

**Special Thanks to the 2010 Summit Planning Group:**

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**The Stronger Families Alliance gratefully acknowledges the Australian Research Alliance for Child & Youth (ARACY) for their generous contribution of funding provided for this event.**

**We would also like to thank Families NSW and Blue Mountains City Council for their generous contributions of funding for the launch of the Child and Family Plan and the Blue Mountains Early Childhood Summit II.**

# Welcome to the Early Childhood Summit II

**Welcome to the Stronger Families Alliance's Blue Mountains Early Childhood Summit II. We thank you for your ongoing commitment to the support of children and families.**

## The aims of today's Summit are to:

- Bring together the wide range of professionals contributing to the well being of children and families
- Hear about and discuss the latest evidence and research in our field
- Explore ways to use the Child and Family Plan to deliver better outcomes for children, families and communities.

## Purpose of the workbook:

This workbook is designed to assist you to track and participate in the activities throughout the day and to provide resources and tips to take back to your workplace.

## Agenda Summary:

8.00am	Registrations
8.30am	Formal event opening
9.05am	Session One: Connecting to purpose, people and the Child and Family Plan
10:05am	MORNING TEA
10.25am	Session Two: Strengthening families through neighbourhood service networks
10.40am	Keynote: Professor Ross Homel and Dr. Kathryn Freiberg ~ Science to Service: Pathways to Evidence Based Preventive Practice for the Early Years
12:35pm	LUNCH TIME
1:20pm	Session Three: Creating child friendly communities
1.30pm	Keynote: Dr. Karen Malone ~ How child friendly is my community? Addressing physical and cultural questions of child friendliness
3.20pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3.30pm	Session Four: Moving children and their families beyond vulnerability
4:40pm	Whole room reflection on the day, evaluations and closing
5.00pm	End

# Session One: Connecting to purpose, people and the Child and Family Plan

Session purpose:

- To connect with your individual purpose for being here today
- To get to know people on your table and their work
- To understand where you and the people at your table fit into our sector and the Child and Family Plan.

## Activity 1: Purpose and people

### Step One:

(5 minutes)

(a) Answer the following three questions individually. Get ready to report back to your table your response to question 3.

#### 1. What attracted you here today?

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#### 2. What are you hoping to have gained by the end of the day?

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#### 3. What is the most satisfying part of your job working with children, families or the community?

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# Session One: Connecting to purpose, people and the Child and Family Plan

## Activity 2: Our Sector and the Child and Family Plan

### Step one:

(15 minutes)

(a) Answer questions 1-3 individually first. Pages 2 – 5 of the Child and Family Plan provide a quick overview of the Plan. This will help you.

(b) Write each answer on separate post-it notes.

(c) Your table facilitator will get you to place your post-its on butcher's paper.

### 1. What part of the Plan does your job or profession contribute to?

**Part A: Strengthening families through neighbourhood service networks**

**Part B: Moving children and their families beyond vulnerability**

**Part C: Creating child friendly communities**

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### 2. What part of the Plan does your service contribute to?

**Part A: Strengthening families through neighbourhood service networks**

**Part B: Moving children and their families beyond vulnerability**

**Part C: Creating child friendly communities**

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# Session One: Connecting to purpose, people and the Child and Family Plan

