



## Our vision for change

Improving child wellbeing and school readiness for our children and learning what it takes to create change for all Western Australian children.



## EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP

Pandanus Park

# Wirriya Dunyji Ooba Babanil Ingun (Happy Strong Small Children)

Early Years Community Plan

2023



[earlyyearspartnership.org.au](http://earlyyearspartnership.org.au)

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## Why we need change

In the Derby community (including Pandanus Park) approximately

**1 in 2**



children are considered developmentally vulnerable.<sup>1</sup>



1 AEDC 2021.

## How we will create change

Seven key priorities have been identified locally to improve the wellbeing and school readiness of children living in Pandanus Park.



**Child health** – To improve the health of babies and children and to increase the proportion of children entering school who meet the developmental physical domain (AEDC).



**Child development** – To increase the number of children meeting developmental milestones and entering school developmentally ready.<sup>2</sup>



**Parent health and wellbeing** – To improve the health and wellbeing of parents to enable positive parenting practices.



**Family safety** – To reduce the number of children (aged 0–4) who have interactions with family and domestic violence.



**Family financial and wellbeing** – Children aged 0–4 years live in households with an adequate standard of living.



**Community service aspects** – To provide a culturally safe and coordinated health and wellbeing system for families and children.



**Community physical and social aspects** – To create the physical and social infrastructure in the community that enables families to care for their children.

2 As measured by the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ3) and Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) tools (adjusted for cultural relevance as appropriate).



## Who will be involved

The Pandanus Park community, broader Derby partners, State Government, the Minderoo Foundation and Telethon Kids Institute (TKI) as evidence and evaluation partner, are working in partnership to create change. The West Australian Government participates via the Department of Communities (lead partner), Department of Education and the Department of Health. Ngunga Group Women's Aboriginal Corporation are the Connected Beginnings partner.

## What we will do to create change

The detailed Wirriya Dunyji Ooba Babanil Ingun – early years plan that outlines actions for change can be found at [earlyyearspartnership.org.au](http://earlyyearspartnership.org.au)





# Pandanus Park Priorities<sup>3</sup>



## Child health

**Aim:** To improve the health of babies and children and to increase the proportion of children entering school who meet the developmental physical domain (AEDC).

**Objective 1:**  
To increase children's nutritional intake.

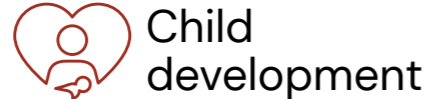
**Local level action:**

- **LA1.** Provision of food at early education services e.g. playgroups.
- **LA2.** Run healthy eating programs for carers with young children, including packing a healthy lunch box.

**Objective 2:**  
To increase access to child and family health services.

**System level action:**

- **SA3.** Ensure outreach health services are regularly and consistently provided to Pandanus Park.



## Child development

**Aim:** To increase the number of children meeting developmental milestones and entering school developmentally ready.

**Objective 1:**  
To increase parent knowledge of early brain development, child wellbeing and school readiness.

**Local level action:**

- **LA7.** Distribute the Brain Boxes education tool (supplied by the Early Years Partnership) to professionals working with families in early years settings, e.g. Kindilink and playgroups.
- **LA8.** Engage parents in conversations/activities about the importance of brain development and school readiness in a variety of early years settings including Kindilink and playgroups.
- **LA9.** To engage local organisations (as far as possible) to deliver training to all early year's education staff about the impacts of trauma and effective methods to support individuals and families who have experienced trauma.

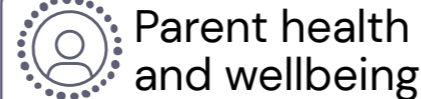
**Objective 2:**  
To improve access to culturally safe early years education.

**Local level action:**

- **LA13.** Engage with early education providers to identify opportunities to incorporate Aboriginal ways of learning, being and doing into the curriculum, including out on country opportunities.

**System level action:**

- **SA4.** Increase the number of ACCO-led, culturally appropriate childcare places by supporting the design and development of an ACCO-led early years education centre for children based in Derby.
- **SA5.** Continue a conversation on ways of improving early years schooling for children who reside at Pandanus Park.



## Parent health and wellbeing

**Aim:** To improve the health and wellbeing of parents to enable positive parenting practices.

**Objective**  
To reduce drug and alcohol consumption.

**Local level action:**

- **LA15.** Deliver health promotion programs to educate parents, carers and the broader community about the harmful effects of drugs, tobacco (including vaping) and alcohol on individuals, families and communities.

