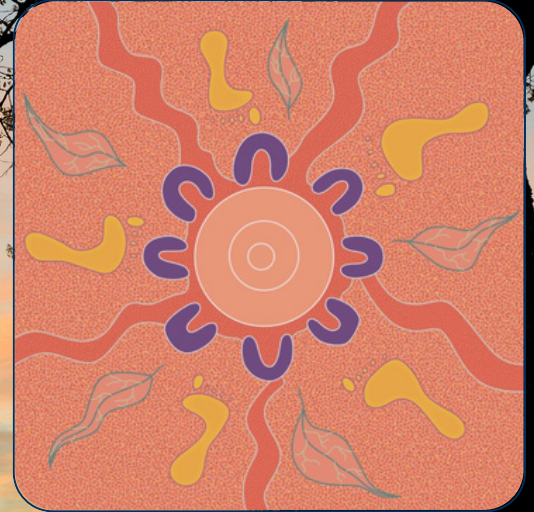




Village News



Artwork by Ngunnawal Art

THIS ISSUE

► Where is Village headed

The Next Steps 2024–2028 framework outlines how Village will continue to operate as a place-based, collective impact initiative focused on children and families in Belconnen.

► Our Web Domain is Changing

As of June 2025, Village is transitioning its website from belconnenvillage.com.au to belconnenvillage.org.au.

► Early Learning Matters Forum

To celebrate Early Learning Matters Week, Village will host an Early Learning Matters Forum to bring together early childhood educators, service providers, and sector leaders to connect, share practice, and strengthen our collective impact.

► Outreach Focus Area

The Outreach Working Group is focused on improving how families, particularly those facing barriers connect with services in Belconnen.

► Connections Focus Area

Between March and June 2025, Village delivered a series of Connections Workshops focused on supporting families with children aged 0–5.

A Celebration of Families and Community

On 17 May 2025, Village brought together over 150 parents and children for **Family Fun Day**, a joyful celebration of National Families Week. Hosted by Village's Play Working Group in partnership with Kippax Uniting Church (KUC) Marketplace, the event was a full house filled with play, connection, and community spirit.

This event is more than a celebration. It reflects Village's broader commitment to:

- ✓ Reducing social isolation among families with young children
- ✓ Connecting services to community through shared, low-barrier events
- ✓ Creating informal access points for families who may not engage through traditional channels



Family Fun Day 2025

From craft corners to sensory play zones, there was something for every child (and parent!) to enjoy. We acknowledge the support of:

- ✓ Abilities Unlimited Australia, Graceful Parties, Playgroup ACT, and the KUC Active Children Program for engaging activities
- ✓ Woolworths Kippax, for donating fresh fruits
- ✓ The KUC Marketplace team for keeping everyone fueled with a non-stop BBQ.

To the members of the Play Working Group, your energy and teamwork made this day possible. This is what Village looks like in action.



“

Impact
★★★★★

You have made a sad/hurt family happy and I thank you for opening your door to us.

A Local Family Member

Impact
★★★★★

Its our first time coming and it is a really great day out for our family especially as we are struggling financially to take kids out.

A Local Family Member

”



Where is Village headed

A Roadmap for Collective Change

Village's shared direction to 2028 has now been endorsed by the Leadership Group. The *Next Steps 2024–2028* framework outlines how Village will continue as a place-based, collective impact initiative focused on improving outcomes for children and families in Belconnen.

The Next Steps 2024–2028 document outlines:

- ✓ A shared vision – all children in Belconnen are physically healthy, emotionally resilient, socially connected, and fully prepared for lifelong learning and growth
- ✓ Three focus areas – Play, Connections, and Outreach
- ✓ A clear governance structure – defining the roles of the Leadership Group, Working Groups, and Backbone Team
- ✓ A Commitment to working together across services, sectors, and community.

What Does This Mean for Stakeholders?

The framework offers shared language and structure to guide how we:

- ✓ Use data and lived experience to inform decisions
- ✓ Collaborate across sectors to improve service pathways
- ✓ Monitor outcomes and adapt to changing community needs

Thank you to the Leadership Group for helping shape this next chapter with focus, intent, and shared vision.

Our Web Domain is Changing – Here is Why

From June 2025, Village's website will move to [belconnenvillage.org.au](https://www.belconnenvillage.org.au). A change that better reflects our identity as a not-for-profit, strengthens our public presence.

The update will roll out across all materials in the coming weeks.

The old domain will still redirect automatically, but we encourage you to update bookmarks, links, and references where possible.

