



connect
Children and Families

Annual Report July 2024-June 2025



*Connect Children and Families
acknowledge the Traditional
Custodians where we work and
play. We respect and acknowledge
Elders past and present and their
ongoing connection to Country.
Always was, always will be
Aboriginal land.*

Artist description of “Community”

“We have represented a whole community within this artwork and wanted to articulate the complexities and beauty that this means to us. Community circles are displayed with small arches representing people in the circles, we have also displayed very large arches outside of the circles that depict mountain ranges as they are significant elements of this region, they are decorated to show their sacredness and dreaming stories that they are often a part of. We have created a flowing river that surrounds and entwines through the artwork to depict one’s journey on Gundungurra country, river systems are an essential part of life and often were a place to connect with others and be with community. We have depicted the gathering of lomandra and yams — this was often done by the women and children together and was a communal event.

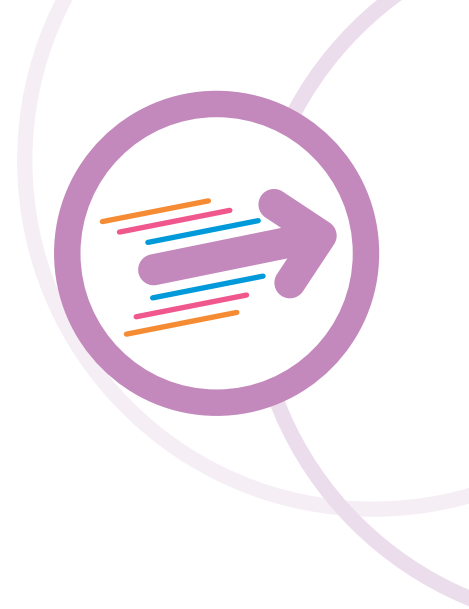
We have added kangaroo and emu tracks to represent a complete community. We have also added the three Black cockatoos that travel in threes and call out together to bring warnings of rain. We have added eucalyptus leaves, waratahs, and bottle brush as they are often used in different ceremonies, and have medicinal purposes.” **Artists: Krubi Creative; Clara, Emily and Sharon (2022)**



“

“I would just like to appreciate Connect Children and Family Services for all that they do for the community.”

**Connect Early Survey respondent
(2024)**



Message from Chair

I am grateful for the opportunity I have as Chair of Connect to contribute to sound governance, strategic direction and strong systems that support family and community capacity. This year has been a turnaround year for Connect. The Executive team and staff are to be congratulated for achieving the strategic direction and financial position that we aimed for together this year. I know how very hard the whole team has worked; it has certainly not been easy. In the coming year we will be focusing on building for the future by further strengthening our support for professional development, structural and systems improvement.

I enjoy working with our Board who are a professional and committed team of volunteers. We have welcomed Kelly Thompson to the Board and been supported by Leigh Waters. Barbara Cuthbert resigned from the Board in August 2024 after nearly five years. I greatly appreciated Barbara's experience in the community sector, her legal and business acumen. Noleen Walker also had to resign from the Board and her insight and kindness is missed. As a team, we have the benefit of keen financial analysis, strong health sector knowledge, a depth of community development, and sector knowledge. Our Board capacity and the care, professionalism and resilience of Connect staff and volunteers sets us in a good position for the future. I have confidence that with the kind, wise and reflective leadership of our CEO Ann-Marie Elliott, Connect will continue to partner with families and communities, so that together our children and families thrive and we enjoy diverse, inclusive communities.

Rosemary Bishop
Board Chair, 2025



Message from CEO

Dear Connect Children and Families Community,

Each year, I'm proud of our team's achievements and the positive difference we make for more than 1,000 children and families across the Blue Mountains and Western Sydney. Our dedicated staff work closely with children and their families to create meaningful experiences. This work demands both physical and emotional commitment, along with creativity, regulatory compliance, and intentional focus on children's interests and co-constructed learning opportunities.

Equally important are those working behind the scenes, maintaining our programs' effectiveness, affordability, accessibility, and safety. Their support has helped us achieve organisational excellence, showing openness to innovation and teamwork. Together we have exceeded safety benchmarks and built trust that children's safety is always our priority.

I want to sincerely thank all our team members, as they are truly our greatest asset and play a vital role in making a positive difference for children and families. This Annual Report reflects just how deeply we value and celebrate each and every child - it's something we can all be proud of.

The year's achievements reflect the dedication of our Board of Directors, who support Connect's long-term sustainability through strategic investments. Their bold leadership is crucial in a sector challenged by rising costs and limited funding. I especially thank our Chair, Rosemary Bishop, for her steadfast support and leadership in ensuring the Board's role as custodians, serving our community now and for the future.

