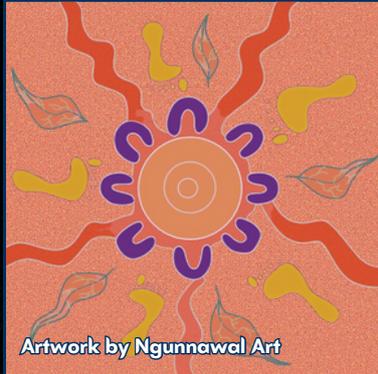




Village Newsletter



Artwork by Ngunnawal Art



THIS ISSUE

Common Agenda

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Shared Measurement

Shared measurement remains a developing practice, yet the publications, reports and the continued use of lived experience data helped us see patterns that numbers alone cannot explain.

Mutually Reinforcing Activities

This condition became more visible as collaborative partners aligned their contributions across the three Focus Areas. No group does everything. Instead, each contributed in ways that complemented the work of others.

Continuous Communication

Trust grows through clear, steady communication. This year, the Village team attended nearly 20 community and sector events across Canberra, engaging with families and services.

Backbone Team

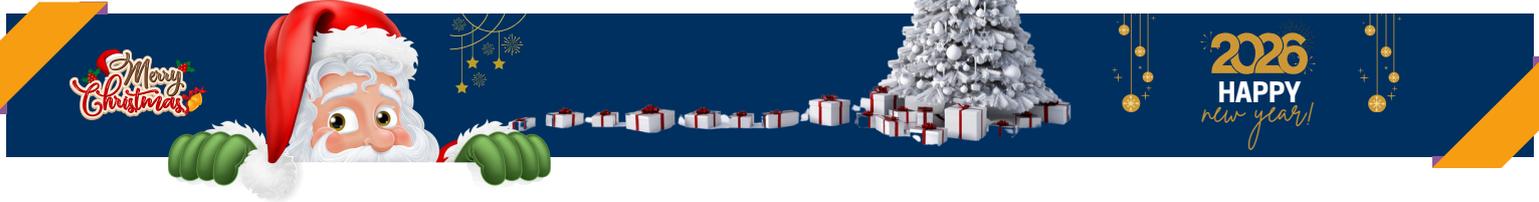
A Village for Every Child plays the role of the backbone. This does not mean leading every project. It means helping others connect, plan, and take action together.

Reflection on 2025 Through the Lens of Collective Impact

As the year draws to a close, many of us pause, look back, and notice what has changed. For A Village for Every Child, 2025 has been a year of strengthening relationships and rebuilding momentum. A year of clearer purpose. A year of moving from ideas to steady action. Some things moved forward quickly, others unfolded slowly and a few required us to sit with complexity longer than expected. Yet the progress has been real, and it has been shared.

At the beginning of the year, we asked ourselves what it means to practice Collective Impact, not just talk about it. Now, at the end of the year, we understand a little more. Collective Impact takes time. It asks us to sit with questions that do not have easy answers, to listen, to learn, to adjust and to stay open. Above all, it asks us to keep working together even when the path is slow.

Across Canberra, many of you did exactly that. Educators, health practitioners, community organisations, families who shared their stories and leaders who carried responsibility with care. Each person contributed something different. Each person helped carry the work forward.



This edition acknowledges that shared effort without overstating what any one organisation could accomplish alone. It is a reflection on how far we have come together, seen through the five conditions of Collective Impact. The Collective Impact framework has guided Village since 2019 and continues to help us notice what is shifting and what requires ongoing attention.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of Village's work this year. Your time, care and willingness to stay connected have made a real difference for children and families in Belconnen. We wish you a safe and restful break. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and we look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.

Collective Impact in Action

Throughout the year, the five elements of Collective Impact were not abstract ideas, but practical anchors that shaped decision-making, collaboration, and action.

1. Common Agenda

The Common Agenda took shape through the Next Steps 2024–2028 framework, which now guides how Village and partners work together. The framework provided us with a scaffold for collective action. It did not create consensus, although it certainly deepened on it.

Play, Connections and Outreach emerged as the three key focus areas, each shaped by many conversations in working groups, workshops, and experiences from families. They respond directly to what families, educators, practitioners, and local community groups told us they needed: more opportunities for play, easier pathways to services, and support that meets families where they are.

