

A new and exciting year ahead

The beginning of this year marks a milestone in the national rollout of HIPPY. We are now operating in 51 communities across Australia. This is thanks to funding from the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), and from the Education Heritage Trust, which funds HIPPY Campbelltown in New South Wales. So a big warm welcome to our 15 new sites as they commence their HIPPY journey. We hope your journey will be filled with challenges, excitement, hard work and many rewards.

I had the pleasure to meet most of the new coordinators and their managers at the recent HIPPY Australia national training. I am always so impressed with the people who are attracted to work in this wonderful program. Once again, the HIPPY Australia team organised and delivered a quality training program that, as we know, is the first step in the relationship with HIPPY Australia. To my HIPPY Australia colleagues, a big

thank you and all the best for another busy year. To our existing coordinators, tutors and managers, all the best for a successful 2011.

As I am writing this article, I am mindful that some sites have recently experienced their first age 5 graduation and so have shared with families a warm and rewarding sense of achievement.

Also, I would like to recommend that you take the opportunity to read your HIPPY evaluation surveys, as they are very helpful as reflection tools that can inform your practice. The survey is

each HIPPY family's voice and reflects their two-year HIPPY journey.

From the 'HIPPY national evaluation progress report', we learned that parents felt their teaching skills were enhanced both in terms of skill and in the development of attitudes: 'I like teaching my own child and I can'.

On behalf of everyone at HIPPY Australia, have a great 2011 and remember that together we make HIPPY a rewarding and fun experience for many families.

– Carmen Calleya-Capp,
HIPPY Australia National Manager

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A poster created at national training to represent what HIPPY means for communities and families



Brotherhood of St Laurence
Working for an Australia free of poverty

The Brotherhood of St Laurence is licensed to operate HIPPY in Australia. The Brotherhood is dedicated to an early-years strategy that encourages, supports and acknowledges the importance of positive parent-child interaction in enhancing children's learning.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

A message of support to those affected by the recent extreme weather events across the country

A message of care and support from HIPPY Australia, DEEWR and the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Over the past few months, extreme weather events have rocked communities across Australia. Many members of our HIPPY family have been affected.

To those affected by these events, may you, your family and your community take some comfort and encouragement from knowing that you are in our thoughts and prayers at

this very difficult time.

We know you are all committed to HIPPY, however, at this time please be assured that we are aware and acknowledge that you have more pressing priorities.

HIPPY Australia is here to support you. You can contact your HIPPY Australia consultant at any time for whatever additional assistance we can offer. For now, please focus on what is important for you, your family and your community.

On behalf of everyone involved in HIPPY, please stay safe and we shall continue to keep you in our thoughts while the rebuilding of affected communities takes place.



HIPPY Girrawheen families celebrate achievements



On Friday 17 December 2010, 25 children from HIPPY Girrawheen gathered with their families at Noranda Family Centre for a special evening celebration. Some had completed the first year of the HIPPY program, while others were graduating after completing two years. Before the



formalities began, everyone was entertained and delighted by 'sensational string stories'.

Luke Simpkins MP, Federal Member for Cowan, participated in the ceremony, congratulating the children and presenting them with their portfolios and certificates.

Each graduating child also received a mortar board (made by

the home tutors) and a medallion, as well as a

HIPPY calico bag containing a picture book, crayons, a balloon and bubble mix.

The helium balloons given out at the end of the evening were a big hit, although many of them ended up either up near the ceiling or in the sky!

– Cherilyn McMeekin, Ngala



Top left: Matilda receiving her certificate from Luke Simpkins

Bottom left: Jonathan with Luke Simpkins, after receiving his certificate and medallion

Left: Some of the HIPPY Girrawheen children enjoying the night

HIPPY national training was a blast in February

Every year HIPPY gets bigger and bigger! In 2011 HIPPY Australia has 51 sites operating nationally.