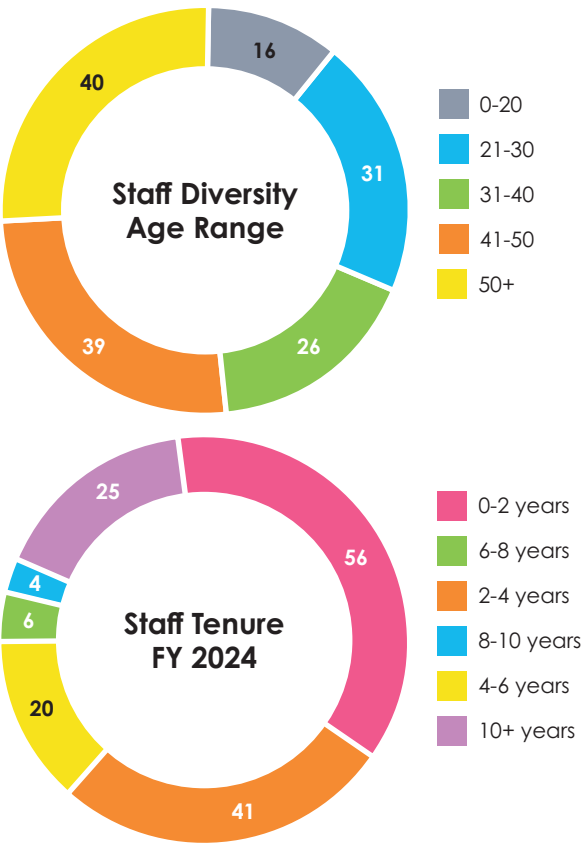
As we complete the second year of our three-year strategy, I am confident that focusing on the birth to three program, investing in staff development and wellbeing, and upholding high standards in governance and operations will prepare us to expand our program offer to the community, to strengthen our team, and deliver improvements in community impact in all the places we work.

Ann-Marie Elliott
Chief Executive, November 2025

Our Staff Snapshot - Employee Survey results

Employment type	
Full Time	53
Part Time	70
Casual	29

Number of Staff	Staff Diversity - Gender	
152	Male	8
	Female	144



Employee Survey Results

In the 2025 Annual Employee Survey, participation rose to 69%, improving on previous years. One of the key measures is whether we are working as a values based organisation, our team confirmed we are.

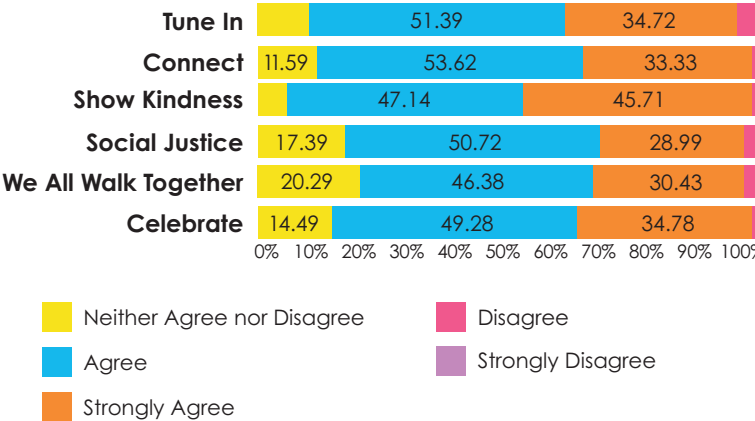
We have continued to invest in our People and Culture infrastructure, formalising our support and networking our Director's, Educational Leaders and Trainees. We continue to see our trainees succeed in gaining their Early Childhood Qualification, and where we have vacancies, return as a permanent staff member.

Funding to Increase Wages

Our People and Culture and Payroll team successfully applied for and implemented the federal Early Childhood Workforce Retention Grant. Implementation of the ECEC Worker Retention Grant (EWRG) was a significant project which resulted in a back pay of \$199,000 including Super, with 72 employees receiving payments. The LDC team are now receiving up to an additional 10% each pay with a further 5% increase due in December 2025.