## Activity 2: Our Sector and the Child and Family Plan (continued)

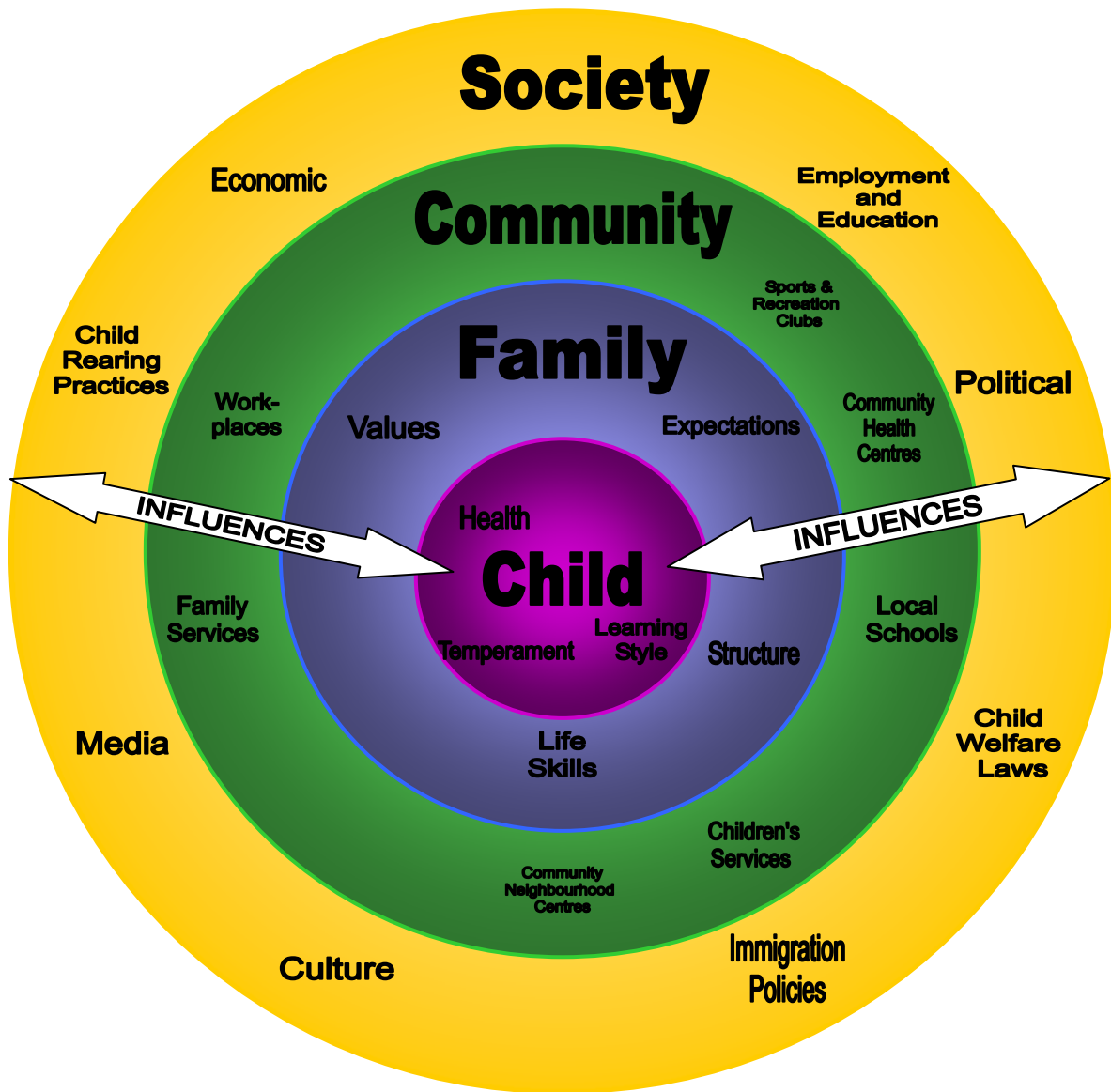
3. Where does your service fit on the ecological diagram?

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Ecological Diagram

# Session One: Connecting to purpose, people and the Child and Family Plan

## Activity 2: Our Sector and the Child and Family Plan (continued)

### Step two:

(15 minutes)

(a) Discussion facilitated by your table facilitator and recorded on butcher's paper.

**4. What characteristics of your town / village service system for children and families are you most proud of?**

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**5. What social and physical characteristics of your township are the most children and family friendly?**

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**Feedback!!**

Questions four and five will be forwarded to our Summit data analysis team. Blue Mountains wide service system and child friendly community strengths will be fed back to the room throughout the day.



