****

****

# Schools for All Program Fortnightly Update 6 – 24 May 2016

## Parent/Carer Forums: Schools for All

The next Parent/Carer forum will be held:

**Forum 2 Wednesday 15 June 2016 *(Term 2, Week 8)***

9:30am-10:30am Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, 51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

5:30pm- 6:30pm UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Drive, Kaleen (Library)

## Better Services

The Schools for All Program is one of several reforms underway across ACT Government. Collaboration and engagement on reforms is fundamental to the success of the Schools for All Program. The Directorate is actively engaging with other Directorates to share progress on the Schools for All Program and to identify opportunities to collaborate. The Director, Student Engagement presented on Schools for All at the Better Services Communities of Practice meeting on 12 May 2016. This presentation provided an overview of the range of supports that are currently being provided to ACT public school students with complex needs, as well as the projects being implemented through the Schools for All Program.

### *Background on Better Services*

The way that human services in the ACT are delivered is changing – for the better–under the *Human Services Blueprint* (the Blueprint)*.* This is a plan, developed by community and government, which will guide how services and supports are provided so that people get the best outcomes for their circumstances. The Blueprint is a major change that involves many steps and many people. It will take time to introduce completely, and to work well. That’s why the Blueprint has started with three initiatives under the name ***Better Services****:*

* **a Local Services Network at West Belconnen:** a Network is about supporting a community to work together to build services and supports around its needs and aspirations. This new way of working is an opportunity to road test important elements of place-based service delivery to determine ‘what works’. These elements include the development of a local governance model, agreement on shared decision-making processes, information and data sharing protocols, assessment and referral processes and opportunities for flexible funding arrangements. Under *Better Services*, a Network is being trialled in West Belconnen, across Dunlop, Fraser, Spence, Charnwood, Flynn, Latham, Macgregor, Holt and Higgins.
* **The Gateway**: is a single access point for a range of universal and targeted services. In its establishment phase, the Gateway is located at Nature Conservation House in Belconnen. Currently the Gateway provides assistance for people through services covering housing and tenancy issues, homelessness, disability, child, young person and family matters, conflict resolution, debt management and grants for women returning to work.  At Gateway, staff take a holistic approach in working with people who come through the door.  Support for a person’s needs is enhanced through the co-location of a number of partner organisations. This means that services can work collaboratively to provide assistance that is best suited for a person’s needs
* **Strengthening Families:** is a new way of working with families who have complex needs and who are involved with many different services. The key to the approach is that families have a Lead Worker who works alongside them. The worker is usually from a service the family is involved with, so a level of trust and understanding is already established. This means the family has a single point of contact to support them in identifying strengths and problems. Together, they develop an agreed family plan and put together a package of supports that best respond to their needs. Participation in Strengthening Families is voluntary and all family members can be involved.

Further information on Better Services can be found at <http://www.betterservices.act.gov.au/about/latest-news-and-updates>.

## Principal Information Session

At the recent Principal Information Session, principals were provided with a suite of materials to support the implementation of the *Safe and Supportive Schools Policy* in schools. These materials are being provided to schools through the School Bulletin.

(*Project #1 under the Schools for All Program –Expert Panel Report recommendations 11.1 and 11.2)*.

## Keep in touch

If you have any questions, comments or feedback associated with the Schools for All Program please contact the Schools for All Program Implementation Team on SchoolsForAll@act.gov.au or on 620 76606.