A positive increase in all categories in 2025 +

	Agree or Strongly Agree	Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Tune In	86%	4%
Connect	87%	1%
Show Kindness	93%	1%
Social Justice	80%	3%
We All Walk Together	77%	3%
Celebrate	84%	1%





Organisational Excellence Transforms

Organisational Excellence

Over the past year, Connect has made significant investments in infrastructure and operational improvements. Key projects included the renovation of Bungarrabee Centre, outsourcing payroll to ensure accurate award interpretation and compliance across six employment instruments, and the completion of a Finance Optimisation Project. By transitioning from MYOB to Xero and adopting digital tools like DEXT, Approval Max, and Weel, the organisation streamlined financial operations, enhanced automation, reduced manual workload, and strengthened governance. Training was provided to managers to support smooth implementation, and outsourcing to Clear Path Accountants resulted in cost savings. These changes improved compliance, reporting accuracy, and contributed to a \$266K net profit for FY25, delivering greater efficiency, transparency for Board reporting, and reduced key-person risk. Looking ahead, Connect plans to further expand digital finance tools, maintaining cost control and operational excellence. The organisation is also well-positioned to explore a potential merger with Springwood Neighbour Centre.

Ensuring our compliance and safety protocols exceed expectations and prioritise children's safety.

At Connect, we are dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for your children. Our commitment to child safety is at the heart of everything we do. Outlined below are the key practices and initiatives we have in place to ensure your child's safety and well-being. In our early education centres we implement:



Child Safe Framework

This includes:

- Charter of Commitment to Children and Families: Our foundational pledge to prioritise the safety and well-being of every child.
- Child Safe Code of Conduct for Staff: Guidelines ensuring all staff uphold the highest standards of child safety.
- Child Safety Risk Register: Proactive measures to identify and mitigate potential risks.
- Child Protection Policy: Comprehensive policies to safeguard children from harm.
- Child Wellbeing and Safety Policy: Ensuring holistic support for the wellbeing of every child based on the 10 Child Safe Principles.

These documents are available to view on Story Park in the "About" Section



Child Safe Recruiting Practices

- Rigorous screening processes including child safety-focused interviews and reference checks, always ensuring we have completed a child safety check with the most recent employer.
- Mandatory National Police Checks and NSW Working with Children Checks for all employees at commencement.



Ongoing Staff Training

Regular training sessions funded by Connect, including Child Protection/Mandatory Reporter and First Aid in an Education and Care Setting.



Protective Behaviours Education

All centres have staff trained in the Office of Children's Guardian's SAFE series, promoting protective behaviours among young children. Your centre will let you know when we are implementing these resources as part of our intentional teaching strategies.



Enhanced Security Measures

- **CCTV Installation:** In all entries, exits, and play areas.
- **Two-Person Rule:** Ensuring that staff members are always within sight in our centres.
- **No Personal Devices:** Prohibition of personal devices with image-capturing capabilities in child spaces. Staff are not permitted to use personal devices for documentation purposes, such as Storypark.



Transparent Communication

Child Safety is a recurring agenda item in all team and network meetings, at all levels of our organisation, ensuring continuous improvement and vigilance.



Secure Devices

All Connect-issued image capturing devices remain onsite and all Connect-issued devices and software systems can be restricted remotely. This ensures privacy and security standards.



We strive to provide a secure environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive with confidence.



Birth to Three

Transforming Early Childhood Education in the Mid Mountains

FY25 was a milestone for Connect Children and Families. We successfully transformed and grew our Possum and Hazelwood Early Childhood Centres. These projects show our dedication to high-quality and accessible early education, especially for children under three. We also aimed to meet the changing needs of families in our community.

Why Change Was Needed

Possum Early Childhood Centre was known for excellence. However, community feedback showed the old 8-hour program was a barrier for many families. Of those surveyed, 62.5% of caregivers - mostly women - said the limited hours increased their stress. It made work and family life hard to balance. Many spoke about difficult routines for drop-offs and pick-ups, which reduced quality time with their children or created work challenges.

Families told us longer sessions would help them:

- Work or study more hours
- Meet job needs more easily
- Find more work opportunities
- Have time to commute
- Achieve better work/life balance

The Possum ECC Expansion

Connect consulted widely and, with help from NSW Department of Education's Flexible Initiative Trial Program Funding, extended Possum's hours from 8:30am-4:30pm to 7am-6pm. This made access easier and added breakfast and late supper for children staying longer. We kept fees the same while expanding services, thanks to the targeted funding.

“

“I love the open-ended, child-led learning approach. Possum has such a natural flow, and because of this, my child has been able to develop so many new skills, confidence and independence. It's clear that this approach has helped them grow and thrive in such meaningful ways.”

(Possum family survey response 2024)



To continue our plans to enable a Birth to Three Centre we needed to upgrade the unused 'old pre-school room' next door to Possum. The Board approved the Business case to renovate the space allowing Possum ECC to increase from 20 to 50 preschool places per day. The upgrades included new classrooms, kitchen, office, and outdoor play areas. Children helped design the playground, showing their creativity.