With a number of new sites there is a need to train new staff. The first training was held in Fitzroy, Victoria from 31 January to 4 February. The attendees of these five days brought with them much enthusiasm and thoughtfulness and this contributed to a motivated and energetic atmosphere for all involved.



The topics covered in this training included:

- the philosophy of HIPPY
- the HIPPY model
- HIPPY in Australia
- HIPPY materials and role-play
- the role of the coordinator
- program delivery, home visits and parent groups
- parents, children and home tutors
- family engagement.

Also, a number of guest speakers were invited to speak at the national training. Guest speakers included Ivan Lawton and Vanessa Wardle from our Mansfield Park, South Australian site, Jo Tabit from the Brotherhood's employment services,

and Juliet McEachran from the evaluation team.

The cultural-awareness workshop presented by Mark from the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) and Sherri Longbottom was an outstanding new addition to training and we thank Sherri, and Geri from our Alice Springs site, for sharing their life stories with us.



A visit from the HIPPY Long Gully/California Gully Coordinator and tutors was extremely beneficial to new coordinators as they were able to hear first-hand from the staff from an established site.

We would like to extend a big thank you to our guest speakers for their contribution to the training.



A special thanks to Ivan and Vanessa for coming all the way from Adelaide, and to Heather and her tutors for travelling from Bendigo to share their valuable experiences with us.

The formal feedback HIPPY Australia received from participants of the five-day training illustrated that participants found it just as successful and enjoyable as those involved in running the workshops.

Our HIPPY consultants did an amazing job in delivering the training over five days and smiled the whole way through!

Our last thank you is to the participants. What a great bunch of coordinators to have on board this year!



Photos on this page: the recent national training

Reggie's five minutes of fame at HIPPY Inala

At HIPPY Inala there are many little HIPPY stars, but none more so than the famous and fabulous Reggie! Reggie's mum tells us all about her daughter's new-found HIPPY fame.

'Recently my child had her photo taken as part of a HIPPY article in our local community newspaper.

When my daughter first saw our photo in the paper she paid some attention to it but was for the most part uninterested.

A few weeks later she decided to take the article to her school for show-and-tell. Her teacher, teacher's aide and classmates were thrilled to see the photo and heaped much praise upon her.

The teacher's aide quipped that my daughter was now a "celebrity" and "famous" for having been in the local newspaper.

On the way home from school she spoke constantly of her new found "fame" and that she now needed to sign her name for people.

That afternoon she set up an autograph booth in the front yard and insisted that I rally the neighbours to

come get her autograph!

She settled for her family and a tour around the work office signing photocopies of her newspaper photo. HIPPY has definitely made my child a star!

– Lu Yasso, HIPPY Inala Tutor



Reggie and her dad show off her famous article and her fluffy autograph pen

Getting started in Salisbury North



Sarah Stevens is the new site coordinator for HIPPY in Salisbury North, South Australia. She recently attended the national training held in Melbourne. This is what she had to say.

'What a great conference! I'm sure that I can speak for everyone who attended that this was one of the best training conferences we have been involved in so a big thank you goes to you all!

The Salisbury North site is starting to recruit some families and I have

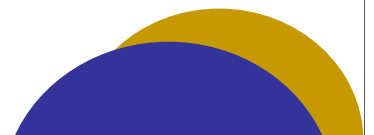
really targeted the kindys and pre-schools as we have 190 families enrolled within the area (surely with numbers like that I can get 40!).

The kindy directors are really enthused with the prospect of having HIPPY available to their families, which is great to hear!

Unfortunately, the community centre – where my office is suppose to be located – is still negotiating the terms and conditions of my occupancy.

My patience is getting a good workout and I am trying hard not to feel isolated from my community. But Vanessa (the Coordinator at HIPPY Mansfield Park in South Australia) has taken me under her wing, which has been a great help.

novita 
children's services



HIPPY Dandenong is on the way



The South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre (SERMRC) has worked with refugees for 15 years by delivering settlement programs. This focus on families is due to many settlement issues involving children and occur within the family.

