



7 August 2020

New Early Years Facilitator for Strong Families Strong Children Buloke Partnership

The North Central LLEN is delighted to announce that Abby Mulquiny from Charlton is the new Early Years Facilitator for the Strong Families Strong Children (SFSC) Buloke partnership which will focus on supporting children to have the best start in life.

Announcing the appointment, North Central LLEN Executive Officer Jane Hosking said that Abby brings a diverse range of skills and networks to the role, and as the parent of a young child herself, hands-on experience on how important it is to have support in the early years to ensure your child has a great start.

"SFSC Buloke recognises that it takes a village to raise a child and focuses on supporting families and children, strengthening the services available to help them, and building on our existing community capacity to ensure the benefits of the project are long lasting and sustainable," she said.

"We will use learnings from each child/family to make the service system more responsive, to develop and build on the strengths of our local workforce and support them to better meet ALL children's needs, and to advocate to create system reform," said Ms Hosking.

Mrs Mulquiny said she is excited to be taking on this role because she is extremely passionate about early childhood development and connecting communities to make this a rewarding and enriching experience for both families and children.

"SFSC Buloke gives families and children a voice, and I want to ensure that all families know about the range of support services available to assist them in their parenting role, as well as to listen to what is needed for them to feel empowered, connected and safe.

"Which is why one of my very first jobs is to undertake service mapping to identify exactly what services are available, as well as have conversations with parents and carers to identify any gaps that we need to look to fill," she said.

"I am really looking forward to working with Playgroups, Early Years educators and other Community Champions to create a positive ripple effect so that every child in Buloke Shire is supported to achieve what they want in life," said Ms Mulquiny.

A priority of SFSC Buloke is to improve family knowledge and confidence to access the support they need - when they need it - and to know what services are available to them. To help with this, a dedicated Facebook page has been established which families are being encouraged to follow – www.facebook.com/sfscbuloke.

The SFSC Buloke Partnership is being led/facilitated by the North Central LLEN, Buloke Shire Council, and supported by a network of Buloke Early Years educators, health, education, and community sector representatives and is being funded through a grant from the Helen MacPherson Smith Trust.

It will also work alongside the established SFSC Loddon Partnership that is funded by the William Buckland Foundation.

For more information about the SFSC Buloke program visit www.ncllen.org.au or contact Abby Mulquiny on 0488 318 757 or by email to a.mulquiny@ncllen.org.au.

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