Hazelwood's Transition to a Birth-to-Three Centre

The expansion at Possum enabled Hazelwood's 3 to 5-year-olds to transition into the new spaces, allowing Hazelwood to focus exclusively on infants and toddlers. This shift was supported by additional NSW Dept of Education Flexible Initiative funding and included planning for:

- Extensive site upgrades, especially to outdoor play areas
- Increased staffing and professional development for educators
- A new enrollment model, increasing places for children under three by 16 per day

The impact was immediate: 38 existing families increased their attendance, and 11 new families joined Hazelwood by the end of FY25. Families reported greater confidence in their children's care and the ability to return to work or formalise care arrangements.



Community Impact and Outcomes of Our Birth to Three Strategic Priority

- **Access and Equity:** The projects directly addressed long waitlists and access barriers, particularly for families with children under three. In Hazelbrook, 24% of families had previously waited over a year for a childcare place; in Lawson, it was 50%.
- **Empowering Women:** The changes supported women's workforce participation, reducing the need for informal care and enabling more flexible work arrangements.
- **Child-Centred Design:** Children's voices were central to the design of new spaces, reflecting Connect's belief in the capability and agency of young learners.
- **Professional Growth:** Educators benefited from targeted professional development, including training in the Circle of Security Classrooms and Family Partnership Model, strengthening the quality of care and relationships with families.

Looking Forward

The Possum and Hazelwood transition projects exemplify Connect's commitment to responsive, community-driven early education. By listening to families, investing in our facilities and people, and prioritising the needs of our youngest learners, we have laid a strong foundation for the future.

As we move into FY26, we remain focused on consolidating these gains, supporting our teams, and continuing to innovate for the benefit of children and families across the mid mountains.

“

“It's a happy and safe place for our kids, and they love going and being around their friends and teachers. Always something new to do and learn.”
(Hazelwood Family Survey Response 2024)



Well Done Team Bunya

When Bunya approached Connect to taken them over in February 2023, its rating was "Working Towards" National Standards. After significant effort from the team and leadership (including new Centre Director Stacey Forbes, Early Education Operations Manager Danielle Grosse, and Senior Manager Ange Gillespie), the assessor reported the team as "Meeting" National Standards, with some elements of Exceeding Standards practice. We were delighted at this outcome and confident that the team is set up to maintain and improve before the next assessment. Bunya has also led our team to engage in an intergenerational project with Springwood Neighbourhood Centre - which has brought everyone involved a lot of joy!

Possum's Patch Goes Bush

Between May and September 2025, our 2–5 year olds at Possum's Patch participated in the Bush Kindy program. Every fortnight, children and educators travelled by the Connect bus to the bush kindy site at the end of Kanimbla Valley Road, where they explored nature, embraced opportunities for adventurous play, and deepened their connection to country and each other. Each session began with our Acknowledgment of Country and over the weeks, the children learned to recognise bush medicine from tree bark, identify bush tucker plants, make ochre using rock and water (always a favourite activity), and decorate their skin. They constructed animal shelters from sticks and stones, invented dragon tales inspired by fallen tree logs, and planted bush berry seeds to watch them grow through spring. As the seasons changed from late autumn through winter to early spring, the children observed and discussed the transformations in the bush environment. The program's conclusion was met with disappointment, as reflected in Nevaeh's words: "What? There's no more bush kindy? Aww." We look forward to rekindling this experience again next year.

Community Engagement and Learning "Beyond the Preschool Gate" at Lapstone

In 2025, our preschool prioritised extending learning beyond the classroom, focusing on strong connections with local community spaces. Supported by ongoing family permissions, this approach aimed to enrich children's learning through hands-on community experiences. Key initiatives included a partnership with Lapstone Public School, active play sessions at Lapstone Oval, and nature exploration excursions to Darks

Common. These activities fostered physical wellbeing, social development, and a sense of belonging among the children. Families and educators alike provided positive feedback, noting the benefits of these real-world learning opportunities. The program highlights our commitment to community engagement and holistic early childhood education, leveraging local partnerships to broaden children's horizons and support their development in meaningful, authentic contexts.



"My child has built strong relationships with other peers as well as educators. The educators are approachable when I have concerns and they listen to those concerns and act on them accordingly."

"The warmth of the staff, the friendliness, the fun and relaxed environment. I love that they accept my child for who he is and allow him to make decisions and choices. The staff is approachable and just lovely people!"



ABOVE: Bush Kindy



**In FY25 389
children accessed
our programs,
supporting 357
families.**



Connected Abilities

Throughout the year, we continued to offer a range of NDIS-supported services designed to benefit children and their families. These services include early education specialists educators, speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and support coordination. Each year, up to 150 children are able to access and benefit from these comprehensive supports. We have also extended our program offer to include early childhood development screenings and social skill-building LEGO holiday groups. A new initiative, Speech Space, began operations in February 2025, now provides ongoing speech pathology services. Over the course of the year, we have delivered Speech Pathology services to numerous families at our Westend St office. Our Speech Pathologist, Andrew, works closely with children and their parents each week, collaborating to help them achieve their individual communication goals.



