

1–2 November 2016, Katherine
STRONGER COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN

KNOWLEDGE SHARING SEMINAR



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Sharing our journeys, challenges and successes



Stronger Communities for Children Facilitating Partners, Local Community Board Members, PM&C representatives and QSSP members met together in Katherine to share stories of their SCfC journeys, challenges and successes. We had great representation from community sites and stakeholders, and valuable learning exchanges took place over the two days of the seminar.

Maureen Abbott and Sharon Forrester from Ninti One led groups through some practical sessions aimed at reinforcing some of basics of the SCfC model. SCfC Program Evaluators Noel Niddrie and Kylie Brosnan joined us to explain the path forward for the upcoming SCfC Evaluation. External presentation was provided by Strongbala Mens Health Program and the Save the Children's Play2Learn Program.

We thank everyone who made the time and effort to make the trip to Katherine, and for your contributions over the two days which have added richness to the understanding of experience across the board. We look forward to seeing you at the next Knowledge Sharing Seminar in Alice Springs in 2017!

'SCfC is the chance to innovate and create from a community perspective.'*

* From Galiwinku

Talk' fest

Day 1 Session 1

Objective:

To provide an opportunity for as many participants as possible to meet each other develop a quick relationship that they could continue throughout the seminar and beyond.

Responses:

Galiwinku

Conversations went well to hear about other communities, support and encouragement of each of the communities who should stand up and support each other because these young kids are the leaders of the future.

Gunbalanya

We have different ways of what we are doing so it is important to share the ideas of what is happening in each community.

Lajamanu

Getting to know more about activities, seminars like this is really helpful to get advise. Ntaria highlighted that Lajamanu had good male representation on our board.

Maningrida

It's important things happen in the community. Good to come together as one and share the journey.

Ntaria

Got the idea from JSS about Cyber Bullying programs. Learned other good ideas around trying to get the project working.





Want to get ideas from other communities to get the program going. We are trying to make the program fun and lively and have more men participate.

Ngukurr

We learned how the programs connect to other groups in the community rather than by themselves. Community driven programs really help communities move forward, gaining some achievements on the way. We talked about how communities put their hands together to make a program for kids at night – a program

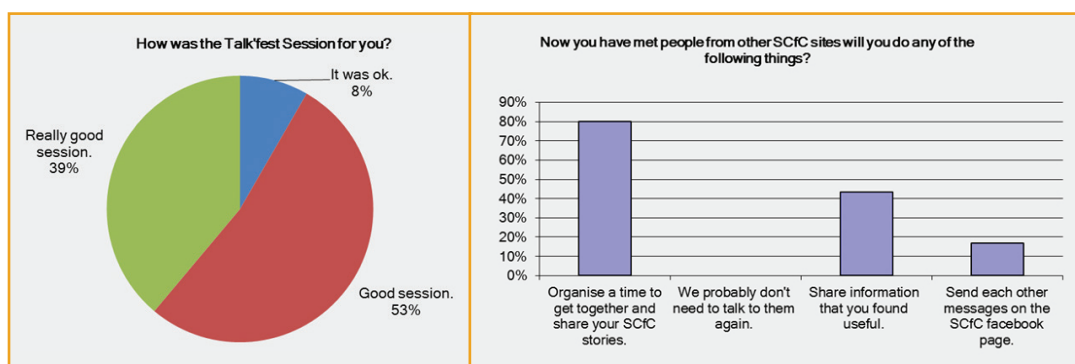
that they would like to add to their SCfC activity plan.

There were some interesting issues and ideas to make Ngukurr programs better. There are little gaps in SCfC future for children in their community. Help fill the gaps to make programs feel better.

Plenty Hwy

Nice to hear that it is not just us being faced with the challenges. Wants to extend on similarities and challenges and how other groups have got through them.

Survey Results:



The SCfC Journey

Day 1 Session 2

Objective:

To open up discussion around the key steps the SCfC program and for each community group to discuss and explore where on this journey they currently see themselves.

Start Up Phase, Dashboards, Community Planning, Secure Specialist Information, Implement Services and Activities, Strengthen Local Governance, Framework for Measuring Change, Data Collection for Measuring Change, an Effective Local SCfC Board.