For our HIPPY program, we are targeting culturally and linguistically diverse parents and those arriving on refugee visas with children aged 4 years old.

Dandenong is the most culturally diverse suburb in Victoria, with residents from 156 different birthplaces, and 56% of its population being born overseas. Dandenong has the largest intake of humanitarian/refugee immigrants in Victoria, and

represents one-fifth of all humanitarian settlement in Melbourne. Humanitarian settlers mainly came from Afghanistan, Iraq, Burma and Sudan.

I have worked in the Dandenong area for the last 10 years and have built up many community contacts. I am fortunate to be in contact with a number of agencies and children's services in the area. These include family and service workers, school principals, well-being officers, community leaders and SERMRC clients, who have arrived on refugee/humanitarian visas. The response to having the HIPPY program in Dandenong has been very positive.

The people I've met are keen to tell local families about HIPPY.

The advisory group's first meeting will be held on 24 February. The first home tutor has been identified and we hope the program will grow from strength to strength.

We are looking forward to completing the enrolment phase and implementing the program with our tutors and families.

I look forward to seeing the positive impact that the SERMRC Dandenong HIPPY program will bring to our HIPPY families and to our community at large.

– Tatjana Krneta, Coordinator

The first graduation at HIPPY Alice Springs

In 2010, 12 children graduated from HIPPY Alice Springs. The venue was the school hall. Our children stood out in their capes, hats and butterfly wings, for all the school to see. The looks on the children's and parents' faces were very special – they stood proud and strong.

Alex and Jaidyn (uncle and nephew) were praising each other about the way they looked all dressed up.

Minnie, a grandmother living on town camp, tutors her two granddaughters, Delaine and Minnie. We saw how proud she looked as Delaine was presented with her

certificate. Minnie turned to her other granny and said, 'Christine, you will be there next year'.

A great year was had by all. A big thank you to parents/carers, the age 5 tutor, Bonita, and other HIPPY staff.

– Geraldine Stewart, Coordinator

Stefania of HIPPY Canada visits Australia

On 18 February HIPPY Australia was visited by Stefania Ntonas, the Kostova Site Lead at HIPPY Toronto, Canada (site leads are the coordinators of the Canadian sites).

Stefania took time out of her holiday in Australia to meet with the HIPPY Australia team and share her experiences of working in HIPPY in a different country.

It was interesting and confirming to hear that many of the experiences

she has in Canada mirror the experiences we have here in Australia.

While HIPPY is an international program, and there are differences in the program caused by working in diverse communities, it is amazing to hear first-hand how HIPPY programs operate so similarly across the globe and experience the same challenges and benefits.

Stefania, thanks for taking time out on your busy holiday to visit us. It

was a pleasure to meet you and discuss HIPPY in an international context.



Logan Central tutor inspires HIPPY parents

On the couch with Angela Adams, a HIPPY Logan Central home tutor.

How long have you been involved with the HIPPY program?

'I have been with the HIPPY Logan Central program for a year now. It has been interesting meeting people from different cultures. I have developed new skills, and with on-going training from my coordinator, I feel I have contributed to my community.'

What challenges have you faced in your role of HIPPY home tutor?

'Getting into a new routine was hard, as was balancing home and work life.

Learning how to be flexible with families and being able to offer support to them.

Presenting to families in a group environment was a real challenge at first but with support from my coor-

dinator I easily over-came my stage fright!'

What has been the highlight of the year for you?

'Meeting new people and becoming a part of their family. The fact that parents have said that I have inspired them to go and look for work – I feel very proud of this.'



Angela Adams, a home tutor at HIPPY Logan Central

The team at HIPPY Logan Central would like to congratulate our HIPPY home tutor, Fadumo, on the birth of her baby son, Ahmed. Also, we say goodbye to Karee who has been accepted into the CALD Diploma of Nursing.

