Overview of the 'Parenting Lismore's Way' activities & resources

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Parenting Lismore’s Way
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What is Parenting Lismore’s Way?

• **Mission:** to provide parenting **resources:**
  - to strengthen family relationships
  - to enhance families’ confidence, knowledge and skills in raising their children aged 0-5 years

  **Resources** – meant physical resources - excluding parenting education or professional development activities

• **Timeframe:** April 2006 - June 2007

• **Total funding:** $50,000
What did We Do?

- Explored local needs & preferences for parenting resources
- Identified the local needs priorities
- Addressed the priorities we could
How did we Explore Local Needs & Preferences?

• Talking to people
  ➢ meetings with 10 early childhood services
  ➢ brief surveys with 24 parents of young children
  ➢ reviewing comments made during our baseline community surveys – with families & workers

• Draft Plan & Revised Plan
  ➢ sent to 30 early childhood services for feedback & their requests
What Priorities were Identified?

- To buy various parenting resources
  - for early childhood services to use with their families

- To establish a parenting book, DVD & CD collection
  - for families to borrow
  - 65 titles suggested

- To develop some new local resources
  - to address gaps & specific needs

- To prepare a summary
  - of locally-available parenting resources & services
What Progress have We Made?
Organised Resources for Services

- Bought resources - for 15 services
  - 150 books, DVDs & CDs + ABA resources for FCC
  - 4 TV-DVD units
    - 1 for Lismore library parenting room
    - 3 for long-term loan to services

- Distributed other resources - to 30 services
  - locally-produced *Muggy Jarjums* (Strong Jarjums) book
  - *Visions of a Child-Friendly Community* book
  - *Safe & Strong Families* 2007 calendar
  - *I Belong* poster – promoting Aboriginal cultural awareness
  - *Using Aboriginal Art & Language to Teach* book
  - various parenting brochures, leaflets & newsletters
What Else?
Established a Parenting Collection

- Set up a partnership
  - with Richmond Tweed Regional Libraries

- Bought multiple copies of the 65 suggested resources
  - now available at both Lismore & Goonellabah libraries
  - in special display units
  - near Children’s Sections of libraries
Developed Local Resources

- **My Family** picture book (1500 copies)
  - local children's artworks & comments about their families
  - collected through an art competition
  - all pictures exhibited (May 07)

- **A Happy Healthy Mob** book (1000 copies)
  - parenting tips for raising confident, resilient, happy jarjums
  - in partnership with Widjabul Early Childhood strategy
  - featuring local Aboriginal families
What Else?
Supported Other Services’ to Develop Resources

- Goonellabah Transition Program
  - individually-tailored educational resources for their families
- Summerland Early Intervention Program
  - brief introductory video for newly-referred families
What Else?

Started Summarising Locally-Available Parenting Resources & Services

- High-quality brochure
  - of the Parenting Collection resources
  - 2500 copies produced

- "Parenting" website page
  - in partnership with Richmond Tweed Regional Libraries
  - crisis and other main contact numbers
  - locally-available early childhood services
  - links to leading parenting websites
What Next?

Evaluation ... of course!

• Through library borrowing databases
  - track number of times each of the 65 resources in the Parenting Collection is borrowed
  - track number of hits on parenting website pages

• Through followup community surveys (May 08)
  - early childhood workers’ awareness, usage & feedback
  - families’ awareness, usage & feedback
Thank you

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