

# ParentsNext Newsletter



Djerriwarrh  
Community & Education Services

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Edition 1 - February 2019

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## Empowering parents to achieve their career goals

### Good News Story

Dee (not her real name) commenced with our ParentsNext program in August 2018 and started work with Western Health in February 2019.

We spoke to Dee about her journey from long term unemployment to paid employment.

Dee said

*"I had been out of paid work for around 10 years and was finding it difficult to find suitable work that also fitted in with my childcare responsibilities."*

Dee had completed a certificate in hospitality previously and had some work experience, but not being able to find the right job to fit in with her parenting responsibilities was discouraging her.

Dee's ParentsNext Pathway Coach negotiated a Participation Plan with her to engage with other local employment services, such as jobactive providers and Jobs Victoria provider west@work.

Initial support services to Dee included weekly funded driving lessons, booking in for her driving test and attending job information sessions.

Through these efforts, the Jobs Victoria partner west@work was able to refer Dee for a Food Services Assistant role with Western Health which led to a work trial. The work trial went well and Dee was offered a paid position at the Sunshine Hospital kitchen.

Dee has praised her ParentsNext Pathway Coach for helping her to remain positive and stay motivated and believes she wouldn't be where she is today without the support of the ParentsNext program.

### 1. ParentsNext 12 month anniversary event

We are planning to hold a 12 month anniversary event to celebrate the achievements our ParentsNext participants have made over the past year and to acknowledge and thank all our community partners for their support of the program.

The event is planned for late July or early August and further details about this will be sent out in the coming months

### 2. Jobs Drive

Working with our ParentsNext participants to support them to reach their full potential, is very rewarding for us.

To further support our participants who are ready to enter the workforce, Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services and the ParentsNext team will be working with Jobs Victoria provider west@work and local employers, such as Lendlease, Western Health and Woolworths on a joint employment initiative to empower more ParentsNext participants to get back into paid work and achieve their career goals.

We will be holding information sessions on these job opportunities and will advise of the details shortly.



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### Djerriwarrh's ParentsNext site locations

- ◆ Melton
- ◆ Sunshine
- ◆ St Albans
- ◆ Werribee
- ◆ Deer Park
- ◆ Footscray
- ◆ Melton South
- ◆ Bacchus Marsh
- ◆ Taylors Hill/Hillside
- ◆ Laverton (outreach)
- ◆ Watergardens (outreach)

# WHAT'S COMING UP THIS YEAR

## 3. Supporting individuals and local community to learn, connect and grow

Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services is proud to be partnering with the Australian Government, Department of Jobs and Small Business, to deliver the ParentsNext program across 11 locations in the Western Melbourne region from July 2018 to June 2021.

ParentsNext helps eligible parents with young children to link up with local services and activities, promote positive family life, learn new skills, undertake education and training and achieve their career goals.

Since commencing the program in July 2018, Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services' dedicated ParentsNext team have received and processed 1,134 referrals to the program and are currently providing direct support to more than 700 parents to connect with local services and improve their work readiness through education and training activities.

Our ParentsNext participants have reported that the program has given them more confidence and motivation to learn new skills, better connect with their local community and personally grow and achieve their career goals.

Our ParentsNext Pathway Coaches have also noticed significant improvement in their participants' work readiness and have been supporting them to commence their journeys back into the paid workforce.

Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services would like to thank all our local community partners for working with us to ensure we provide the best ongoing support to our ParentsNext participants.

We would especially like to thank the local councils, libraries, parenting groups, playgroups, education and training providers, and other related support services, such as, Jobs Victoria, jobactive, Fitted for Work, Wear for Success, Skills for Education and Employment (SEE), Adult Migrant Education Program (AMEP), and the Skills First Reconnect Program.

A special thanks to our local employers who have provided and continue to provide tailored job opportunities for parents with young children.

We look forward to continuing our strong working relationship with our community partners to deliver the best customer experience for parents with young children.

## 4. myGov and Linked Services Course

Djerriwarrh will be delivering a myGov and Linked Services Course in April. If you are interested in learning more about these new technologies, please contact us to register your interest .

## 5. Targeted Compliance Framework (TCF)

A new Targeted Compliance Framework (TCF) for participants registered with Centrelink came into effect on 1 July 2018. This framework also applies to ParentsNext participants.

Our ParentsNext team are here to work with you and help you with this new compliance framework. Your ParentsNext Pathway Coach will explain the TCF to you so that it is simple, fair and effective.

We will also show you, step-by-step, how to access your personal calendar to view all your Centrelink related appointments and activities as well as using the self-reporting tools to record your attendance at agreed activities.

Just a reminder to all our participants to talk to your ParentsNext Pathway Coach if you cannot meet any of your agreed tasks and activities before they happen so as to ensure your Centrelink payments are not affected.

## 6. ParentsNext Advisory Group (PAG)

The ParentsNext Advisory Group (PAG) is an initiative of Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services. The PAG will hold regular meetings to provide local knowledge and guidance on what matters to parents and their families.

Representation will be made up of current program participants and key local stakeholders.

Meetings will be chaired by Djerriwarrh and the main focus of the PAG will be to provide input into the strategic planning and delivery of the ParentsNext program in the Western Melbourne region.

The first PAG meeting for 2019 will be on 28 February at Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services Sunshine (Hampshire Road). If you are a current Djerriwarrh ParentsNext participant or a local stakeholder that would like to participate in the PAG please speak with your ParentsNext Pathway Coach or contact us to complete an expression of interest form.

## 7. ParentsNext participant survey

Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services welcomes ongoing feedback and suggestions from all its participants and stakeholders. Any feedback that can assist us to improve the ParentsNext program and other programs is always greatly appreciated.

We have started sending out an online survey to our ParentsNext participants to seek their feedback and suggestions on our service.

Participant feedback forms are also available at all our service locations for you to complete or you can also visit our website [www.djerriwarrh.org.au](http://www.djerriwarrh.org.au) and leave your message on our contact us page.

Another way to provide your feedback is to send an email to the ParentsNext Manager direct at [parentsnext@djerriwarrh.org](mailto:parentsnext@djerriwarrh.org)