This is the same Village, with the same purpose, but a new website domain that better represents who we are and how we operate.

For any questions or updates regarding this change, feel free to get in touch at village@kippax.org.au.





Imagination Library Kippax – Reaching More Children with a \$10,000 Boost

Village is investing \$10,000 to expand the Imagination Library Kippax to reach even more families.

As of June 2025, the Imagination Library Kippax has delivered nearly 3,000 books to 156 children from 126 families across Holt, MacGregor, Higgins and Latham.

This funding reflects Village's strong belief in the power of early literacy and our commitment to ensuring more children in Belconnen can access the joy and benefits of books from the very beginning of life.

With this new funding, we will be enrolling more families across Holt, Higgins, Latham, MacGregor, Charnwood and Dunlop, reaching deeper into our community to support early brain development, language skills, and school readiness.

Every book delivered is a small but powerful step toward equity in education. And every new enrolment is another child given the chance to explore, imagine, and grow through stories.

Families with children aged 0–3 in eligible suburbs can receive a free monthly book by mail at no cost, no catch, just the joy of reading. Sign up today [@village@kippax.org.au](mailto:village@kippax.org.au)

Let's keep turning pages and opening minds, one book at a time.



ADHD Action Group

The ADHD Action Group continues to develop practical, coordinated approaches to support families navigating ADHD. The group has sharpened its focus and introduced new delivery mechanisms to improve pace and participation across the network.

The group will meet every two months. An out of session decision-making process has been introduced, allowing members to progress key decisions between meetings via email. This new rhythm is to ensure continued momentum and flexibility.

The group remains open to new members to anyone supporting neurodivergent children and families, including pediatricians, allied health professionals and health service providers.

Project highlights

- ✓ A new Peer Support Program for Parents of school-aged children with ADHD (diagnosed or undiagnosed) is now available, led by UnitingCare Kippax's Parenting Engagement Program Officer.
- ✓ Village is working on an ADHD Pathways Map Post-diagnosis, a tool to help families and professionals navigate services more clearly and confidently.



Focus Area One



Early Learning Matters Forum

To celebrate Early Learning Matters Week, Village will host an Early Learning Matters Forum to bring together early childhood educators, service providers, and sector leaders to connect, share practice, and strengthen our collective impact.

- Tuesday, 29th July 2025
- 9:15 AM – 2:30 PM
- UnitingCare Kippax, 130 Hardwick Crescent, Holt ACT 2615

What to Expect at the Forum

Our forum is designed to reflect on the national goals, with a program tailored to Belconnen context. The forum will cover:

- An overview of the latest AEDC data and what it means for Belconnen
- Insights from the preschool Pathways Series, focusing on Play as a foundation for learning
- Tips for ECEC educators on having difficult conversations with families
- A session on educator selfcare and wellbeing
- Updates on the Imagination Library Kippax Program
- Resource packs, certificates, tea and lunch

Why Early Learning Matters Week?

Early Learning Matters Week is a national initiative led by Early Childhood Australia. It highlights the foundational role early learning plays in the lives of children, families, and communities.

Held across Australia from 29 July to 2 August 2025, the week is an opportunity to:

- Raise awareness of the role of high-quality early learning and care in the lives of young children and their families
- Highlight the scope and complexity of educators' work with young children
- Shine a spotlight on the unique strengths of early childhood educators to meet the array of needs that children have
- Connect community leaders and parliamentarians with local early childhood education and care services
- Celebrate the commitment and professionalism of educators and service providers.

Presenters:

- The AEDC Team
- The Preschool Pathways Team, Education Directorate ACT
- A local Allied Health Professional
- A Senior Educator from CIT
- Imagination Library Kippax Team

REGISTER TODAY

<https://tinyurl.com/earlylearningmattersforum>





Focus Area Two



Outreach



The Outreach Working Group (WG) is focused on improving how families, particularly those facing barriers connecting with services in Belconnen.

Collaborating for Better Service Visibility

Village is currently in consultation with Network Coordinators to explore opportunities for collaboration on service mapping initiatives focused on the Belconnen region and early years programs. These conversations aim to strengthen coordination, reduce duplication, and support a more connected approach.

Schools as Community Hubs

While schools identified for potential hub activity currently face space limitations, the Working Group is exploring accessible, flexible options to engage families on site. These include:

- ✓ Running one-off pop-up sessions tied to school events like welcome BBQs or parent-teacher nights
- ✓ Co-hosting events in schools and early learning settings for families on topics like parenting, transitions or child development, etc.

These moments offer meaningful ways to meet families where they are.