Responses:

Galiwinku – Framework for Measuring Change

Things are continuous and go through cycles of experience. Monitoring is ongoing and endless. Capacity development of Yolgnu staff is a big challenge each year, and training and mentoring is a big focus at this point. SCfC is an opportunity to build this.

Wadeye – Implementing Services and Delivering Activities

Not getting the data they needed as subcontractors are not collecting the information that is needed. Community planning is ongoing. They are becoming more informed and the program is being driven and owned by the community which is a real strength.





Ngukurr – Strengthen Local Governance for SCfC

Want to get all local Ngukurr mob together to look at their local and cultural government, then have other government come in and support.

Santa Teresa – Community Planning

How do they make their old ideas new?

Lajamanu – Implementing Services and Delivering Activities

Have an important priority list.

Faced challenges procuring subcontracts, planning and getting it signed off on.

Gunbalanya – Data Collection for Measuring Change

A lot of steps cross over.

You rush through the first few steps just to get started.

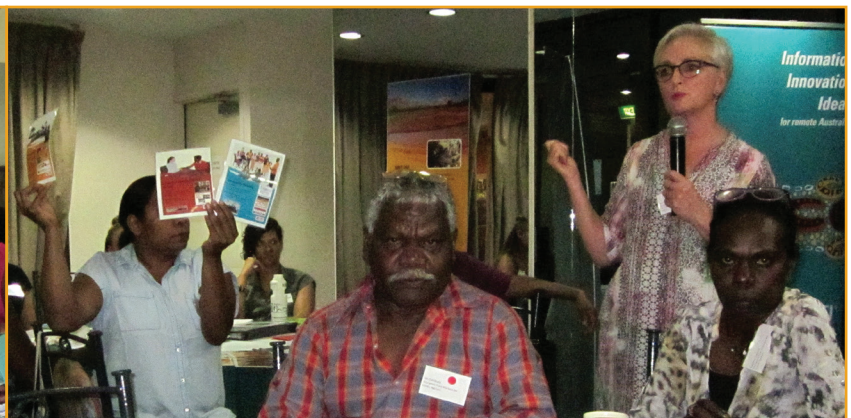
Maningrida – Framework for Measuring Change

People recognise what we are doing on the ground. We need to run activities, support each other, looking at the future.

Ntaria – Data Collection for Measuring Change

Some of the roles in the stages belong to the SCfC Staff, and some belong to the Leaders Group.

Planning is the job of the community members. Joint space is the monitoring space.



Dealing with Violence

Day 1 Session 3

Objective:

To open up discussion about dealing with Domestic Violence.

Description:

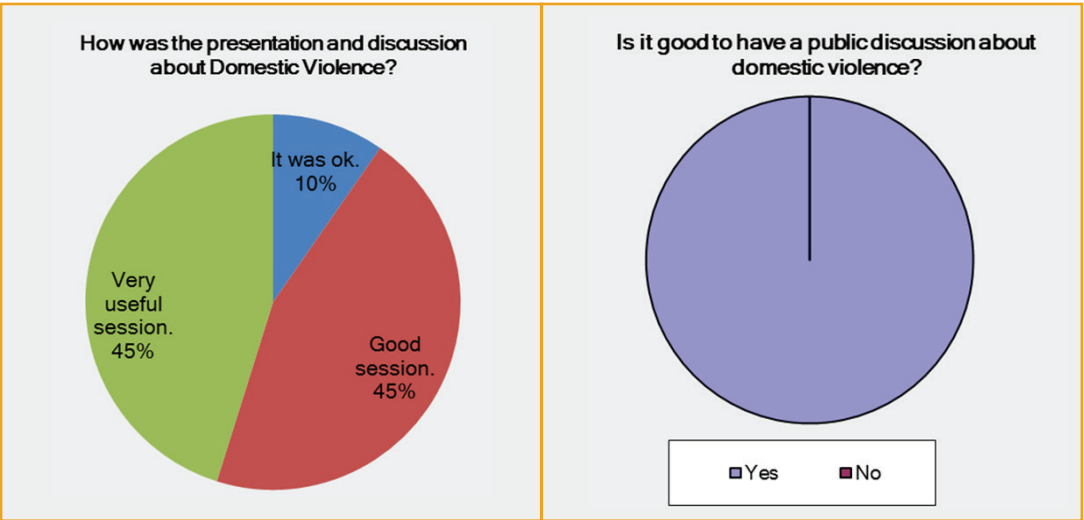
Andy Blaney and representatives from the Strongbala Men's Program in Katherine talked about their program and offered some advice on how to get men talking about violence.

