years area and that attractions, such as a climbing wall and warriors' ring, be added to gather people where activities for older children are taking place.

We recommend that the registration process be refined to be mindful of identifying activities and quiet areas to maximize their use.

We recommend the purchase of headsets to keep organizers in contact.

3. Changes to promotional material

The flier was emailed everywhere but did not identify that the day was for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families. The flier would be better as a postcard that could be easily posted out (kept for referral), emailed better targeted to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

We recommend that the postcard advertising the event identify it as an expo for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and their children.

4. Changes to collaboration with contributors

Contributors appreciated the guidelines for the presentation of activities. However, some struggled with culturally appropriate activities and paper-less activities. It would be very useful to have training on cultural awareness and preparation of culturally appropriate activities before the next event.

We recommend that two half day training sessions be held by Southern VACCA for contributors. The first for cultural awareness training and the second as a preparation day for a paper-less activity promoting early year's development.

Attendance, Registration and Evaluations:**Appendix one****Numbers:**

146 adults attended with 59 children 0-4 years of age; 110 children between 5 to 12 years of age and 24 children between the ages of 13 to 18 years. This made a total of 339 individuals captured in registration.

Fifty of the adults attending were volunteers and/or staff, which bring adult numbers to 96. Some families had more than one adult in attendance. We have 67 families registered.

Process of registration:

We had two registration desks; one in the foyer of the centre, where the photo booth was located, and the other in the entrance of the netball courts where the early year's activities and jumping castles were located.

There were two roving registrars who moved between oval four and the netball centre who were also able to capture family registrations.

Families filled in primary career details and contacts and the numbers of individuals in each age group and gave permission for photos to be taken.

Children were given an activity card on which they were to collect stickers to indicate the number of activities they had participated in.

Evaluations:

After lunch the netball centre, early year's registration table became the prize table for children who had completed their activity cards. At the table they placed a sticker on the card which indicated how they felt about the day and placed them in the collection boxes. They were then given a bag and asked to choose a prize suitable for their age group.

Ninety activity cards were collected. More children attended the table without activity cards.

However a number of families and/or children attended the prize table after lunch without activity cards or having registered.

Parents and careers were asked to fill in an evaluation form at the prize table and activity facilitators also assisted in this process. Fifty evaluations were filled in.

Issues:

Not everyone was captured on registration sheets.

Activity cards were successful but capturing evaluation forms needs additional support.

Twenty-three comments were captured via speech bubble photography.

Evaluation Little Fellas Family Fun Day**What is your postcode?**

train other

How did you get here today?

Car

bus

How did you hear about this event?

Email Organisation

School

Family/ Friends

Newsletter

Flier

(Please name)

Rate your satisfaction with Programs delivered

1

2

3

4

5

(1 being not satisfied and 5 being very satisfied)

*Little Fellas Family fun day is about promoting the importance of early years (e.g. Kindergarten, playgroup, reading to your kids) to the Koorie community.***Did you find early years information useful today?**

Yes

No

Which one?

What was your awareness of early year's services before attending today's event?

Average Good

Poor

What is your awareness of early year's services after attending today's event?

Better Heaps

Same

Would you use any of activities learnt today at home?

Yes

No

Which one?

What was your favourite activity today?

Adults

Children

How will you find out where your local sporting groups are?**How would you like to see this event improve in the future? (Please provide comments, all feedback is welcome)****Is there anything new that you have learnt that you would share with other families/ families?**

Thank you for your contribution.

Collation of Participant Evaluations:
What is your postcode?

Appendix two/BEvaluation

3175	3177	3199	3802	3805	3806	3915	3919	3976	3977	3981	3200	3208	3810	5330
2	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	10	2	1	1	1	1

How did you get here today?

Car	bus	train	other
17	5	3	6

How did you hear about this event?

