



Communities for Children - Data Collection Strategy

UnitingSA



Executive Summary

October 2018

THEORY OF CHANGE

COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN

ISSUES

- Children not Having Access Early Learning Opportunities
- Fragmented Service Delivery, Information Sharing
- Not Aware of Services
- Children Disengaging from Primary School
- Social Isolation
- Parenting Competency
- Language Barriers
- Community Disengaged from Decision-making Processes
- Unsafe Home Environment
- Post-natal Depression

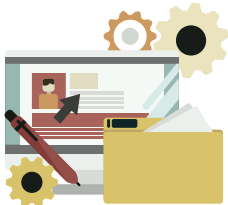


INPUTS

- Time
- Experiences
- Transport
- Money (for Transport)
- Venue
- Donations in Kind
- Staff
- Expertise
- Referrals
- Administration
- Venue Admin
- Skills
- Program Support

PARTICIPANTS

Children (Aged 0-12) - Parents - Caregivers - Families - Community leaders - Other NGOs - Community Centres - Local Schools - Community Partners
Volunteers students - UnitingSA



ACTIVITIES

Playgroups, Homework, Parent Support Groups, Community, Workshops (Soft and Hard Skills), Paint the Town Read Initiatives, Local Area Family Network, Western Families Forum, Inner West Collective Impact, Case Management, Home & Office Visits, Risk Assessment, Support Creche, Training Sessions, Steering Committee, Reporting Back to DSS

+ OUTPUTS

- # of Children
- # of Sessions (Child, Youth, Parenting Focused)
- # of Families Attending Sessions
- # of Home Visits
- # of Parents (Disaggregated by Demographics)
- # of Referrals (by Service Domain)
- # of Workshops
- # of Meetings
- # of Venues
- # of Pre-post Assessment Questionnaires Completed
- # of Referrals (by Service Domain)
- # of Staff (Delivering Programs)

+ OUTCOMES

- Age Appropriate Development
- Employment, Education & Training
- Personal & Family Safety
- Improve Family Functioning
- Mental Health, Wellbeing & Self-care
- Improve Parenting Skills
- Increase Physical Health
- Employment, Education & Training
- Cultural onboarding
- Community Participation & Networking
- Improve Service Delivery (Organisation)
- Improved Community Structures and Networks to Better Respond To Community Needs.
- Improve Service Delivery

◎ IMPACT

Reduced Developmental Vulnerability (**AEDC**)

Improved **Participation and Attendance** at Primary Schools

Reduced **Child Abuse**

Safe And Connected Community

Responsive Integrated Service System



Uniting SA - Data Collection Strategy

Communities for Children & Uniting SA

Communities for Children (CfC) is a program designed by the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide prevention and early intervention services to families with children up to the age of twelve. Services are targeted to achieve positive family functioning, safe home environments and positive child development outcomes for children and their families in disadvantaged communities.

UnitingSA plays the role of Facilitating Partner within the Communities for Children program in Adelaide's North Western region. UnitingSA liaises between the DSS and 11 Community Partners (CPs) to make sure that activities targeted at vulnerable children and their families are properly delivered and aimed to achieve specific outcomes.

UnitingSA's Data Collection Strategy for CfC program

UnitingSA wishes to understand its current data collection process to improve service delivery and to generate a positive and tangible impact in the community. For such reason, UnitingSA has commissioned Nova Smart Solutions to identify strengths and gaps in the collection process to set the basis for a sound data collection strategy.

Data Collection Strategy Process & Outcomes

To develop this analysis, Nova classified the research structure under two main pillars: **Process & Outcomes**.

Process:

UnitingSA follows a process established by the Department of Social Services to report back on the activities delivered by CPs. This process was analysed focussing on the following:

Understanding UnitingSA's current data collection process to identify data collection **frequency, methods, tools and people in charge**.

- Describing a **Journey Map** to capture the data pathway. From the moment the DSS requests it to the moment data is collected and reported back.

- Building a **Data Collection Blueprint** to understand the process nuances such as tools, front and back stage activities and key players' tasks.

Outcomes:

Based on assessment tools and questionnaires, Community Partners keep track of their beneficiaries' progress. The outcomes pillar consists on the following:

- Developing **CfC's Theory of Change**, capturing the following set of Outcomes each Community Partner is aiming to achieve:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Age Appropriate Development | 6. Mental health, wellbeing & self-care |
| 2. Community Participation & Networking | 7. Improve Parenting Skills |
| 3. Cultural Onboarding | 8. Personal & family safety |
| 4. Employment, education & training | 9. Increased Physical health |
| 5. Improved Family Functioning | 10. Improved Service Delivery (Organisation) |

- Evaluating to what extent the assessment tools used by CPs are outcome-oriented.
- Identifying Outcome Indicators that help keep track of impact.

Data Collection Strategy – Key findings

UnitingSA has a solid data collection framework that is clear for all Community Partners. Such process is transparent, and it does not present any substantial barriers that block the flow of data. It collects output and outcome data, and while there is room for improvement, it fulfils its final goal of requesting, collecting and information.

While the information captured by the **CP's assessment questionnaires is mostly outcome oriented, CPs do not have a clear definition of outcome indicators** that inform them about the progress for each one of the goals aimed by the CfC program.

It is essential for UnitingSA to build Community Partners' capabilities to **collectively recognise and understand Communities for Children outcomes and indicators**.

About this project

This analysis involved one integrated workshop and individual in-depth interviews with each Community Partners and Uniting SA staff which were conducted from February through to June 2018.

Further detail in relation to the methodology applied and the findings of the analysis are set out in the full report, Communities for Children– Data Collection Strategy.

For more information about Nova Smart Solutions, or for a copy of the full report, please contact:

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