Key Messages or Learnings:

- » Men in the Katherine community are driving the response to domestic violence.
- » If men don't change for themselves ultimately they will reoffend. They need to change for themselves, not for their partner, their kids, their court order etc.
- » Adopting a "third" person position to discuss the perpetration of violence is often beneficial in the beginning process. This provides the opportunity to explore the use of violence and explain it in the context of why the "other" individual would react and respond the way they did or have done in the past without attributing blame.
- » The Strongbala wellbeing unit deals with trauma, stolen generation trauma – they try to identify every need and then refer out.
- » Men have to take responsibility of their behaviour – they're often unable to talk about it.



Survey Results:



Local Stories about the SCfC Journey

Day 1 Session 4

Objective:

SCfC Communities were asked to share stories about their SCfC Journeys and reflect on learnings. Ngukurr and Gunbalanya presented.

Responses:

Ngukurr Strongbala Pipul Wanbala Bois Komiti

‘We want the knowledge to be expressed, Ngukurr LCB is based on our clan system, and it’s about strong community. Our moiety structure is our governance structure, we have roles and responsibilities to our people and our community, and we want to teach this to our community.’

‘One Voice working together with indigenous and non-indigenous, understanding both cultures, western governance, our governance – carry on our forefathers.’

Gunbalanya Karrimud Rowk

‘Once we got the program rolling, instead of going out there people started coming to us with their plans.’

‘For our future, for our kids, we are all listening and learning from each other. It’s good that we are going forward. Kids are our future from now on, so we gotta look forward and not look back. Karrimud Rowk means one family. All different clan groups and tribes been in Gunbalanya long time but they’re all connected and are all family.’



PM&C Evaluation Session

Day 1 Session 5

Objective:

To meet the Evaluation team chosen to conduct the SCfC Program evaluation and discuss about the details of the logic and approach.

Description:

Linda Ivatts talked a bit about the theory and logic behind the SCfC Evaluation. Noel and Kylie explained what they do and how they work, fielded questions from the audience about the evaluation.

About the evaluation:

This evaluation will examine implementation of the SCfC Program over the period 2013–2016 and assess progress towards SCfC outcomes.

The grounded theory that has been incorporated is:

- » Realist evaluation (how does it work?)
- » Immediate and intermediate outcome evaluation (what changes are we starting to see?)

- » Implementation review (is what we are doing what we said we would do, what has been done and can it be done better, what learnings can we share?)

The evaluation will use an action research-action learning approach, in line with the community-driven principles inherent in the programme. Broad goals of the evaluation are to:

- » **Clarify the theory of change**
- » **Review the model**
- » **Evidence causal pathways and mechanisms of change for immediate and intermediate outcomes.**



Good Decision Making

Day 2 Session 1

Objective:

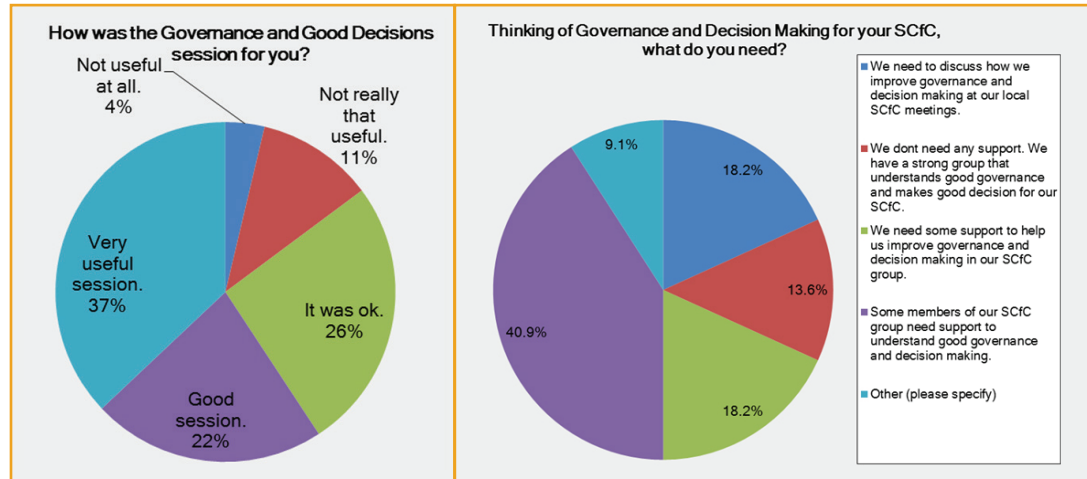
To open up discussion about good decision making and the generally accepted steps to running a good meeting.

