



Information Sheet

What do Early Years Networks do?

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Early Years Networks (Networks) across Western Australia support better outcomes for children and their families in local communities. They achieve this by connecting the community, working collaboratively, and developing and implementing initiatives, services and activities aimed at improving outcomes for young children and families.

They provide a forum for collaboration, coordination and responsive activities built on knowledge of local priorities and supported by evidence from sources including the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). Each Early Years Network operates locally with its own priorities, practices and activities based on the needs of the community.

There are more than 40 Early Years Networks in Western Australia, including members from government agencies, community service providers, and local residents. Early Years Networks operate collaboratively to improve communities for children and their families by:

- identifying and responding to community needs
- sharing knowledge and experiences
- discussing emerging issues
- advocating solutions
- exploring child development data, including the AEDC results
- developing a range of community initiatives
- strengthening community knowledge and understanding the importance of the early years
- promoting early years' initiatives to the community, such as Children's Week and parenting workshops
- educating members using guest speakers and presenters
- offering professional support and advice across Early Years Networks.

Examples of Early Years Networks activities

- Identify the needs of the community and gaps in service provision (e.g., identify that there is a need for services that improve outcomes for CaLD children).
- Collaborate to meet service gaps (e.g., several services combine support and resources to deliver a new playgroup to cater to CaLD families).

- Share knowledge and ideas about ways to meet service gaps or respond to community issues (e.g., share information about services that have worked well for CaLD families in the region).
- Collaborate to plan community events (e.g., hold a collective Children’s Week activity).
- Share training opportunities (e.g., share online events or training that other services can access).

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