



2 December 2020

Understanding Buloke Shire's children and young people

The North Central LLEN in partnership with Buloke Shire Council presented the State of Buloke's Children and Young People Report (SOBCYP) to members of the Buloke Early Years Network and other key stakeholders as part of a special ZOOM presentation earlier this week.

The development of the State of Buloke's Children and Young People Report has been a combined effort of the North Central LLEN and the Buloke Shire Council to gain a better community understanding of where Buloke's children and young people (and their families) are faring well, what community strengths can be built on, and the areas that require improvement.

According to North Central LLEN Executive Officer Jane Hosking, the Report delivers in-depth and insightful information from a large variety of respected sources to assist everyone who supports and engages with children and young people in the Buloke Shire.

"It is hoped that the State of Buloke's Children and Young People Report will widely inform resourcing, planning, data gaps and advocacy efforts to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families living in the Buloke Shire," said Ms Hosking.

Buloke Shire Council CEO Anthony Judd said the Shire was grateful for the partnership with the North Central LLEN as the data contained within the report will provide a valuable basis for determining future Council priorities.

"This report presents a broad range of data related to the key indicators of health, educational attainment and community wellbeing of Buloke children and young people (0-18 years of age)."

"It highlights both the areas in which Buloke children and young people are doing well and those which must be addressed for all of our children and young people to thrive and succeed in adulthood," said Mr Judd.

However data is only the first part of the story and is intended to be complemented and built on by a series of local discussion and community conversations to highlight the success of local service activities and examples of what is working well, to pose questions for further discussion, and provide additional interpretation of the data.

A series of 'snapshots' and summaries have been created using data from this report to facilitate these conversations, reflection and discussion and can be viewed on the North Central LLEN website together with a copy of the full report and the presentation – www.ncllen.org.au/state-of-buloke-report.html.

Ms Hosking says it takes a village to raise a child and it is hoped that these conversations will empower families and communities to be actively involved in ensuring all of Buloke's children and young people thrive.

"We hope it will evoke a sense of pride in what has been achieved, and stimulate collective responsibility for areas that need improvement," she said.

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