Description:

A general meeting of all participants of the seminar was called and the basic steps to conducting a good meeting in which decisions can be made fairly and openly were discussed.



Survey Results:



Save the Children Play2Learn

Day 2 Session 2

Save the Children in Katherine are the community partner for the Smith Family's Communities for Children early Childhood Play2Learn program.

Bev Patterson from Save the Children joined us to share knowledge around evidence informed practice within the Play2Learn Program.

Key Learnings:

- » Developmental changes have been tracked through the Play2 Learn program, predominantly using staff observations.
- » It is important to keep revisiting and re-evaluating the program.
- » Getting recognised as an evidence based program is the starting point, but ensuring that you are looking and revisiting that it is still relevant for the community that you're working with.
- » Evidence based programs have to have a very strong framework, like bones, flexible enough to fit in all places, to also say what it is achieving.

Evidence
Based
Programs



Evidence Based Decisions

Day 2 Session 3



Bonnie Moss from Menzies School of Health Research talked to us about the building blocks for children's health and a good start in life, and showcased Maningridas approach.

Key Learnings:

What things might build a strong foundation for a good life for kids?

- » Born and grow up healthy
- » Material basics for a good life
- » Feeling loved and safe
- » Learning and participating
- » Strong in culture and identity
- » Next generation have knowledge and skills to give their children a good life and build strong community

Maningrida:

- » Hit the road running with the SCfC program
- » Kids are the centre of the universe – this is the way they look at their programs
- » They focus on a baby before it is even born



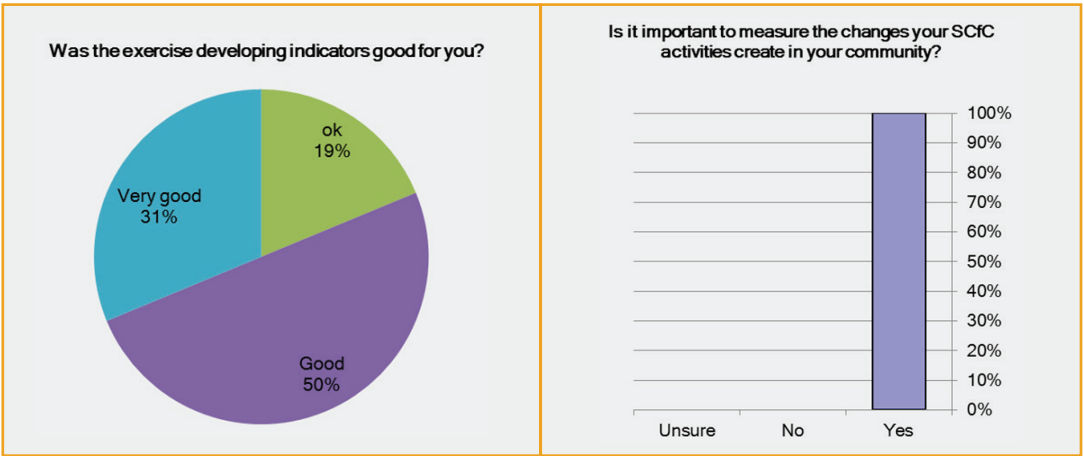
Measuring Change

Objective:

To assist participants to discuss and explore how they might develop mechanisms to measure the changes or impacts the activities they are delivering create within their community.