Keeping up with HIPPY North Dubbo

'Opportunities to learn something new are presented to me every day.

I accept these lessons graciously and with an open heart.'

We can learn from every situation, whether we are going to the corner store or sitting in a classroom. We should all strive to learn something new every day.

Always remember to open your eyes, ears and heart to new experiences. Try to look at every situation from different perspectives and do not be afraid to test your own limits and ask questions.

Welcome to all the new HIPPY Australia sites and families, and a special welcome back to the existing HIPPY team.

I hope everyone is enjoying the fantastic opportunities HIPPY offers to families preparing their children for school.

It is a busy time at HIPPY North Dubbo with new families, new home tutors and commencing the

awesome Year 5 parent packs and activities. The educational experience is extraordinary.

Wishing everyone a happy 2011 and I look forward to sharing more of our journey with you this year.

– Fran Carter, Coordinator

CentaCare
Wilcannia – Forbes

HIPPY Warrawong delivers their second year of HIPPY

HIPPY Warrawong is off to a really great start for 2011. Thirty-five new families have begun the age 4 program. There has been lots of excitement getting started, with our two new home tutors (Renee and Sue) and our continuing tutors, (Margaret, Bernadette and Rebecca) meeting many new faces. There are also 32 families continuing the program from last year.

We have been getting some great feedback from HIPPY families about their children's experience of starting 'big school'. Families are reporting that their children are ahead of their peers, have already received merit awards for their skills in listening and following instructions, have received praise from teachers, and have had other

parents commenting on the children's ability, much of which they are attributing to HIPPY.

HIPPY is gaining greater recognition with other services and organisations. This year we received a major donation of stationery and materials from OfficeMax to supply our new families. We have also had support from ING Direct, with the donation of back-to-school supplies. Proctor & Gamble have donated products including shampoos, moisturisers, toothpaste and deodorants, that we made into 'pamper packs' for returning families. These were a great hit with families who often feel a little frazzled adjusting to the new routines of 'big school'!

We're looking forward to the year ahead, the challenges and rewards, as we continue our HIPPY journey in 2011. – Jackie Brizga, Coordinator



A flower made at HIPPY Warrawong

HIPPY Cabramatta families visit Calmsley Hill Farm

HIPPY Cabramatta went to visit Calmsley Hill Farm at Fairfield for our Christmas breakup. Twenty-two children and 17 adults came along. The children enjoyed the bus ride. We saw horses doing tricks, a sheep dog rounding up sheep and bullocks pulling logs on a cart. We fed the kangaroos, saw koalas and watched

a sheep being sheared.

Everyone had a turn at milking the cow. The joke of the day was that the cow's name was Isobel. It was even spelt the same as my name! The children were encouraged to milk Isobel! The cow was due to have a baby within a few weeks of our visit. We were able to feel the calf

moving in her tummy.

We enjoyed a sumptuous lunch provided by some of the parents who brought cultural dishes to share. It was great to spend this day together.

The children each received a gift of a book from Santa and a lolly bag. –Isobel Mckay, Coordinator



New book: *Welcome to HIPPY*

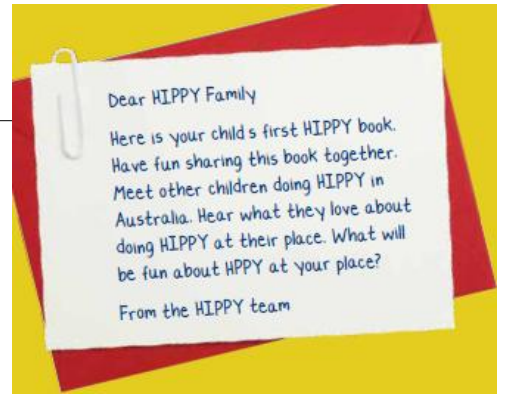
This year, new HIPPY books will be introduced into the program. The first one is *Welcome to HIPPY*, which is given to families upon enrolment. Another story book, *Kuppi's Special Surprise Plan* by Jacqui Ruhle, will be introduced later this year.