Village is engaging with the Education Directorate to ensure that our efforts align with programs currently in development.

Home Interactive Programs

Our partner organisations, MyTime (for parents and carers of children with additional needs) and HIPPY (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters), discussed opportunities to engage more families:

- ✓ MyTime is growing, and new groups may be launched soon if space allows. The program is also happy to join school or community events to share what they offer.
- ✓ HIPPY noted that outreach through playgroups and early learning settings often works better than formal school channels, reinforcing the need to meet families in informal settings.

Village will facilitate both the programs in identifying community venue if there is a need for space.

This focus area showcases Village's commitment to equity in access, using practical, relationship-based approaches to bring services closer to families, where and when they need them most.

For more information or to discuss partnership opportunities in this space, contact us at village@kippax.org.au.



Focus Area Three



Connections



Between March and June 2025, Village delivered a series of Connections Workshops focused on supporting families with children aged 0-5. These sessions brought together parents, carers, and local professionals to share practical tools, local knowledge, and space for meaningful conversations in a relaxed setting.

As part of Village's broader Connections Focus Area, the workshops aim to build stronger relationships between families and services by creating accessible, inclusive spaces that reflect community needs and strengths.

04
APR

**Supporting Your Child's
Transition to Preschool**
1000 - 1200 HRS

06
MAY

**Online Safety for
Children**
1000 - 1230 HRS

17
JUN

**Dare to Dream Big
in Early Years**
1000 - 1200 HRS

Why This Matters

Families consistently told us they valued the opportunity to:

- ✓ Ask questions in a non-judgemental setting
- ✓ Access information tailored to their specific concerns
- ✓ Connect with peers and professionals in ways that felt relevant and supportive

These workshops form a critical part of Village's place-based approach, offering low-barrier, high-trust entry points into the broader early years ecosystem.

More workshops are planned for the second half of 2025. For updates or to receive the workshop calendar, visit: belconnenvillage.org.au/events or contact: village@kippax.org.au

Together, we are building a more connected, responsive, and family-centered support network, one conversation at a time.

Early Years Community of Practice

The Village Early Years Community of Practice (CoP) is back with renewed focus and sector engagement.

The current CoP group includes two network coordinators, a senior educator from the Canberra Institute of Technology, and a lecturer from the University of Canberra. This space brings educators, service providers, and sector partners together to:

- ✓ Share emerging practices across early years
- ✓ Collaborate on local challenges and priorities
- ✓ Facilitate resource-sharing and co-design

The ACT Government has engaged ELM ACT Pty Ltd to develop a Professional Learning Network for the Early Childhood Education and Care sector. Village welcomes this initiative. We are exploring ways to connect and align our efforts where they complement shared goals and strengthen collaboration across the sector



Village Resources



Child Development Resource Pack

A community centered, collaboratively designed child development resources for families and services. These resources were developed in response to a need identified by the community through our extensive engagement across the early years sector.

<https://belconnenvillage.org.au/child-development-resources/>

[Click here to download](#)



School Transitions Resource Pack

The Transitions Campaign provides information about the public-school enrolment process, priority enrolment areas, local public schools and resources on preschool pathways, transitions, Koori preschool, supports for parents, disability information, financial and resource assistance and learning supports.

<https://belconnenvillage.org.au/transitions-campaign/>

[Click here to download](#)



Early Years Resource Pack

This pack contains resources produced by Village and partner organisations including the Education Directorate and Community Services Directorate, Australian Early Development Census team. The resources aim to support children and families before formal schooling in areas of child development and transitioning to school. They have been collated for Early Childhood Education and Care Services.

<https://belconnenvillage.org.au/early-years-resources/>

[Click here to download](#)





Our Partners

Acknowledgement of country

A Village for Every Child would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work, the Ngunnawal people. We pay our respects and celebrate their ongoing cultural traditions and contributions to this region. We also acknowledge elders, past and present, as well as the children because they are our future.

Village is proud to have partnered with Yerrabi Yurwang Child & Family Aboriginal Corporation to deliver the Commonwealth Government's Connected Beginnings Program 2022–2023. We deeply value the opportunity to work closely with Yerrabi Yurwang to support the self-determination of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. We look forward to continuing our partnership.

Acknowledgement of participating organisations

The collective achievements of Village would not have been possible without the continued commitment and in-kind contributions from all the people and organisations, including our funders who are proud to have been part of creating the conditions for children to thrive in Belconnen.



**Canberra Health
Services**



ACT Health



LIBRARIES ACT