School	Family/ Friends	Newsletter	Flier	Email
2	9	2	17	2

Rate your satisfaction with Programs delivered

(1 being not satisfied and 5 being very satisfied)

1	2	3	4	5
		1	6	23

Little Fellas Family fun day is about promoting the importance of early years (e.g. Kindergarten, playgroup, reading to your kids) to the Koorie community.

Did you find early years information useful today?

Yes	No	Which one?
30		All; reading at home

What was your awareness of early year's services before attending today's event?

Poor	Average	Good
3	10	17

What is your awareness of early year's services after attending today's event?

Same	Better	Heaps
4	17	9

Would you use any of activities learnt today at home?

Yes	No	Which one?
28	2	Graffiti floor; exercise; 6 sec for surface on teeth; sand balloons; sports; games; art; sand pit; teeth brushing ; circuit activities; all infant and toddler ones; toothpaste storage; balloon bags; 3D colouring and crafts; crafts and balloons; craft

What was your favourite activity today?

BBQ; fairy floss; tennis, jumping castles; face painting; flip books; singing; activities; craft; everything; soft fruit toys; all; crafts; big ball, tennis, animal colouring; Auskick; crafts face painting; balls (jumping castles had most votes)

How will you find out where your local sporting groups are?

Internet; ask; word of mouth; family; Google; VACCA; on line

How would you like to see this event improve in the future? (Please provide comments, all feedback is welcome)

Activity where kids spent time with Elders; more school holiday program; more Koori adult info services; more people involved; great event; it's all good; more cultural activities: elders, dancing dij playing; advertisement; craft for older kids: beading, weaving etc.; more people to come; it was fantasmagorical; lots of great activities; it's great; COTS! (baby facilities); very well run

Is there anything new that you have learnt that you would share with other families/ families?

All info got today and culture being proud to be Aboriginal; all new activities and culture; just how the day was; everything was helpful; heaps; great opportunity for Koorie kids to come together; yes, healthy eating and balloon balls

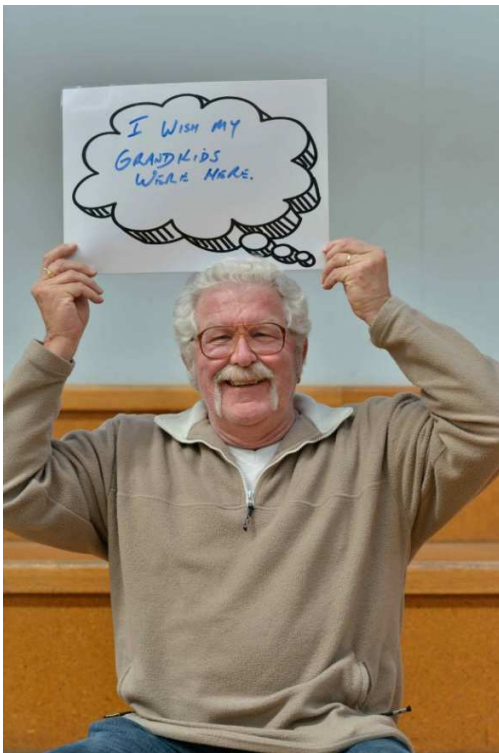
Speech Bubble photography/ Anecdotal:

Appendix three



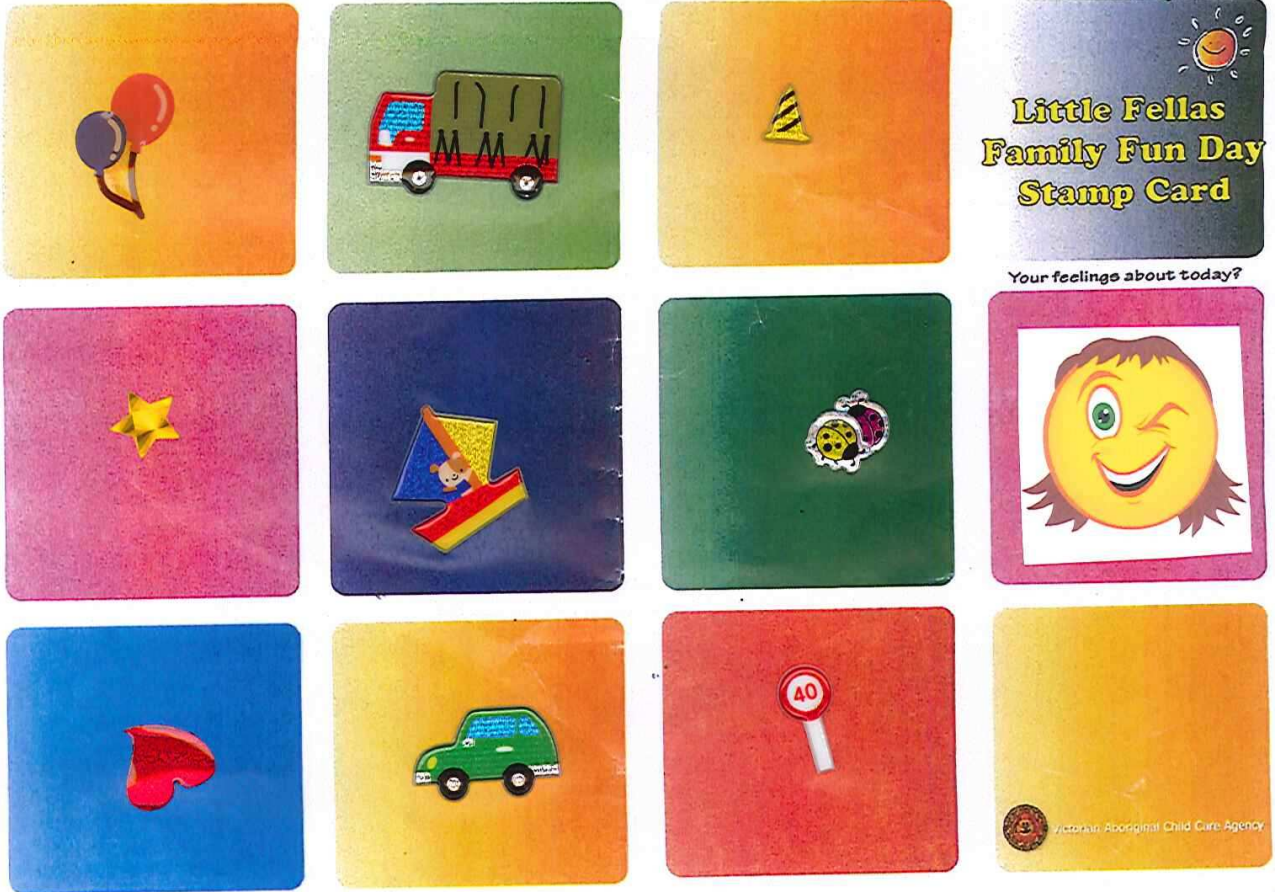
Speech Bubble photography/ Anecdotal:

Appendix three



Children's Activity Cards

Appendix four



Katy, aged 2, was one of ninety children who completed her activity card. Many more children were too busy doing activities to complete them. She carefully chose the smiling winking face to put on her card as she had had an happy day. Katy is a regular attendee at Koorie Kids Playgroups and her mum and nanna were exhausted by all the activities that Katy wanted to do.

Participating VACCA staff evaluation**Appendix five/A**

1. Do you feel that the event promoted the importance of early years to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community?
2. Do you consider that adequate cultural activities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0 – 4 and their parents and carers during a family fun day were provided?

What else could have been included?

3. Did you observe parents and carers engaged in activities and conversation about early year development and access to early years services;

What did you participate in?

4. Were adequate healthy physical activities for older children aged 5 and older in netball, football, and tennis?

What else could have been provided?

5. Was an opportunity created for community to participate in a combined game of Marngrook at the end of the event?

In what way did you participate?

