



What is the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters?

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is a two-year home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program that empowers parents and carers to be their child's first teacher. The program builds the confidence and skills of parents and carers to create a positive learning environment to prepare their child for school. The program also offers some parents and carers a supported pathway to employment and local community leadership.

The Australian Government has committed \$32.5 million over six years to rollout HIPPY and support around 3,500 families.

How does the program work?

Parents and their children enrol in the program in the year before the child commences formal school and participate in the program for two years. The program activities are designed to be integrated into the daily life of the family. The first year of the program provides children with activities which support pre literacy and pre numeracy skills. The second year extends these activities and provides parents with additional information about children's learning and development.

Each program location is staffed by a tertiary qualified coordinator and a team of home tutors. The home tutors are usually past or current parents participating in the program who live in the local community. Home tutors are paid employees and receive training and support from the coordinator.

Home tutors schedule regular visits with parents to work through the program activities in the family's home. Parents are also encouraged to participate in regular parent group meetings. Role-play is the usual method used by home tutors to facilitate the understanding of the parents about how to do the activities.

What benefits does the program deliver?

The program supports positive parental influences by developing foundations for learning and providing parents with confidence and skills to contribute to their child's learning environment. These aims are consistent with key policy initiatives across Australia and reflect the Australian Government's commitment to achieve better early childhood outcomes for all Australians.

Benefits for children

- Encourages a love of learning.
- Maximises chances of enjoyment and doing well at school.
- Promotes language and listening skills and develops concentration.
- Builds self esteem and confidence in learning.
- Improves communication between parents and children.



Benefits for families

- Helps create a learning environment at home.
- Increases parents' knowledge of child development and the way children learn.
- Provides parents with opportunities to enjoy positive time with their children.
- Enables parents to be actively involved in their children's education.
- Supports parents to meet regularly and promotes a sense of inclusion and connectedness with their community.
- Increases parents' self-confidence.
- Has an overall positive impact on family relationships.
- Creates employment and training opportunities.

What is the role of the Brotherhood of St Laurence?

The Brotherhood of St Laurence, through HIPPY Australia, has exclusive licensing rights from HIPPY International to run the program in Australia and is responsible for managing the implementation of the national roll-out. The Brotherhood of St Laurence has sub-licence arrangements with other not-for-profit organisations to deliver the program to selected communities.

How long is the program funded for and what will that enable?

The Australian Government has extended HIPPY in a limited number of locations for an additional two years. All currently funded partner organisations were invited to apply for the opportunity to extend HIPPY in their community from January 2012 to December 2013, for an age four cohort starting in 2012.

Funding supports key elements of the program including:

- the employment and training of tutors and local co-ordinators;
- local operating costs; and
- program materials.

Is the program delivered to Indigenous communities?

In 2010 the program was established in two Indigenous specific sites in the remote locations of Katherine (Northern Territory) and Pioneer (Mt Isa, Queensland). Monitoring of the program in these locations will provide an indication of success of the program for Indigenous communities in remote areas. In addition, there are a number of HIPPY locations operating which enrol a high number of Indigenous families, for example: HIPPY Inala, HIPPY La Perouse and HIPPY Alice Springs.

How are communities selected?

The program is targeted at disadvantaged areas with a high proportion of families with young children. The methodology used to identify these locations ensures a range of factors are considered. This includes



analysis of the Socio-Economic Index for Areas 2006 Scale, Census information and the Australian Standard Geographical Classification.

The process for selecting 2011 locations also included the Australian Early Development Index results, where available, to aid in identifying appropriate locations. In addition consultations with state and territory departments were conducted to ensure establishment of the program in a particular area would not clash with current jurisdictional programs that may be similarly targeted.

How are locations distributed across Australia?

The program has been progressively rolled out to 50 communities across Australia. In 2009, the program was delivered in 22 communities (13 new and nine existing). In 2010 the program was established in another 13 communities and in 2011 the program was rolled-out to a further 15 communities.

How were partner organisations selected?

Once communities are identified, the Australian Government and the Brotherhood of St Laurence called for expressions of interest from organisations interested in establishing and delivering the program in the selected community. Partner organisations are selected on the basis of the following selection criteria:

1. Understanding the needs of the local community.
2. Demonstrated links with the local community and other service providers in the area.
3. Ability to successfully implement the program within the local community.
4. Ability to implement the program within the specified budget.

Where did the program originate?

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters began as a research project in Israel in 1969. The program currently operates in the United States, Germany, Austria, South Africa, Canada, El Salvador, Italy, Australia and New Zealand.

In 1998, the Brotherhood of St Laurence established the first Australian program in the City of Yarra, Victoria.

How do parents receive assistance through the program?