# Session One: Connecting to purpose, people and the Child and Family Plan

## Presentation 2: What gives life to our work with children, families and communities?

Presenter: Vicki Edmunds, Manager, Libraries and Community Services, Blue Mountains City Council

A presentation about the shared positive connections to child, family and community work in the room today. The data was collected from your responses to the question "What is the most satisfying part of your job working with children, families or the community?" (5 minutes)

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### **Morning Tea (10:05am – 10:25am)**

For your convenience two morning tea stations will be in operation.

**Please ensure you have re-seated by 10.25am ready for the next activity.**



## Session Two: Strengthening families through neighbourhood service networks – Connecting to our strengths and the evidence base

**Featured Keynote presentation by Professor Ross Homel and Dr. Kathryn Freiberg ~**

### **Science to Service: Pathways to Evidence-Based Preventive Practice for the Early Years**

**Ross Homel** is Foundation Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia, and Director of the Griffith Institute for Social and Behavioural Research, a multi-centre network of 200 researchers. He has published three monographs and six edited collections on the prevention of crime and violence and the promotion of positive human development, as well as more than one hundred peer-reviewed papers and numerous high impact government reports. His accomplishments were recognised in January 2008 when he was appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) “for service to education, particularly in the field of criminology, through research into the causes of crime, early intervention and prevention methods.”

**Kathryn Freiberg** is Senior Research Fellow and co-director of the Prevention and Developmental Pathways Program within the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance at Griffith University. She is a developmental psychologist who has a broad interest in young children’s social, cognitive and perceptual development. Her interest in the theory and practice of applying preventive interventions in community settings includes a particular focus on the effectiveness of home-school-community group partnerships in the promotion of positive outcomes for children.

#### **Abstract**

Empirical evidence from prevention programs such as the Perry Preschool Project and the Elmira Prenatal/Early Infancy Project demonstrates positive short- and long-term effects. Meta-analytic reviews of early interventions demonstrate good returns on investment well beyond the early years, into and beyond adolescence. Benefits include improvements in educational success, cognitive development, social participation, social-emotional development, and family well-being; as well as reductions in social deviance and involvement in the criminal justice system. However, turning the promise of these lighthouse projects into routine practice within human service organisations, schools and communities has proven challenging, so much so that the evidence-based movement is in danger of faltering: typically routine services have been found to be inconsistent, often ineffective, and sometimes harmful to consumers. In this paper we explore the evidence base in the context of what we know about healthy human development, and address the challenges involved in implementing and disseminating efficacious prevention strategies.

(Refer to Child & Family Plan: Strengthening families through neighbourhood service networks, pages 15 – 18)

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# Session Two: Strengthening families through neighbourhood service networks – Connecting to our strengths and the evidence base

## Presentation 5: Using the Plan to strengthen families and create engaging service networks

Presenters:

Tanya James, Blue Mountains City Council (Child and Family Plan: Part A lead agency)

Dianne Jackson, Connect Child and Family Services (Hub program joint lead agency with Gateway Family Services)

A presentation about the outcomes supporting the Child and Family Plan Part A: Strengthening families through neighbourhood service networks and the Alliance’s School Centred Community Hub program. (10 minutes)

(Refer to Child and Family Plan: Strengthening families through neighbourhood service networks, pages 27 – 31)

### Part A: Strengthening families through neighbourhood service networks

**Outcome 1:** Parents nurture their child’s ongoing development from the prenatal period onwards

**Outcome 2:** Children come to school with the skills and abilities necessary to achieve in the school environment

**Outcome 3:** Parents increase their social supports and community connections

**Outcome 4:** Collaborative, universal service systems are created at a neighbourhood level through School Centred Community Hub steering committees

## Session Two: Strengthening families through neighbourhood service networks – Imagining new possibilities for our work

### Activity 3: Imagining new possibilities for our work

#### Step one:

(10 minutes)

(a) For the following three questions write your responses in the space provided.

(b) If you and your partner finish early, briefly discuss your answers with each other.

#### 1. What most excited you about the presentations?

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#### 2. What are you already doing in your work that can be built on or done differently?

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#### 3. What other possibilities does this open up for your work / your sector's work?