Activity Detail			Performance measurement	
Activity Name <small>Choose from your plan or an activity you wish to plan.</small>	Key Priorities <small>(from your plan)</small>	SCfC Outcomes <small>Tick which SCfC Outcome this activity will address.</small>	Indicator <small>Decide what can be measured to prove activity is working as planned.</small>	How indicator will be measured
		<div><input type="checkbox"/> Safer families and communities.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Support the nurturing of young children.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Provide children, young people and families opportunities for participation in cultural events.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Support children to be school ready.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Support young people to attend school and gain an education.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Build community capacity of indigenous organisations to deliver these services.</div>		

Survey Results:



Sharing Knowledge on Activities, Challenges and Programs

Day 2 Session 4



Lajamanu Jarui Jinta

'The boards name is Jarui Jinta, meaning one voice. We want to create a safe and stronger place. On the board is 10 women and 5 men.'

'It is time for our young people to step up and take care of the community.'

'It is important to try and introduce kids to new things, providing more options than just AFL. It's best to have a healthy lifestyle. Busy kids stay out of trouble.'

'Our kids need support and role models – supporting kids for what they want to be. But the saddest part is the opportunity doesn't meet the dream. And the role models don't exist, like doctors and lawyers. Only Western visitor's are the ones in these roles not the community.'

Santa Teresa Local Advisory Committee

Challenges – the program grew really fast in a short period of time.

AAAC there were issues with the divorce of power and accountability.

Community became fatigued of the program. Now because of issues they have 2 years of funding to spend in one year which is risky.

With the renewal of the board there is a really clear effort to clarify roles and expectations.

What has happened to the Santa Teresa board can happen to any board at any time.

What is one thing you took away from the Knowledge Sharing Seminar?

Money management	Planting the seed and making it grow – Education, role models assist them to grow
Taking minutes	
CEO positions	Coordinating and linking services to ensure they deliver for children
Governance	Relationships and sharing the challenges
Measurement – Measuring the good work in programs	Two way monitoring and evaluation
Groups visiting each other to share and learn	Working with our kids – motivating
Good to hear other community stories about SCfC	Taking the ideas back to our community – sharing ideas
Young leader learning from elders	Addressing issues with Short Term Contracts

Strengths:

- » Positive local Community boards driving SCfC program/activities
- » Strength of culture and identity in SCfC communities
- » Strength of individual board members
- » Valuable knowledge bases – local perspectives and voices
- » Can balance both cultures (Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal)
- » SCfC boards becoming more informed about what is needed for their communities
- » Being part of a 'bigger picture' SCfC program that has assisted learning and growing SCfCs in communities
- » Strengthening Local Governance

Challenges:

- » Connection to other programs in the community e.g... school, youth programs, sport
- » Monitoring programs/activities – Evaluations
- » Underlying stories unable to be documented and reflected back to PM&C
- » Communities perpetually operating in two different worlds
- » Can be difficult engaging boards in communities
- » Not having a community based SCfC office/space
- » Understanding government barriers and approval practices of planned community initiated programs/activities.

What is one thing you took away from the Knowledge Sharing Seminar? *continued*

Challenges (continued):

- » Procuring subcontracts; including planning, implementation and finalisation.
- » Seeing so many programs being cut off half way.

Opportunities:

- » Using existing strengths, services, relationships and systems in community.
- » Capacity development of Aboriginal staff and building on this development.
- » SCfC is a chance to be innovative and creative from the community perspective.
- » Mapping or joining the dots between services being funded in community. What is PM&C funding in the community already?
- » Getting local community men involved with SCfC boards and programs/activities.
- » Community and other service providers working closer together.
- » SCfC leadership in communities.
- » Governance support – reflecting traditional and mainstream two governance models working together.
- » Reinforce Culture: Two-way learning – young and old together.