"I appreciate the unwavering support of the team, 100% of the time."

Family Feedback 2024

Cooper's Story

Cooper* joined us as one of the very first children welcomed into Speech Space. He is a curious and engaging young man whose significant communication difficulties impact his ability to join in with peers, as well as impacting his developing literacy and academics.

Over the course of the year Andrew has worked to support Cooper and his family to build skills for participation, play, communication and literacy. Sessions see Cooper joined by his parents, as well as his grandparents on occasion, supporting collaboration and skills development with the wider family.

Cooper now confidently enters each session and independently starts writing his ideas for activities on our visual timetable. Sessions explore Cooper's ability to plan and organise, build play through collaboration, extend reading and discover a love of stories. His parents have noted his increasing confidence and the skills he is building, alongside a deeper engagement with a range of books.

Speech Space services are complemented by collaboration and liaising with schools and other supporting professionals. For Cooper, this has included working with his psychologist as the family explored getting a diagnosis to better understand and support his needs. Speech Space has supported Cooper and his family through individualised and responsive supports. As the family look to understand Cooper's diagnosis and what it means for his communication, we will be there to explore neurodiverse affirming supports and grow together by responding to Cooper's communication needs.

*Not his real name



Connect Early

Our Pathways and Connect and Nurture programs provided vital early support for families with young children.

Pathways focuses on helping children aged birth to 3 access preschool and community programs, offering personalised connections, transition support, and system navigation for developmental concerns. It strengthens participation through play-based learning and collaboration with local services, ensuring families feel supported and informed.

Connect and Nurture complements this by pairing trained volunteers with families of children under three years, delivering practical in-home assistance and emotional support. This program reduces isolation, builds resilience, and promotes wellbeing during critical early years.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers whose dedication creates safe, nurturing environments and meaningful community connections.

Pathways



“Our Key worker has very good understanding of the needs of my child and helps build up skills for school transition. I also feel the key worker is very good in helping me navigate systems and other supports and checks in how I am going.”

Family Feedback 2024

Connect and Nurture



“I was not in a good place the first 6 months of motherhood and any help felt like too little, too late, then along came CAN and our volunteer and as our relationship developed, I developed too. I don’t know what we would have done without the program. I wouldn’t be the mum I am now without the warmth, the advice and the support.”

CAN Participant, 2024

“I was keen to volunteer so I could contribute in society, but I quickly found what I get back from supporting these mothers far outweighs what I’m able to give. The program can change a mother’s life but it also changed mine. I feel useful, connected and fulfilled by the support I’m able to give mothers.”

CAN Volunteer, 2024



Heatherbrae Upgrade: Creating Welcoming Spaces for Families

Heatherbrae remains a cornerstone of our Family and Community Programs, reflecting our commitment to safe, inclusive, and engaging environments for children and families. In its 11th year, Heatherbrae received a much-needed upgrade, breathing new life into this beloved space with new furniture, equipment, and thoughtful design improvements.

A Space Designed for Young Learners

Recognising that most children visiting Heatherbrae are under three years old, the upgrade focused on developmentally appropriate resources. Low and open shelving now empowers our youngest visitors to choose their own play items, fostering independence and confidence. Memory foam floor mats and soft climbing play equipment support safe exploration and physical development.

Nurturing Connection and Literacy

The redesign created cosy spaces for cuddles and storytime, with updated seating that encourages parents and carers to join children in play, indoors and outdoors. These changes have made the environment more welcoming and have strengthened opportunities for language and literacy development through shared experiences.

Functional and Flexible Storage

A new, organised storage area now houses Heatherbrae's extensive play resources. This allows for regular rotation of toys and materials, ensuring every visit offers something fresh and engaging for families. Facilitators have noted that these changes make it easier to support children's choices and interests.

Contemporary Office Space for Staff

To meet evolving administrative needs, Heatherbrae's office was redesigned to include four work desks and staff lockers, fostering a collaborative, efficient working environment for our team.

Community Feedback and Impact

Many families have responded enthusiastically, sharing that the space feels much more welcoming and friendly. Facilitators have observed that the new shelving and layout empower children to make independent choices, enhancing their sense of agency and belonging.

Heatherbrae's upgrade is more than a physical transformation, it's a renewed commitment to nurturing children's development, fostering family connections, and creating a space where everyone feels valued and empowered.

“

“Heatherbrae has allowed me to meet other mums and form lasting relationships with those in our community, it has offered valuable support and a place to come, free of judgement and surrounded by like-minded people.”