There is no cost to families participating in the program. Parents and carers can contact the partner organisations in their community or HIPPY Australia to find out more information about the program and how to participate.

Contact HIPPY Australia through their website at www.hippyaustralia.org.au or phone (03) 9445 2400.



Locations Operating

A number of the locations for the program have an expanded catchment area and families in neighbouring suburbs are also able to enrol. The 50 communities where the program is currently operating are:

State	Locations	Partner Organisation
NSW	Ashmont	Anglicare
NSW	Bidwill	UnitingCare Burnside
NSW	Bowenfels	Centacare Bathurst
NSW	Cabramatta	Learning Links
NSW	Claymore	Macarthur Diversity Services
NSW	Fairfield (includes East Fairfield and Villawood)	UnitingCare Burnside
NSW	La Perouse	Eastern Zone Gujaga Aboriginal Corporation
NSW	North Dubbo	Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes
NSW	Nowra	Nowra Family Support Services
NSW	Riverwood	Learning Links
NSW	Warrawong	Barnardos Australia
NSW	West Tamworth	Tamworth Family Support Services
NSW	Windale	JobQuest
VIC	Braybrook	Western Region Health Centre
VIC	Colac	Glastonbury Community Services
VIC	Dallas/Broadmeadows	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Dandenong	South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre
VIC	Fitzroy	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Frankston North	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Geelong	Glastonbury Community Services
VIC	Long Gully / California Gully	St Luke's Anglicare Ltd
VIC	Moonee Valley	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Moreland	Merri Community Health Services
VIC	Robinvale	Robinvale District Health Service
VIC	Winchelsea	Glastonbury Community Services



QLD	Caboolture	Australian Red Cross Society
QLD	Inala	South Brisbane Division of General Practice
QLD	Logan Central	Kingston Eastern Neighbourhood Group
QLD	Manoora	Playgroup Queensland
QLD	Mount Morgan	Australian Red Cross Society
QLD	Pioneer	Centacare Townsville
QLD	Riverview	Playgroup Queensland
QLD	West Ipswich (includes Leichhardt and One Mile)	Australian Red Cross Society
SA	Davoren Park	Novita Children's Services
SA	Elizabeth Grove	Anglicare South Australia
SA	Mansfield Park	Novita Children's Services
SA	Salisbury North	Novita Children's Services
SA	Whyalla Stuart	UnitingCare Wesley Country SA Incorporated
WA	East Geraldton (includes Rangeway, Karloo and Utakarra)	Child Australia
WA	Girrawheen	Ngala Community Services
WA	Rockingham	Ngala Community Services
TAS	Burnie	Rural Health Tasmania Inc
TAS	Clarendon Vale	Colony 47
TAS	Launceston	Anglicare
TAS	West Coast	Rural Health Tasmania Inc
TAS	Sheffield	Kentish Regional Clinic
TAS	Smithton	Rural Health Tasmania Inc
NT	Alice Springs	Yipirinya School Council Incorporated
NT	Katherine (SLA)	Anglicare NT
ACT	Charnwood	Kippax Uniting Care



Locations delivering HIPPY from January 2012 to December 2013

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NSW	Bidwill	UnitingCare Burnside
NSW	Bowenfels	Centacare Bathurst
NSW	Cabramatta	Learning Links
NSW	La Perouse	Eastern Zone Gujaga Aboriginal Corporation
NSW	North Dubbo	Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes
NSW	Warrawong	Barnardos Australia
VIC	Braybrook	Western Region Health Centre
VIC	Dallas/Broadmeadows	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Dandenong	South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre
VIC	Fitzroy	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Frankston North	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Long Gully / California Gully	St Luke's Anglicare Ltd
VIC	Moreland	Merri Community Health Services
NT	Alice Springs	Yipirinya School Council Incorporated
SA	Davoren Park	Novita Children's Services
SA	Mansfield Park	Novita Children's Services
SA	Whyalla Stuart	UnitingCare Wesley Country SA Incorporated
QLD	Inala	Inala Indigenous Health Service
QLD	Logan Central	Kingston Eastern Neighbourhood Group
QLD	Pioneer	Centacare Townsville
QLD	West Ipswich (includes Leichhardt and One Mile)	Australian Red Cross Society
ACT	Charnwood	Kippax Uniting Care
WA	Girrawheen	Ngala Community Services



Jurisdictional Roll-out

The jurisdictional distribution of these communities is provided below.

State	2009	2010	2011	Total
NSW	3	5	5	13
VIC	6	2	4	12
QLD	2	3	3	8
SA	1	2	2	5
WA	2	0	1	3
TAS	6	0	0	6
NT	1	1	0	2
ACT	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	22	13	15	50