

Enriching communities



Nothing is more powerful
and liberating than
knowledge.

William H Gray II

At the coalface
in disadvantaged
communities in Sydney,
families and individuals
face very real problems
and we need partners
who can work with us
to create change.

United Way understand
how to work with us and
provide much needs
resources to help us
improve people's lives.

Frances Jamieson,
Department of Housing



Life lessons

Helping children reach their potential

The Issue

1 in 5 children from low socio-economic backgrounds start school unprepared with the basics to succeed. (AEDI Index 2009). Research shows that the experiences of children's early years can have strong effects on their future, with implications for their health, development and ability to earn.

The quality of an individual's education has a profound and lasting impact on the person's ability to succeed in the world.

United Way provides leadership in early childhood learning, quality child care and school readiness. We help deliver programs that embed greater social cohesion in disadvantaged communities by engaging mothers who are socially isolated and where positive parenting skills may be lacking.

Evidence

We know all too well that our early childhood plays a huge role in a child's development. And for the 0-5 age group, being ready for school and education is vital to setting this growth in motion. Our consultation work in local communities combined with research from the Centre for Social Impact studies has informed us that the social housing estates in the Western and Southern Sydney regions are in extreme need of human services.

Collaboration

Addressing early learning issues is just one way we're collaborating with a number of local organisations, government and community groups in the Claymore community. This work has been drawn from a Literacy Action Plan to identify key community needs across all age groups – including the 0-5 age group and what's required to prepare them for school.

Innovation

By constantly striving to provide innovative, tailor-made programs that improve community conditions, the Education Coalition can work towards bringing about long-term change. For these purposes, we are funding the work by Good Beginnings, our community partner. Good Beginnings present customised programs that have been crafted around specific community needs, with a particular focus on hard-to-reach families where environments might be negative for children. Together with our local partners we've created a number of targeted early-intervention strategies that build both trust with families and set children up for the future.

If you're interested in participating through funding, pro-bono assistance or volunteering, please email us at nsw@unitedway.com.au

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