Family Feedback 2024

“I love how the Playgroup has a very warm and welcoming environment. I have seen my little one become more confident and start mingling with others, be it adults or children.”

Family Feedback 2024

Meaningful Early Support

Strengthening Early Childhood Education in Mt Druitt

Connect's partnership with the Hive's 2770 Early Educators Network, through the Western Sydney Transition to School Program, continues to make a meaningful difference for early childhood educators and the children they support. This year, our part of our collaboration focused on two key initiatives: the distribution of the 2770 Educators Book Pack and the introduction of the Circle of Security Classroom session.

Building Community and Professional Excellence

The 2770 Early Educators Network brings together Mt Druitt early childhood educators for a bi-monthly community of practice. Educators' needs shape these gatherings, the National Quality Standard (NQS), and local data. By connecting educators with subject experts and each other, the network fosters a culture of shared learning and sustained quality in early childhood environments.

Circle of Security Classroom: Deepening Emotional Support

A highlight was facilitating an introduction to the Circle of Security Classroom model. This evidence-based professional development program helps educators better understand children's emotional needs and strengthens their ability to provide secure, supportive relationships. The session encouraged educators to reflect on their own experiences and emotional responses, recognise and respond to children's cues, and explore the "Circle of Security" model, which illustrates how children move between exploring the world and seeking comfort from trusted adults.

Educators were highly engaged, asking insightful questions about accessing further training and resources, and about how the session had prompted them to reflect on their practice. The session emphasised the importance of being emotionally available and committed to children's well-being, especially during times of distress or transition.

2770 Educators Book Pack: Practical Resources for Lasting Impact

To complement the professional learning, Connect provided 50 Educator Book Packs to the network. These packs were carefully curated to include high-quality picture books and professional resources that support children's emotional well-being, resilience, and sense of belonging. The selection process prioritised materials that help educators foster strong, supportive relationships with children and families.

Contents of the Book Pack included:

- High-quality picture books such as *My Magic Breath* (Nick Ortner), *Old Friends New Friends* and *First Day* (Andrew Daddo), and *The Circles All Around Us* (Brad Montague)
- Professional resource books from *Early Childhood Australia* and *Inspired EC*



Educators expressed genuine appreciation for these resources and were eager to share them with their teams and children. The packs are part of a broader initiative to enhance professional practice, promote social-emotional learning, and facilitate smooth transitions for children entering school.