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## Session Two: Strengthening families through neighbourhood service networks – Imagining new possibilities for our work

### Activity 3: Imagining new possibilities for our work (continued)

#### Step two:

(20 minutes)

(a) Your table facilitator will assist your group to discuss and record on butcher's paper answers to the following questions.

#### 4. What excited the table most about the presentations? (5 minutes)

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#### 5. What possibilities have been opened up for the table? (15 minutes)

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**Lunch time  
(12:35pm – 1:20pm)**

A selection of vegetarian, non-vegetarian, and other requested dietary requirements will be available. Remember to leave some time to check out the information stalls!

Don't miss the opportunity to spend your lunch time with Barbie Bates from the Blue Mountains Paint the Blue Read program. Barbie will be talking in the Carrington's Library. Grab some lunch and sit in!

**Please ensure you have re-seated by 1.20pm ready for the next activity**







# Session Three: Creating child friendly communities – Connecting to our strengths and the evidence base

**Featured Keynote presentation by Dr. Karen Malone ~**

**How child friendly is my community?**

**Addressing physical and cultural questions of child friendliness**

**Dr Karen Malone** is Professor of Social Sciences in the Faculty of Education at University of Wollongong. She is also Asia-Pacific Director of the global UNESCO-MOST Growing Up In Cities (GUIC) project that focuses on children and youth researching their quality of life. Dr Malone is also Chair of the Child Friendly Asia-Pacific network. Her most recently completed research grant was the Smith Family project: How child friendly is my community? She is currently coordinating seven international research teams in collaboration with the UK Policy Institute to replicate Hillman’s seminal project Children’s Independent Mobility.

## **Abstract**

The UNICEF Child Friendly Cities (CFC) initiative is a global program of research, education and action that supports the rights of children to live in communities that are child friendly. The principles of CFC emphasise the importance of supporting mayors and municipal councils to work in partnership with communities, families and especially young children in evaluating the quality of their environments. Children in Australia, like many countries, around the world are being restricted in the opportunity to engage in free play in their neighbourhood streets and parks. The impact of this has been a drastic decrease in children’s independent mobility and environmental competence. While some research has focused on the physicality of neighbourhood’s in an attempt to understand how these environments could be designed to encourage children’s engagement in their community, this paper and the research it reports includes a focus on the impacts of fear and risk on children’s lives. To conclude this presentation I will make a case that a protectionist paradigm of parenting and a global culture of fear is disadvantaging a whole generation of children and changing their experience of childhood. In order to turn this around, I will give examples of how communities are addressing both physical and cultural questions of child friendliness.

(Refer to Child & Family Plan: Creating child friendly communities, pages 22-24)

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## Session Three: Creating child friendly communities – Connecting to our strengths and the evidence base

### Presentation 8: Using the Plan to create child friendly communities

Presenters:

Judy Finch, Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre (Child and Family Plan, Part C lead agency)  
Lyn Bevington, Mountains Outreach Community Service (Paint the Blue Read lead agency)

A presentation about the outcomes supporting the Child and Family Plan Part C: Creating Child Communities and the Alliance's Paint the Blue Read program. (10 minutes)

(Refer to Child and Family Plan: Creating child friendly communities, pages 36 - 39)

#### **Part C: Creating Child Friendly Communities**

**Outcome 9:** Learning is valued and supported from birth

**Outcome 10:** The community supports children and their families

**Outcome 11:** The built environment and public spaces are child and family friendly

## Session Three: Creating child friendly communities – Imagining new possibilities for our work

### Activity 4: Imagining new possibilities for our work

#### Step one:

Individual work followed by pair work (10 minutes)

(a) For the following 3 questions write your responses in the space provided.

(b) If you and your partner finish early, briefly discuss your answers with each other.

#### 1. What most excited you about the presentations?

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#### 2. What are you already doing in your work that can be built on or done differently?

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#### 3. What other possibilities does this open up for your work / your sector's work?