6. Do you believe that Southern VACCA was well promoted in the southern metropolitan region through this event?

What else could have been done?

7. Any other suggestions or comments?
(You are welcome to use the back of this page)

Collation of VACCA staff evaluations**Appendix five/B**

- 1 All staff who responded felt that the event promoted the importance of early years. One staff member suggested that the inclusion of local kindergartens or councils to discuss enrolments and environments would have been beneficial.
- 2 Most staff who responded felt that adequate cultural activities were provided. There were suggestions of a petting zoo or reptiles; "traditional" face painting including animal tracks would have been preferred; and animal encounters with native animals.
- 3 Staff observed parents and carers engaged in activities and conversation about early year development and themselves participated in Auskick; almost everything; arts and crafts; activities on the floor; flip books; and spoke with as many community members as possible.
- 4 Staff who responded felt that healthy physical activities were provided for older children and felt that traditional games would have been a good addition; climbing frames; rock climbing walls; and dancing would have been beneficial.
- 5 Most staff watched the Marngrook game, rather than participate. One staff member noted that it was only for males. This staff member's understanding is that all young children can participate in the game and that it would have been good for the children to have had an opportunity. Other staff also felt that it would have been good for the younger boys and girls to have an opportunity to play the game.
- 6 All staff who responded felt that Southern VACCA had been well promoted in the southern metropolitan region and felt that fliers could have been added to show bags.
- 7 Staff who responded made the following suggestions and comments:
- Slushy machine: it is one of the unhealthiest things that you can give kids. As the day wore on we saw many children melt down, don't think it was appropriate for a 'health focused' day.
- It was a great day, well planned, lots of community, Aboriginal and mainstream services – well done!
- Really good feedback about the day. The way the food was done was EXCELLENT! No big queues!!
- It was a great fun day.
- More people were at the event than I had envisaged. It was good to see children, parents and grandparents. It was good to hear such positive feedback about the Southern VACCA programs and events and our team members.
- Staff needed time to go into the photo booth too. I missed out. Not a fan of fairy floss.
- I think that people should be out promoting in the communities about Southern VACCA and our events. You all did a great job.

De-briefing with Contributors post event**Appendix six/B**

1. Do you feel that you were able to engage parents and carers in discussion and promote the importance of early years?
2. Do you consider that adequate cultural activities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0 – 4 and their parents and carers during a family fun day were provided?

What else could have been included?

3. Were you able to observe parents and carers engaged in activities and conversation about early year development and access to early year's services?

What did you participate in?

4. Were adequate healthy physical activities for older children aged 5 and older in netball, football, and tennis?

What else could have been provided?

5. Was an opportunity created for community to participate in a combined game of Marngrook at the end of the event?

In what way did you participate?

6. Do you believe that the event was well promoted in the southern metropolitan region?

What else could have been done?

