

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Report gives valuable insight into the Shellharbour Community

A new report released today by Barnardos Communities for Children, reveals the issues, opportunities and priorities of the Shellharbour community.

The “Building Stronger Communities Shellharbour: Our Community, Our Place” report consulted with children, young people, families, community members and service providers to inform future strategic planning and targeted programs, ensuring they are responsive to community need.

Founded on the State of Shellharbour’s Children Report 2019, the report gathered widespread community perspectives by consulting with a range of ages, cultures, geographical locations and socio-economic status through individual consultations, focus groups and surveys with community members including those in education, disability, health and the Aboriginal community.

In a key finding, nearly all parents and community participants surveyed (95%) indicated that mental health was the main issue in the community, with the majority of participants (78%) wanting to see more programs that offered alternatives to children, young people and families while they were awaiting allied health services, to offer some immediate support and assist in reducing waiting lists.

The report also revealed a decline in engagement in groups and programs as children grow into teenagers and on into adulthood, falling from 85% (8-12 years age group) to 45% (13-18 years age group) to 35% (Parents and Community). Only a third of participants (and their families) attend a group or program, and 85% of participants would like to see more accessible programs offered for children and young people in spaces that are safe and focus on their needs.

Also included in the report are case studies which provide real examples of responsive and reflective programs, providing a deeper understanding of aspects of service and program delivery that capture the essence of the Shellharbour community.

Through the release of this report, Barnardos Communities for Children has provided an important insight into the lives of children, young people and their families in Shellharbour that can be used to guide service providers to be responsive and reflective to the needs of the community.

[View the full report](#)

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About Barnardos Australia

Barnardos Australia is here because every child needs a champion. We listen, we act, and we advocate for the safety of children at risk of abuse and neglect, providing family support programs and services that empower children to reach their full potential. When it comes to protecting vulnerable children from abuse, we never give up. We are dedicated to the prevention of trauma in children, and support families to be the best parents they can be. We help children to recover and thrive, and we find safe homes for them through foster care and open adoption.

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