**System level action:**

- **SA8.** Partnership with Police to enforce local alcohol restrictions
- **SA9.** Expand liquor restrictions due to expire in 2024.



## Family safety

**Aim:** To reduce the number of children (aged 0-4) who have interactions with family and domestic violence.

**Objective**  
To improve the safety of children, families, and community members.

**Local level action:**

- **LA18.** Work with community leaders to establish the role of a Community Warden/ Night Patrol to encourage good behaviour, keep community peace and help stop alcohol and drugs coming into the community.



## Family financial wellbeing

**Aim:** Children aged 0-4 years live in households with an adequate standard of living.

**Objective 1:**  
Increase training, job readiness and employment opportunities in the Derby Community, including access to childcare, to increase household incomes and purchasing power.

**Local Level action:**

- **LA 19.** Local Working Group to work with Kimberley training providers for a wider variety of training courses relevant to local industries to support employment opportunities.

**System level action:**

- **SA12.** To secure funding from the Commonwealth Department of Education Community Child Care Fund (CCCF) by accessing the restricted fund to supplement fee income for the proposed service to support families, to enable parents and carers to enter education, training or the workforce while supporting child development in a culturally safe environment (relates to SA4).
- **SA13.** To streamline paperwork requirements across government services (Centrelink, Medicare, births, deaths, and marriages) to support parents to access financial services they are eligible for after the birth of their child.
- **SA14.** Engage with the Australian Government regarding its review of the Community Development Program (CDP) to better support family financial wellbeing and increase community participation in local jobs.

**Objective 2:**  
To improve financial literacy including bill payment management.

**Local level action:**

- **LA22.** Improve awareness about availability of financial assistance programs (such as the Hardship Utility Grants Scheme (HUGS), WA No Interest Loans Scheme (WA NILS), electricity card app), by delivering culturally safe information sessions and resources in all communities.
- **LA23.** Provide energy coaching to reduce the cost of living.
- **LA24.** Provide food education training using generic labelled foods, to reduce cost of living.
- **LA25.** Provide access to affordable white goods to help improve hygiene.



## Community service aspects

**Aim:** To provide a culturally safe and coordinated health and wellbeing system for families and children.

**Objective 1:**  
To improve the cultural safety of the health and wellbeing service system.

**Local level action:**

- **LA26.** Work with local services to improve the cultural appropriateness of services and promote awareness of these to community members.
- **LA27.** Co-design and introduce a cultural awareness check and certification for service providers (similar to a Working with Children Check or a Working with Vulnerable Persons Check), including through awareness training for staff.

**Objective 2:**  
To ensure services within the Derby community are well networked, coordinated, and accessible to all community members.

**Local level action:**

- **LA28.** Connected Beginnings partners facilitate connections between families and service providers.
- **LA30.** Establish a schedule of responsibilities and a communication system to help services coordinate their visits to community, ensure community members are aware of when services will visit and who to report to if they are not attending on that day.

**System level action:**

- **SA15.** Develop a formal partnership agreement between local services, to share information about families, to reduce the need for families to repeat their stories and increase holistic support that can be provided.



## Community physical and social aspects

**Aim:** To create the physical and social infrastructure in the community that enables families to care for their children.

**Objective 1:**  
To improve access to housing.

**System level action:**

- **SA16.** Increase available housing supply by refurbishing vacant homes or building new stock subject to demonstrated need and available funding.
- **SA17.** Re-purpose existing dongas for housing if viable.

**Objective 2:**  
To improve access to basic amenities that support child and family health.

**Local level action:**

- **LA31.** To co-design with youth a coordinated set of actions that promote engagement and re-orient their activities away from undesirable behaviours.

**System level action:**

- **SA18.** Provide a safe space for youth to engage with healthy recreational activities.
- **SA20.** Investigate mechanisms and funding opportunities to improve access to quality water in households.
- **SA21.** Re-establish a community store for necessities.
- **SA22.** Work with bus services to help address the transport needs of the community including scheduling and costs, to support access to basic amenities.

**Objective 3:**  
To increase family friendly public space and facilities to support child development.

**System level action:**

- **SA24.** Update the Early Years Centre to become a multipurpose centre for families.
- **SA25.** Install streetlights (solar powered) to increase safety when walking.

