

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ngurra Connected Beginnings Program launches in Wagga Wagga



Working alongside the Wagga Aboriginal community, The Ngurra Connected Beginnings program launched today at the Ngurra Hub in Ashmont, Wagga Wagga on Wiradjuri Country.

The program aims to connect Aboriginal families to support services across Wagga Wagga, in order to provide all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0 to 5 years with a great start, by improving their wellbeing prior to school, with a specific focus across education, health, and family services.

The Ngurra Connected Beginnings Wagga program, Ngurra meaning 'side by side' in Wiradjuri Language, is led and run by local Aboriginal staff, who have a longstanding connection with families within the Wagga community.



“Ngurra Connected Beginnings is a much-needed initiative for local children and families, and by employing an all-Aboriginal team, we endeavour to deliver a culturally inclusive program, working collaboratively with local health, education and services”, said Kellie Murray, Aboriginal Program Development Manager, Playgroup NSW.

The program focuses on improving the connection that Aboriginal families have to local education, health and family services, and addresses the needs of specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families living in the Wagga Wagga community, by working side-by-side with community leaders to generate a collective impact approach and outcome.

By harnessing the power and spirit of the local Wagga Wagga community, Connected Beginnings will determine unique, collective goals and targets that will aim to improve the lives of children and their families, and create strategies that will help to meet these goals. The team will be based at the Ngurra Hub which is a safe, welcoming and inclusive space that connects families with each other and to support services that improve the ability of children and help prepare them for the transition into school.

To celebrate the launch of the new program, local Wiradjuri Artist and Businesswoman, Ashleigh Pengelly, has been commissioned to design a new logo and artwork to mark the occasion. The logo is a playful interpretation of children and the support systems we build around them, featuring two children and an adult to highlight that we are all interconnected.

The Connected Beginnings artwork is a joyful, bright, unique and vibrant piece that embodies the pure glee that children bring into the lives of their community. The artwork weaves symbols of connection with native wildflowers, to represent strength and resilience. The large circles symbolise the support systems that are established by the 'village' it takes to raise strong, healthy children.

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