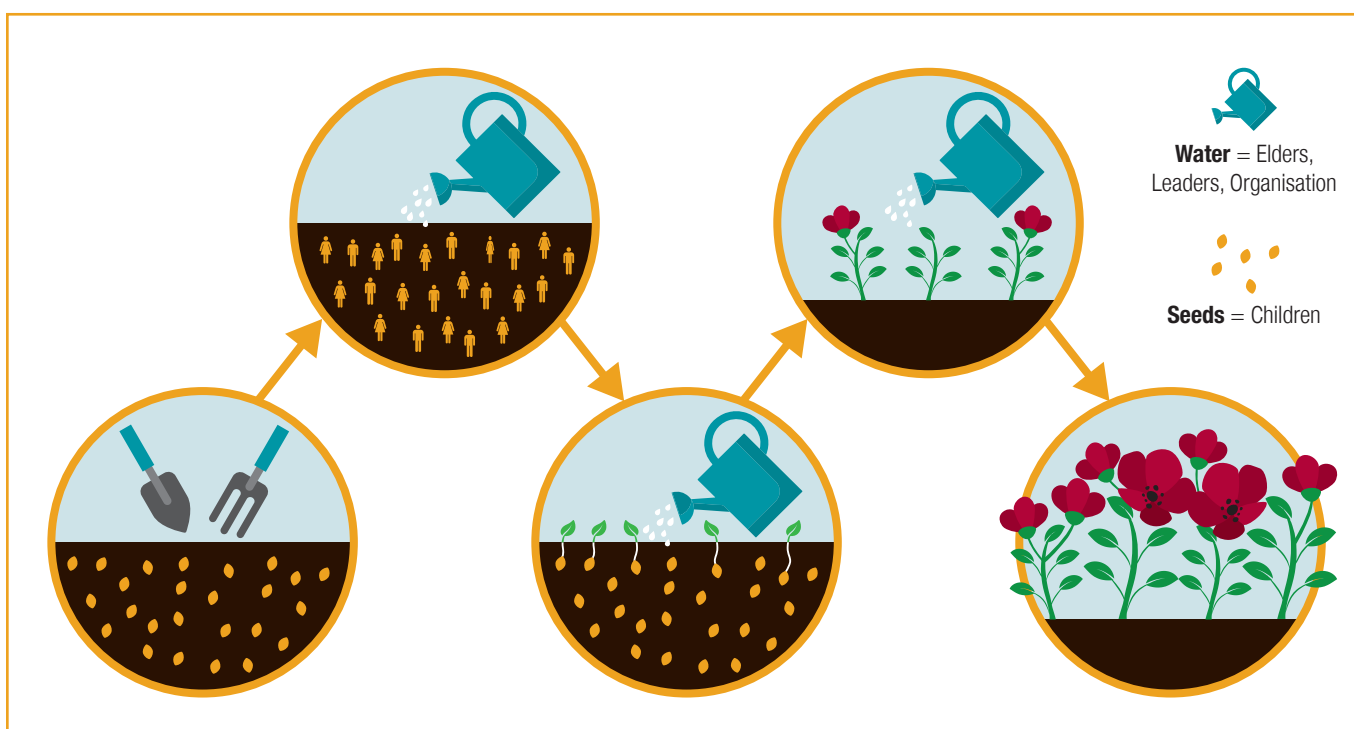
Risks:

- » Facilitating partner not present in community (also one of the Challenges).
- » Staff change overs generally with PM&C, FPs and QSSP. Knowledge leaving the communities with staff change overs.
- » SCfC Program/Project Managers/ Coordinators juggling different roles and not having enough time to do things properly for SCfC.
- » Gaps in governance at the local level – different in community context compared to mainstream practices.
- » How much flexibility is there in SCFC decision making groups?
- » Board members juggling different hats.
- » Boards being fatigued by all the talking and lack of activities.
- » How SCfC programs connect to other groups in the community.
- » Capacity to deliver SCfC activities in community.
- » Planning for the future – short term programs/projects not going to work.

Expectations:

- » Non-Aboriginal respecting that community is perpetually operating in two different worlds.
- » An ability to learn two ways – can balance both cultures (Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal).
- » Keeping SCfC focus on all children in the community.
- » Employment and training for people in community.
- » Guidelines for FP's partnering with NGOs to run SCfC programs... e.g. Galiwin'ku.
- » Importance of collaboration for all service delivery in communities.
- » Importance of commitment and involvement for SCfC program/activities in communities.
- » Governance training – reflect community context.
- » Evaluation/Measuring Change guidance and training.
- » Knowing the different stages of the SCfC journey – would've helped understand the model better.

Diagram of the SCfC program 'Growing the Seed' by Ammeretta Wesan, Indigenous Engagement Officer in Ngukurr



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