



Information Sheet

Identifying community resources

Last updated: December 2025

Every community contains resources, including capacities, strengths, physical spaces, services and stakeholders. As Early Years Networks (Network) seek to improve outcomes for the local community, it is important to systematically identify and map these resources.

By auditing community resources, the Network can uncover connections and relationships that provide opportunities. This process can also highlight barriers to accessing services, enabling targeted changes to address these barriers. Likewise, gaps in available resources may be identified, allowing plans to be developed to address them.

A clearly identified set of resources supports strategic planning. Understanding the availability—or lack—of community assets provides essential context for planning. Plans can include ongoing identification of community resources, strategies to strengthen them, and development of programs to address community needs. Other supporting community data can be presented alongside the identified resources, such as Australian Early Development Census (AEDC results), Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistics, Child Development Atlas data, or personal narratives.

Resources may include:

- physical spaces, such as parks or community buildings
- individual or organisational skills, knowledge and capacities
- local knowledge, including stories, history and values
- local groups, associations and networks, including government and non- government agencies and services
- economic resources.

The process of maximising community resources includes:

- systematically identifying and detailing resources and strengths in the community
- connecting these resources to work together
- creating opportunities for these resources to be productive and powerful together.

To assist in identifying community resources, there is a [community resource mapping template](#).

How can we achieve this?

Ask your members:

- what resources they use in the community
- what resources they access outside the community
- what they wish was available
- which resources are the most valued
- who is not accessing services and what would help them to access services.

These questions can be asked individually, via survey, or through a focus group.

More information

To find out more about Early Years Networks, please visit our website or contact:

- **Web:** www.communities.wa.gov.au
- **Email:** EY@communities.wa.gov.au