The Common Agenda also revealed something subtle but significant. It showed that our partners are willing to remain in the work, even when it stretched them, even when roles blurred. That willingness is what holds a Common Agenda together more than any document.

2. Shared Measurement

Shared measurement remains a developing practice, yet the publication of the **Belconnen Community Profile**, the release of **Supporting Families of Children with ADHD** report and the continued use of lived experience data helped us see patterns that numbers alone cannot explain.

The release of **2024 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) National Report** provided a consolidated picture of local child and family wellbeing. These data informed seven workshops, three major events, a series of child and family resources and countless conversations about where children are thriving, where vulnerabilities are increasing, what are families noticing and what do educators see each day. These questions prompted many of the year's collective discussions.

Shared measurement is still a work in progress. The system is complex, and no single indicator captures what matters most. But 2025 has moved us closer to a shared learning culture. Workshops, consultations, surveys, and family feedback all contributed to that culture. The gaps remain, especially in capturing impact across organisations, but the appetite for learning together is stronger than ever.



Collective Impact in Action

3. Mutually Reinforcing Activities

This condition became more visible as collaborative partners aligned their contributions across the three Focus Areas. No group does everything. Instead, each contributed in ways that complemented the work of others.



Play Focus Area

Play remains central to Village’s work. It is how children grow, learn, and connect with others. The Play Working Group (WG) brought families, services, and community members together to make play more accessible and more visible as a right not a luxury.

Two major events shaped the year.

- ✓ Family Fun Day, during National Families Week
- ✓ Early Learning Matters Forum, during Early Learning Matters Week

More than 250 people participated across both events. Stories shared throughout the year reinforced the idea that play opens the door to stronger relationships, deeper learning, and more confident children.

To mark Human Rights Day 2025, the Play WG ran a social media awareness drive, sharing a message each hour and prompting reflection on the importance of play.

The Right to Play – Family Feedback Survey was also launched to understand what play means to families, what helps, what gets in the way and where could more support make a difference. [↗](#)

Play is: A SHARED JOY

Play is: HOW CHILDREN EXPLORE

Play is: CONNECTION AT HOME

Play is: PART OF DAILY LIFE

Play is: THE WORK OF CHILDHOOD
-Jean Piaget

Play is: MOVEMENT AND IMAGINATION

Play is: TRYING THINGS OUT

Play is: HOW CHILDREN EXPRESS FEELINGS

Play is: A CHILD'S RIGHT!

Play is: LEARNING THROUGH DOING

Play is: CALM IN A BUSY DAY

SCAN ME

Complete the survey to win a Village Gift Hamper [↗](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2025



Collective Impact in Action



Connections Focus Area

The Connections Focus Area created accessible spaces where families could speak openly and connect with local services. Seven workshops were delivered in 2025, each designed to feel warm, practical, and useful. Parents, carers, educators and local service providers shared concerns, asked questions, compared experiences, and found comfort in knowing they were not carrying things alone.

Resources, slides and short recordings from each workshop were uploaded to the Village digital library so families and services could revisit them when needed.

The Early Years Community of Practice (CoP)

The CoP returned with a wider group of members and renewed energy. Conversations were honest and grounded in daily practice. In 2026, local ECEC services will host the sessions in turn, keeping the CoP close to the realities of early childhood settings.

Members have begun exploring ways to co-design resources that directly respond to what families say they need. This work will help us test a key question. How do we turn what families tell us into decisions that shape service delivery.

The ADHD Action Group

The ADHD Action Group hosted its second Allied Health Workshop on Supporting Children with ADHD.

The ADHD report, the group published showed us that: Children with ADHD want to feel understood. Families want guidance they can use at home, at school and in daily life. Educators want strategies that help children feel safe and confident. This workshop was designed to meet those needs.

The response was strong, with all 75 seats filled quickly. Families and educators described the relief of hearing their experiences reflected. Allied health professionals from Noah's Ark shared practical strategies that families could use and explained how small changes in routine, communication or environment can make a big difference.

The new ADHD Pathways Map (Post Diagnosis) was also launched at the event, giving families a clearer guide through a system that can feel overwhelming. For many, the workshop provided not just information but understanding, reassurance and a stronger sense of support.

