

Best Start Evaluation Forum

The Best Start Evaluation Forum took place on the 17 July 2006 at 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

The forum was an opportunity for Best Start sites opportunity to hear the interim findings of the Best Start evaluation undertaken by the University of Melbourne. The evaluation has focused on the 11 mainstream Best Start sites, and the progress that has been made to date of the two Aboriginal Best Start projects.

The importance of undertaking an evaluation of the Best Start Demonstration projects has been fundamental to:

Further developing our understanding of how partnerships have engaged and supported families, local services and local government in supporting sustainable changes

Understanding what impact has been made on outcomes for children and families in the areas of health and wellbeing, learning and education and housing/child protection

And developing early years services and supports for families that nurture and foster children's pride in their cultural identity and embrace aboriginal cultural beliefs

The forum provided an opportunity to

To learn about the successes and challenges of two of the local site evaluations, Broadmeadows and Rosewall

To discuss the interim findings with the evaluation team prior to them finalising their report and recommendations

Consider what these findings might mean for partnerships and for the new Best Start partnerships currently being established.

Contribute to the early years evidence base in Victoria and beyond.

The forum acknowledged the leadership and commitment that local Best Start facilitators and their partners have shown in driving the evaluation within each site so that Victoria's children can benefit from the knowledge that we gain and to acknowledge the efforts of Professor David Dunt and Professor Bridie Raban and their team for working to achieve the best possible outcome.

The following presentations are available

Melbourne university Professor David Dunt and Professor Bridie Raban and the Melbourne University Team

Broadmeadows Best start; Judy Gray. Best start Facilitator

Rosewall Best Start; Sally Savage, Deakin University.

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