Looking Ahead

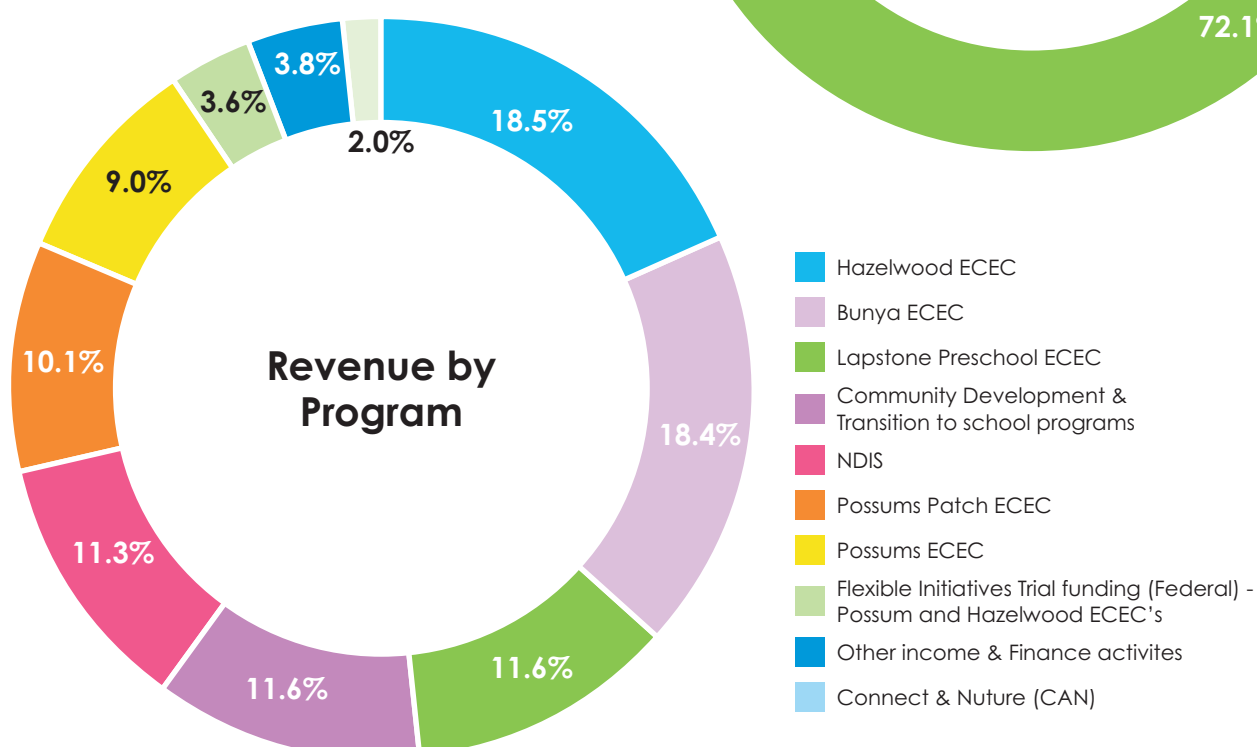
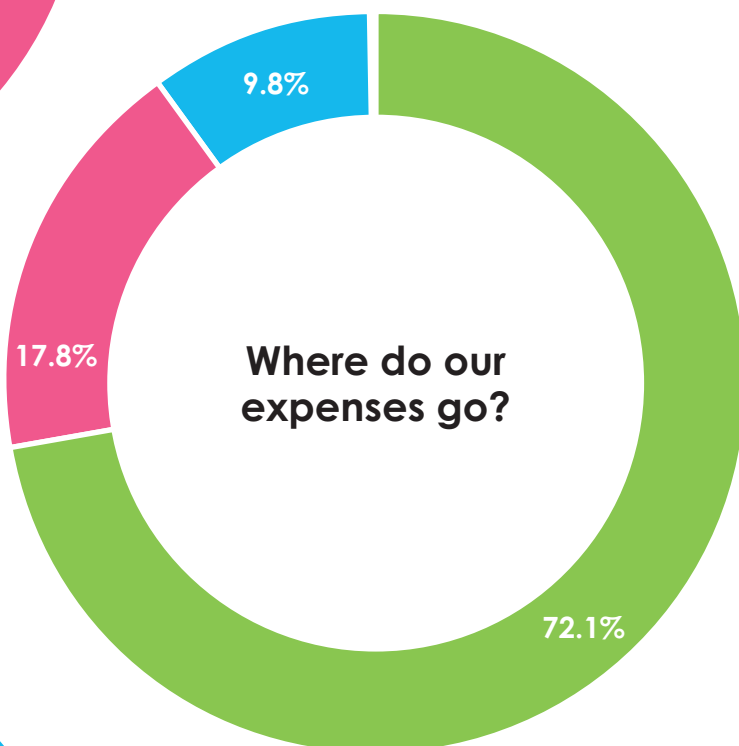
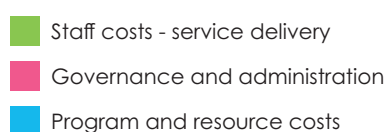
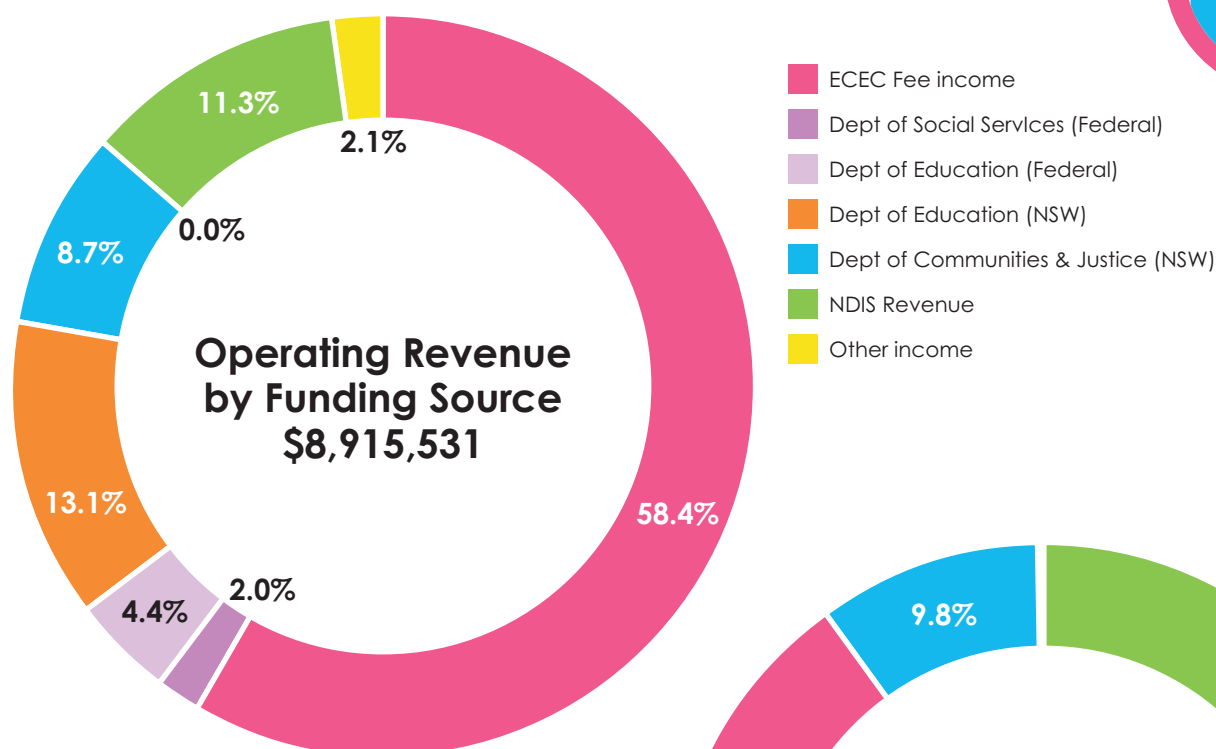
Connect is proud to support the 2770 Early Educators Network and remains committed to nurturing professional growth and quality outcomes for children in Mt Druitt. By investing in both evidence-based training and practical resources, we are helping to build a stronger, more connected community of educators, one that is equipped to meet the evolving needs of children and families.