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# Session Three: Creating child friendly communities – Connecting to our strengths and the evidence base – Imagining new possibilities for our work

## Activity 4: Imagining new possibilities for our work (continued)

### Step three:

(10 minutes)

- (a) Use voting to answer question six, each person has two votes and two stickers.
- (b) Place your two stickers by the one or two ideas you like the most.
- (c) The best possibilities will be (i) motivating (ii) achievable within the next year (iii) highly beneficial to children and their families.
- (d) Circle the two ideas with the most stickers.

### 6. What are the best possibilities for new ways of working to create child friendly communities in your group?

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#### Feedback:

The data analysis team will look over all the results from question six above and feedback some of the ideas to the room. All possibilities will be available on the Stronger Families Alliance website after the Summit.

### Afternoon tea (3.20pm-3.30pm)

For your convenience two afternoon tea stations will be in operation. This is a working break so please have a stretch, use the amenities and get some refreshments to bring back to your table as quickly as possible.

**Please ensure you have re-seated by 3.30pm ready for the next activity.**

## Session Four: Moving children and their families beyond vulnerability

Session four purpose is to:

- To gain an overview of the Child and Family Plan Part B: Moving children and their families beyond vulnerability.
- To listen to and understand multiple perspectives about how and why community connections enhance child safety, health and well being outcomes.
- To hear about the most provocative ideas for new practice that has emerged from the room today.

### Presentation 9: Using the Plan to move children and their families beyond vulnerability

Presenters: Kerry Thomas, Gateway Family Services, Child and Family Plan, Part B lead agency and Dr. Dianne Jackson, Connect Child and Family Services, Blue Mountains Consortium lead agency.

A presentation about the outcomes supporting the Child and Family Plan Part B: Moving children and their families beyond vulnerability and the Alliance's Blue Mountains Consortium program. (10minutes)

(Refer to Child and Family Plan: Moving children and their families beyond vulnerability, pages 32-35)

#### Part B: Moving children and their families beyond vulnerability

**Outcome 5:** All children and families have many different connections to others in the community

**Outcome 6:** Families promote the safety and wellbeing of their children

**Outcome 7:** Children and families receive an immediate and compassionate response aimed at meeting their basic needs

**Outcome 8:** Targeted child and adult services coordinate with each other and the universal service system

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## Session Four: Moving children and their families beyond vulnerability

### Activity 5: Imagining new possibilities for our work with vulnerable children and their families – An interactive panel discussion

The panel discussion will focus on Child and Family Plan Outcome 5: All children and families have many different connections to others in the community. Panel members are our keynote speakers and representatives from the Stronger Families Alliance executive:

<b>Robynne Cole</b>	Director Partnerships & Planning, Nepean Network Office, Community Services
<b>Dr. Kathryn Freiberg</b>	Senior Research Fellow Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance, Griffith University
<b>Prof. Ross Homel</b>	Foundation Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University
<b>Dr. Dianne Jackson</b>	Executive Director Connect Child and Family Services
<b>Dr. Karen Malone</b>	Professor of Social Sciences Faculty of Education, University of Wollongong
<b>John McGregor</b>	Director of School Education, Blue Mountains
<b>Kerry Thomas</b>	Manager Gateway Family Services
<b>Dawn Williamson</b>	Clinical Lead Primary Care and Community Health, Group 5, Sydney West Area Health Service

#### Step one:

(25 minutes)

(a) Two questions will be put to the panel to start the discussion. Take your own notes below.

(b) If you have a question for the panel, write it on a post-it and raise your hand. A runner will collect the question and it will be put to the panel in step two.

- 1. Why are connections to the community important for vulnerable children and their families?**
- 2. If the whole service system worked together to connect vulnerable families to the community, how would children's lives be different?**

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## Summit review and closing

### Activity 6: Whole room reflection on the day

#### Step one:

(10 minutes)

(a) Share your response with the room to the following question. Raise your hand to get a roving microphone first!

#### 1. What was the highlight of today for you?

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#### Step two:

(10 minutes)

Please take a few minutes to fill in the evaluation form provided in your show bag and leave in the boxes provided on your way out.

**Thank you all for your participation and contributions throughout the day.**



