

MEDIA RELEASE
Monday, October 14, 2019



State of Shellharbour's Children Report 2019 Launch

The Shellharbour community will gain an insight into what life is like for local children next Wednesday 16th October with the launch of the *State of Shellharbour's Children Report*.

The report, produced by Barnardos Australia, who delivers the government funded Communities for Children program in the region, provides a snapshot of how Shellharbour children are developing as compared with state and national benchmarks.

Based on overwhelming evidence that early childhood experiences set the tone for a child's future, the report closely monitors children's holistic development in the region to shape investment in services whilst giving children a voice in matters affecting them.

By collaborating with children and collating relevant data and recent research, the report identifies gaps in service and areas for growth, tracking outcomes and impact of investment in services. By providing a holistic view of the Shellharbour community, the report enables those working with children and families to provide more targeted and effective programs.

Recognising that children's development occurs within five key systems, the report investigates the domains of home, learning, family, wellbeing and community. For example, the report shows a favourable increase in immunisation rates and steady NAPLAN results, whilst socio-economic indexes show a concerning level of disadvantage in some areas which require continued focus.

Copies of the report which will be available to the public at the launch, which will be followed by a community consultation workshop session with those in attendance.

What: Launch of The State of Shellharbour's Children Report

**When: Wednesday 16th October
 9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Where: Shellharbour Council
 76 Cygnet Ave
 Shellharbour City Centre**

**For media interviews with Lisa O'Grady, Program Manager Communities for Children
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About Barnardos Australia

Barnardos Australia is one of the nation's leading child protection charities. A non-government, non-denominational charity, we have been at the forefront of child protection for over 130 years. We believe all children deserve a safe and stable home. We work with families and communities facing issues such as violence, poverty, mental illness and homelessness to keep children safe at home. Barnardos extensive range of services include, family and domestic violence support, mental health support, emergency accommodation, parent education, counselling, foster care and adoption. Our evidence-based research and dedicated caseworkers and carers ensure Barnardos is well equipped to fully support, care for and nurture children in need. For more information or to donate go to: www.barnardos.org.au