"Thank You Leah! The Tregear Funday wouldn't have been possible without your support. We had 100 community members sign in on the day, food, fun and opportunities for community to connect with each other. This wouldn't have been the same without you!"

Lana (Community Engagement officer at the Hive) 2024

Financial Performance and Governance



In contrast to prevailing trends among not-for-profit organisations, we have achieved a surplus. This has been achieved through a disciplined approach to cost management and an expanded program offer. Expansion initiatives have resulted in increased workforce expenditures and heightened focus on workplace compliance. We have fortified our financial position and prepared ourselves to capitalise on emerging opportunities.

The Senior Action and Leadership Team with the oversight from the Board's Finance Committee, we have implemented prudent financial management practices. In response to rising payroll, compliance, and operational costs, program fees have been adjusted moderately to uphold accessibility, with additional support provided by favorable leasing terms from the Blue Mountains City Council.

All these measures have facilitated investments in staff development, technological enhancements, and innovation initiatives including automation and system upgrades. We are grateful to the team at Clear Path Accounting for their support.

Our governance has been strengthened by the addition of new Board Directors and we acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of retiring Board Directors Barbara Cuthbert and Noleen Walker, particularly in strategic planning and investment in Connect's future.

We remain committed to strategic, responsible financial management, directing resources toward our purpose. This will include continuing to apply robust budgeting, governance, and risk management frameworks and increase the use of regular performance evaluations.

To mitigate the impact of escalating expenses and static grant funding, we continue to look for improvements to our financial and reporting systems and new opportunities to grow. These enhancements increase efficiency and informed decision-making, enabling us to maintain the quality of our programs, navigate economic challenges, and achieve strategic objectives while sustaining a solid financial base. We remain hopeful that changes to the provision of funding for children to access Thriving Kids/ Foundational Supports and avoid the NDIS program, will make our work in this space more viable.



With thanks to our funders, Community partners, local politicians and community.

A big thank you to all our wonderful collaborators.

- Clear Path Accounting
- Belong Blue Mountains
- Mountain Outreach Community Services (MOCS)
- Local Public and Independent Schools
- MCR IT
- Employment Innovations
- Kate McKinnon Design
- RoseyRavelston Books
- Gateway Family Services
- Thrive Services

Our funders:

- NSW Department of Communities and Justice
- NSW Department of Education
- Federal Department of Social Services
- Federal Department of Education
- Blue Mountains City Council

We very much appreciate the support from our State Member Trish Doyle MP and our Federal Member Susan Templeman MP and our Blue Mountains City Councillors.



Children Learn What They Live

by Dorothy Law Nolte

If children live with criticism,
They learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility,
They learn to fight.

If children live with ridicule,
They learn to be shy.

If children live with shame,
They learn to feel guilty.

If children live with encouragement,
They learn confidence.

If children live with tolerance,
They learn to be patient.

If children live with praise,
They learn to appreciate.

If children live with acceptance,
They learn to love.

If children live with approval,
They learn to like themselves.

If children live with honesty,
They learn truthfulness.

If children live with security,
They learn to have faith in themselves and others.

If children live with friendliness,
They learn the world is a nice place in which to live.



Celebrating Every Child



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