

## **KidsFest Picnic and Play Day: Connecting to Country – Growing Peace & Trust through play**

**Thursday 22 May 2025 | 10am – 1pm | Shellharbour Civic Centre**

Families with young children are invited to celebrate connection, culture, and community at Shellharbour Communities for Children's KidsFest Picnic and Play Day, part of KidsFest Shellharbour 2025.

Presented by Shellharbour Communities for Children in collaboration with Shellharbour City Council and KidsFest Shellharbour the event will be held on Thursday 22 May from 10am to 1pm at the Yirran Muru Playspace, Shellharbour Civic Centre.

This free event is designed especially for children aged 0–5 years and their families.

This year's KidsFest theme, "Connecting to Country – Growing Peace & Trust," links with the United Nations International Year of Peace and Trust, and will be brought to life through an exciting program of hands-on activities that celebrate children's curiosity, culture, and creativity.

Families can expect more than 25 engaging experiences, including:

- Aboriginal cultural activities to foster understanding and connection to Country
- Storytime sessions, bush craft, loose parts play, art and craft
- Music-making, nature play and sensory experiences

These experiences are designed to inspire play and learning that families can recreate at home. All families attending will receive a free swag bag, including a storybook to take home.

Finally, for the first time in 2025, KidsFest Picnic and Play Day will also feature:

- A dedicated sensory space hosted by Big Fat Smile, supporting children with diverse needs
- A free vaccination clinic thanks to Healthy Cities Australia in partnership with NSW Health
- Expanded Aboriginal Cultural Activities, strengthening connection to local knowledge and Country.

For further information: [kidsfestshellharbour.com.au](https://kidsfestshellharbour.com.au)

**For more information or to arrange media interviews, contact: Irene Saunders, Head of Media, PR and Communications, M: 0410503232 E: [isaunders@barnardos.org.au](mailto:isaunders@barnardos.org.au)**

### **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 violence, we never give up. We are dedicated to the prevention of trauma in children, and support families to grow strong in their community. [www.barnardos.org.au](https://www.barnardos.org.au)