Welcome to HIPPY introduces readers to the HIPPY children and their families from HIPPY Inala in Queensland. Each child tells us what their name is and why they love doing HIPPY. At the end of the book, a blank page is provided for the owner of the book to draw a picture of themselves, because they are now a HIPPY child too!

Nicola Mackenzie, a HIPPY Australia consultant, and the designers have worked tirelessly to put this book together. Nicola's dedication to adding even more value to the program for families is highly regarded by all involved in HIPPY.

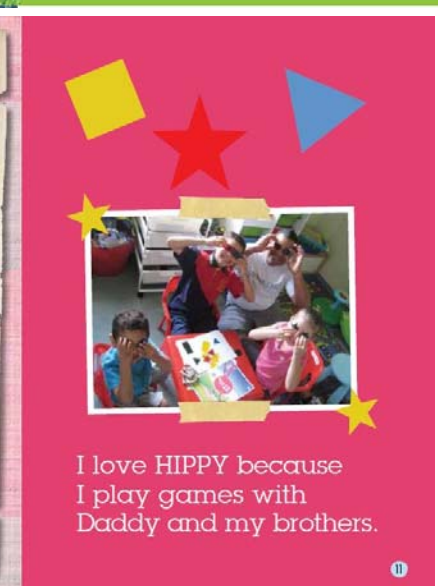
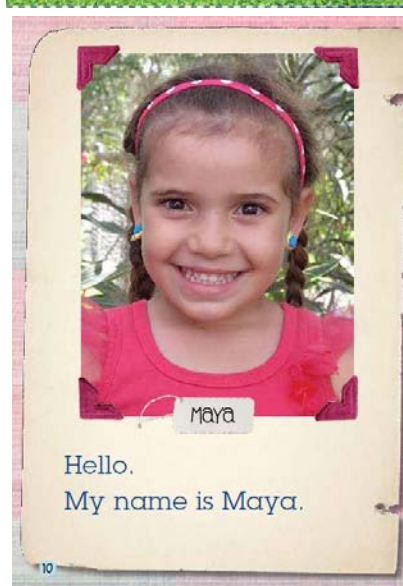
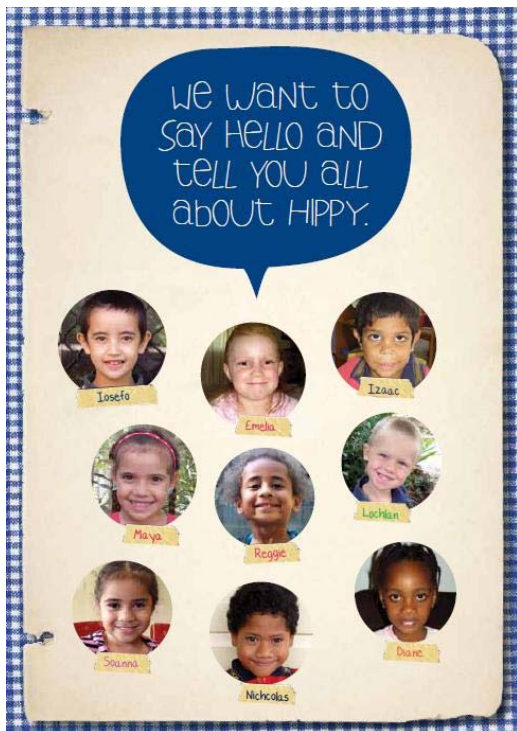
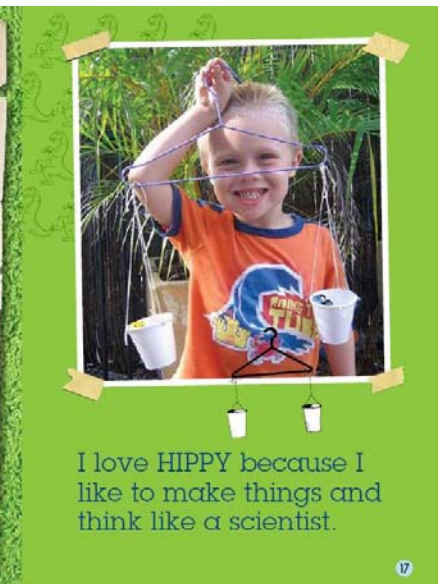
We hope *Welcome to HIPPY* will not only help families feel part of the HIPPY community, but also ensure they gain an understanding of the activities and fun that lie ahead.