7. Any other suggestions or comments? (you are welcome to use the back of this page)

Collation of Contributors' De-briefing**Appendix six/B**

1. Do you feel that you were able to engage parents and carers in discussion and promote the importance of early years?
Nine respondents replied positively that the activities provided were ample and popular; that there was time to engage with parents; they found it an effective way to engage the wider community; great discussions were held and overheard about oral hygiene; guidelines were helpful to think how families could be engaged. Contributors identified pride in adults and children when participating in cultural activities.
2. Do you consider that adequate cultural activities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0 – 4 and their parents and carers during a family fun day were provided?
Eight respondents replied positively and commented that there was a great range of activities that needed families to do things together.
3. Were you able to observe parents and carers engaged in activities and conversation about early year development and access to early year's services?
Respondents asked families if they were attending kindergarten and playgroup; talked to parents about the benefits of reading, healthy food, oral hygiene and dental visits.
What did you participate in?
Respondents were not able to participate in activities other than their own.
4. Were adequate healthy physical activities for older children aged 5 and older in netball, football, and tennis?
Eight respondents replied positively and suggested that the event may benefit from fewer activities or be more specific to few activities; that they considered that there was an amazing selection; there was lots of time for active play on the day; the courts could have been made better use of; and that the jumping castles were a hit.
5. Was an opportunity created for community to participate in a combined game of Marngrook at the end of the event?
Four respondents replied that they were packing up while the game was on and did not get to see it; others were able to watch from the sidelines, spectating and encouraging.
6. Do you believe that the event was well promoted in the southern metropolitan region?
Six respondents replied positively and said that it was great to be part of the working group; that the promotion was successful; suggested that social media might be helpful; and that it could have been better promoted in the peninsula.
7. Any other suggestions or comments?
Hard to promote healthy eating when fairy floss and sweet drink provided.
Great to be involved with VACCA.
Fantastic event, many thoughtful details contributed to it being a success.
Like to be involved again.
Wonderful event, read credit to working group.
Some key messages for all professionals to promote would be beneficial.
There was a great vibe on the day, like a big family bbq.
Lots of early year services involved.
Could broaden events to include more services.

Guidelines for Stakeholders**Appendix seven****Guidelines for Stakeholders – Little Fellas Family Fun Day****Date:** 25th September, 2012**Venue:** Greaves Reserve, Dandenong Showgrounds. Bennett Street Dandenong**Time:** 11am-3pm

These guidelines are to provide stakeholders with overview of day, to ensure consistent messages to all families attending the event.

Purpose of Day

Promote the importance of Early Years to Aboriginal community

The *Little Fellas Family Fun Day* is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in SMR, but targeting Koorie Playgroups.

The family day will consist of a range of activities for children and parents that have good parenting and early year messages for parents. The primary focus of these messages is that they are communicated verbally, by facilitating conversations and interacting with parents in play based activities. Each organisation is to have their own activity to engage families

The event will also have a focus on creating pride in Aboriginal culture, by having Aboriginal organisations create a culturally safe environment, lead activities and create access to cultural activities on the day.

1. Encourage active involvement of whole of family
2. Do not use language that is inappropriate for families
3. Find common ground with families
4. No Paper or pamphlets. Engage in conversations with families. Encourage them to ask questions. If you do not have the answers, encourage the family to give you a contact number so you can follow up with their inquiry.
5. Ensure that activities have some relevance to building parenting capacity
6. Discuss with families the benefits of the activity provided eg, fine motor skills, literacy
7. Do not wait for families to come to you, create an environment where families are encouraged to engage in conversations.

Little Fellas Family Fun Day Information				
Area	Activity/Organisation	Contact people	Location (see site map)	Ph:
1.	Activity			
2.	Activity			
3.	Activity			
4.	Activity			
5.	Registration			
6.	Lunch – BBQ			
7.	Hydration Station			
8.	Canteen			
9.	Photo Booth			
10.	Photographer			
11..	Greeters			
12.	Police			
13.	Transport			
14.	Quiet room – tea and coffee			
15.	3KND			
16.	First Aid			
17.	Lost Children			
18.	Marngrook			
19.	Prize table			
20.	Carnival trader			

Name of event's Emergency Services contact? Event Coordinator	
Organisation:	Contact mobile number:

Potential emergency situation	Action	Response organisation
MEDICAL EMERGENCY		
Person(s) requiring urgent medical care, loss of life Other: First Aid to be available inside the Netball Centre near the reception area. (See site map) Assembly area –	Prepare: - Maintain clear access route for ambulance - Onsite first aid in a central position All event staff, volunteers and security guards to carry incident report forms Respond: 1. Serious injury – notify onsite first aid (who may notify ambulance if required) Deceased persons – notify Victoria Police - Keep area clear of other event patrons	Onsite first aid Ambulance: Ph: 000 Police: Ph: 000 Venue location:

FIRE ON SITE		
Spread of fire, injury, loss of life, property loss Other:	Prepare: - Maintain clear access to fire fighting equipment, access route for fire engine and escape routes from buildings - Assembly area clearly defined - Respond: 1. Crowd control: - PA announcement, advising all patrons to calmly proceed to assembly area 2. Notify Country Fire Authority - ensure no other patrons enter affected area Depending on the size and type of fire, it may be necessary to do a complete site shutdown.	Country Fire Authority Ph: 000

SEVERE WEATHER

<p>High winds blowing over temporary structures, flooding, electrocution from lightning strikes, crowd or animal panic</p> <p>Other: Extreme heat</p>	<p>Prepare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review weather forecasts prior to event, secure temporary structures - Event staff, volunteers and security guards to remain alert to potential problems <p>Respond:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crowd control: - PA announcement, advising all patrons to calmly proceed to assembly area 2. Notify SES or Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure no other patrons enter affected area <p>In the case of extreme heat, the event will be cancelled.</p> <p>In the case of electrical storms at outdoor events, the event site must be immediately shut down.</p>	<p>Event organiser's Ph:</p> <p>SES Ph: 132 500</p> <p>Police Ph: 000</p>
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EXPLOSION

<p>Gas cylinder explosion in a food van, other explosive reaction</p> <p>Other:</p>	<p>Prepare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain clear access to fire fighting equipment, access route for fire engine and escape routes from buildings - Assembly area clearly defined - <p>Respond:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crowd control: PA announcement, advising all patrons to calmly proceed to assembly area 2. Notify Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure no other patrons enter affected area - Depending on the severity and type of explosion, the event site may be immediately shut down. 	<p>Country Fire Authority Ph: 000</p>
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VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR

<p>Fight between people, injury, crowd panic</p> <p>Other:</p>	<p>Prepare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain clear access route for police vehicles - Guide public to the oval across from the Netball Centre (see attached map) in the event of any violent behaviour away from where the behaviour is occurring. - Call Police 000 and give a location of the behaviour and where the event is being held. <p>Respond:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crowd control: PA announcement, advising all patrons in affected area to calmly proceed to assembly area. Security guards to provide crowd control if required. 2. Notify Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - calmly evacuate affected area, ensure no other patrons approach aggressive persons - 	<p>Police Ph: 000</p> <p>Venue details for quick reference plus map location.</p>
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THREATS TO LIFE

<p>Bomb threats, terrorist activities</p> <p>Other:</p>	<p>Prepare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be alert to all suspicious activity, report it to Victoria Police or the 24 hour National Security Hotline 1800 123 400 - Event staff to put National Security Hotline into mobile phones <p>Respond:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crowd control approach: PA announcement, advising all patrons to calmly proceed to assembly area 2. Notify Victoria Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immediate event site shutdown 	<p>Event organisers Ph:</p> <p>Police Ph: 000</p>
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LOST CHILDREN

Child lost in crowd at event site, distressed family members, abduction

Other:
Located inside in the early years activities area. (See on site map)

Prepare:

- Clearly identified Lost Children's Area
- Site plan marked into search areas – **Need to define areas**
- Brief all event staff, volunteers and security guards on procedures prior

Respond:

1. Obtain all possible information from person making the report, including mobile phone number
2. Follow pre-determined protocols, including notifying police
3. volunteers and security guards to be allocated search areas and report in via two-way radios

Event organisers
Ph:

Police
Ph: 000

Communication:	Point of contact for the day:
Food Handling:	If handling any food: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please ensure that you use gloves in the preparation of any food that you are serving, and ensure that you have a food handling procedure in place for your organisation.
Equipment:	If using power generators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please ensure that all power generators are protected and free from public reach and activity supervised whilst in use. Stall holders and staff to minimise their own risk.
Vehicles:	If you have a vehicle which needs to be onsite: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please ensure that all vehicles that require to be onsite are driven through the gate indicated on the site map (see attached);• That all vehicles remain stationary onsite from the beginning of the event (11.00am) until the close of the event (3pm).• Alternatively, there is parking offsite in the designated areas (see site map).