- ✓ ADHD Pathways Map [↗](#)
- ✓ ADHD Pathways Map (Post Diagnosis) [↗](#)





Collective Impact in Action



Outreach Focus Area

Outreach Focus Area emphasised that families do not only need more services. They need more accessible services.

The Outreach WG launched the **Identifying Gaps in Early Years Services** survey to gather insights from services who work directly with children and families. The aim is to strengthen advocacy and design support that meets the needs of families who face barriers to accessing the system.

Have your say

The Outreach WG also hosted a community event for the International Day of People with Disability at Paddy's Park, drawing more than 100 parents and children for networking, information sharing and celebration.

Imagination Library Kippax Program

This year, the Imagination Library Kippax program has expanded to three new suburbs, making it available for families with children from birth to 3 years old, living in Holt, Higgins, Latham, MacGregor, Charnwood, Dunlop, and Strathnairn.

As at November 2025, the program has delivered 3,468 books to 174 children and 127 families and secured funding for 264 children. 45 children have graduated from the program.

To enrol your child, contact village@kippax.org.au.

For more information



**Celebrating
Inclusion at
Paddy's
Park**





Collective Impact in Action

4. Continuous Communication

Trust grows through clear, steady communication. This year, the Village team attended nearly 20 community and sector events across Canberra, engaging with families and services. Workshops, forums, meetings, and small conversations helped collaborative partners remain connected.

A major milestone was the co-designed **Child Development Conversation Guide**, for the Community Conversations: Child Development Pathways in the ACT event by Health Care Consumers' Association. Families and educators were provided practical tools for preparing, listening and collaboration when discussing a child's development.

Child Development Resources [↗](#)

The Village website, transitioning to belconnenvillage.org.au, continued to grow as a trusted source for information. Engagement metrics indicate that families and professionals value reliable, accessible resources rather than intermittent bursts of information.

Continuous Communication is more than emails or newsletters. It is the steady, respectful work of building trust across relationships and systems. It is what keeps the work alive.

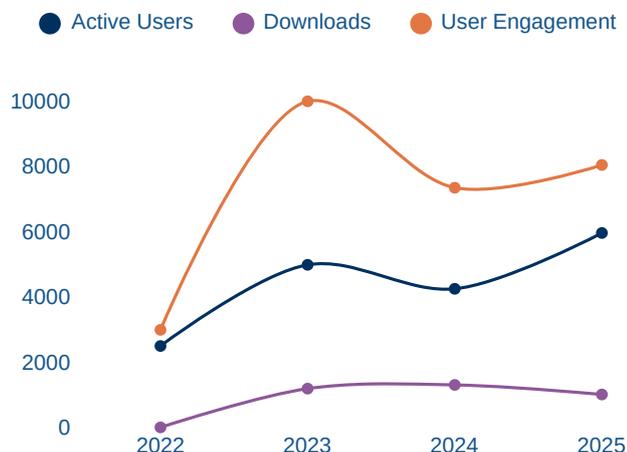


Fig. How users engage with and use website resources (2022 to 2025)

5. Backbone Team

A Village for Every Child plays the role of the backbone. This does not mean leading every project. It means helping others connect, plan, and take action together. The backbone role sits underneath everything, holding shape and direction so the work does not drift.

In 2025, the backbone team coordinated workshops, supported partners to run events, and co-designed resources. The team convened Working Groups and Leadership Group, making sure the shared agenda was reflected in real practice. The team also absorbed changes in staffing, roles, and capacity without losing momentum.

The backbone worked alongside partners when needed and stepped back when others were ready to lead. That balance helped create conditions for collaboration to continue.

Looking Ahead to 2026

There is still more to do. Collective Impact takes time, and the early years system is still evolving. In the year ahead, we will build on what we have started. We will embed the Next Steps framework into everyday practice and deepen our work across the three focus areas. Most importantly, we will continue the conversations that matter, even when they feel slow or difficult.

As we move into the new year with stronger partnerships and a shared belief that children and families deserve systems that support them, we want to thank every family, educator, community member, partner organisation, and supporter. Your time, energy, trust, and imagination have shaped the work in 2025. Collective Impact work only progresses because so many people choose to stay involved.

Together, we will keep taking steady steps forward.



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.