A big thank you to the coordinator in Inala, Jacqui Ruhle, for helping to gather the contents and to the wonderful children who have taken part in the pages: Emelia, Izaak, Diane, Iosefo, Maya, Nicholas,

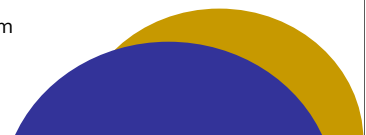


Soanna, Lachlan and Reggie.

Keep your eye out for more news on *Kuppi's Clever Surprise Plan* in future newsletters.



Some pages from *Welcome to HIPPY* – HIPPY kids from HIPPY Inala tell us about why they love doing HIPPY



An activity for parents getting to know other parents

This little icebreaker activity is fun and easy and could be used at your first group meeting. I've used it many times with young people and adults although it's probably not suitable for 4 year olds! All you do is give each participant a copy with a pen or pencil. Read it aloud to everyone in case there are people who may not be

able to read it. Then have everyone mingle around the room and pick someone they don't know. They'll chat with each other trying to find what they have in common. Then they write down their answers. Tell everyone that if they're unsure of how to spell their answer to just ask! Then when they've filled up one

section, move around to someone else to fill up the next section. When everyone is done, you could ask participants if that was easy or hard and if that was a good way to get acquainted.

All the best this year to the coordinators, tutors and families!

– Diane Brokenshire, Coordinator

Four Things in Common



Pick someone you don't know. Then pick a topic below. Find four things you have in common. Then move on to another person until your sheet is filled up.

Family

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Leisure

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

The Past

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Lifestyle

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



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About HIPPY Australia

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program that targets families with young children. It supports parents who may not feel confident to prepare their children for a successful early school experience.

HIPPY builds upon parental strengths and empowers parents to take an active role in their children's education, development and overall wellbeing. For some parents, it also offers a supported pathway to employment and local community leadership.

HIPPY helps to develop stronger and more confident families, with an increased capacity to make the most of opportunities provided by mainstream education.



**Brotherhood
of St Laurence**

Working for an Australia free of poverty

The Brotherhood of St Laurence is licensed to operate HIPPY in Australia.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is funded by the Australian Government.



Partner



redefining / financial services

HIPPY Australia is proud to acknowledge its partnership with AXA.

The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

WANTED!

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Join the **SAVER PLUS** program.

Saver Plus is a matched savings program that can assist adults:

- Reach a savings goal
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- Build your money management skills



For every dollar saved (up to \$500) within a ten month period, the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, will **MATCH IT** for educational purposes – either your own or your child's.

THIS MEANS THAT IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SAVE \$500 IN TEN MONTHS, YOU WILL BE GIVEN FREE A FURTHER \$500 TO SPEND ON EDUCATION

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

You may be eligible to join Saver Plus if you or your partner:

- Have a current Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- Have regular income (you or your partner) from paid employment
- Are at least 18 years old
- Are a parent or guardian of a child at school or are doing a vocational training course yourself

If you want to find out if you are eligible to join Saver Plus please don't hesitate to contact us on the details below.

- Phone: 1300 610 355
- Email: saverplus@bsl.org.au
- Website: www.anz.com/saverplus

