

ParentsNext Newsletter



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Changing our Participants' lives

What could you accomplish if someone with lots of experience, knowledge and passion was there to help you achieve your goals?

This is the experience ParentsNext participants are always presented with by our ParentsNext Coaches.

Vicki is a ParentsNext participant who was referred to us by Centrelink in September 2018. Vicki always wanted to work as an Education Support Officer but had some personal factors that were preventing her



Vicki - ParentsNext Participant

from achieving her personal and career goals. Those factors were also affecting her confidence.

With the help of her ParentsNext Coach, Samara, Vicki's situation was thoroughly assessed, a clear, realistic and customised plan was designed to give her

the best possible chance at succeeding in achieving her goals and to building her confidence.

Vicki was referred to her local training provider to enrol in Certificate III in Education Support. Samara worked with the training provider and Vicki to ensure that she was happy with the course and that this was what she had expected. Vicki is very pleased with the ParentsNext program and her coach, and said

"It has given me more confidence, being able to talk to someone about what my plans are, bounce ideas off and put them into place. I think it's a great program, a really great help. It has been a confidence builder".

1. A message from our ParentsNext Manager

I can't believe it has been 10 months since we commenced delivery of the ParentsNext program. I remember meeting with all of our team and starting to roll-out this new program across our 11 service sites in Melbourne's west in July 2018. What impressed me back



then was the passion I saw in our team in wanting to assist parents with young children better connect with their local communities, to learn new skills and to grow personally and professionally.

It is this passion and commitment from our ParentsNext team and everyone at Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services; to deliver the program the way it was intended, with care and individualised support, which I believe makes a big difference in the lives of our participants.

Over the past 10 months, we have assisted more than 1,200 parents and I hope that we have met parents expectations in the delivery of the ParentsNext program.

It's awesome to be part of an organisation and program where together we are making a difference to the lives of so many people. My team and I look forward to continuing to serve you and our local communities to achieve the best from the ParentsNext program.

Regards,

Gengiz Soytyrk

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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)



2. Celebrating our early achievements

In February 2019, the Department of Jobs and Small Business released its Interim ParentsNext Provider Performance Reports for the period 2 July to 31 December 2018.

The results were very pleasing for Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services as it acknowledged the parent centric approach our team have adopted in caring for and supporting parents with young children in the ParentsNext program.

The results confirmed that we are on the right track in delivering the ParentsNext program by focusing our efforts on building trusting relationships with our participants.

It was great to be acknowledged for the hard work and effort our team have put into connecting with and engaging parents to make the most out of this important pre-employment program.

We look forward to continuing to work with parents with young children and providing them meaningful pathways to education or employment.

4. Working as ONE Team

Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services encourages a culture where all our teams collaborate both internally and externally with our partner organisations.

This one team approach has helped our ParentsNext participants access timely services, such as English classes through the Skills for Education and Employment program (SEE), Certificate courses through Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), short courses as well as specialist education and training services for young parents through the Skills First Reconnect program and targeted employment services through west@work Jobs Victoria program.

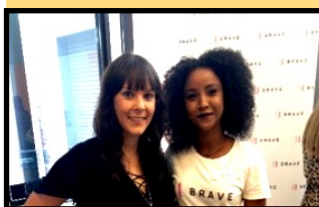
We would like to thank our colleagues at Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services along with our partner organisations, Kirrip House, Melton South Community Centre, The Laurels, commUnity+, Yarraville Community Centre.

Working as one team, we have put structures in place to better share resources and knowledge across geographic boundaries to achieve meaningful outcomes for all ParentsNext participants.

3. Partnering to achieve better outcomes

Djerriwarrh's ParentsNext program has established a working relationship with the BRAVE Foundation's program in 2019. BRAVE foundation equips expecting and parenting teens with resources, referral and education opportunities.

Our ParentsNext Coaches work together with the BRAVE Foundation Mentors to provide support for parents by connecting them with health and financial services. Together with BRAVE, we can also provide funding assistance to gain a drivers license or work towards a certificate/qualification to increase employability skills.



*Celebrating International Women's Day
Samara, ParentsNext Coach and
Zen, BRAVE Foundation Mentor*

On 8th March, the BRAVE Foundation provided a morning tea supporting 'International Women's Day' and invited key stakeholders for a networking event. Djerriwarrh's ParentsNext program was represented by Samara who had the privilege of meeting the BRAVE Foundation's CEO and team.

ParentsNext looks forward to continuing our partnership with the BRAVE Foundation to support young parents and their families to achieve their future goals.

5. Training Our Team

At Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services we value our people and invest in their ongoing professional development to ensure that we have the resources and knowledge to better serve our participants.

Over the past few months, our ParentsNext team members have participated in and benefited from professional development training in:

- Cultural Diversity
- Family Violence
- Mental Health Awareness
- Conflict Resolution
- Emotional Intelligence
- Risk Management
- Work Readiness
- Leadership & Management



*Learning about Cultural Diversity
Samara, Lydia, Anita*

6. Voice of Our Participants

It was great to see from our recent participant survey that 96% of our ParentsNext participants said they are satisfied with the level of support provided by us.

Your feedback and suggestions are important to us. We always like to know what is working well for you or how we can improve our service.

If you would like to share your feedback with us or join our ParentsNext Advisory Group, please email us at

ParentsNext@djerriwarrh.org