

# RuralCONNECT

## REPORT CARD

Supporting  
remote families  
and their  
children in far  
western NSW



## Wanaaring Child and Family Fun Day

The Wanaaring Family Fun Day was conducted on Wednesday 21 June 2023 at the Paroo Contact Children's Mobile facility, Vicary Street Wanaaring.

The relaxed and fun filled day was designed to:

- Connect children, families, and community members with Hearing Australia, Dr Camilla Gordon, Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern Section (RFDS SE) Child and Family Nurse and Mental Health professionals and the Bourke and District Children's Services-Mobile.
- Provide avenues for children and adults to access hearing health checks and engage in physics, gravity, and astronomy activities, in addition to accessing early childhood activities.
- Create opportunities to connect isolated children, their families and community members with others in the region, to further build a sense of community and belonging.
- Promote a range of support services and facilitate links to build families knowledge of services and programs available to them.
- Provide opportunities to listen to the needs and issues impacting on regional isolated children, families, and communities, consider ways to further adapt programs to respond to families' requirements, and communicate these as appropriate to policy makers.







## Key Outcomes

Event coordinated in partnership with RFDS SE (Mental Health team), Wanaaring P&C, Wanaaring Public School, Hearing Australia and Bourke and District Children's Services Mobile.

The day was conducted from 10am to 2.00pm at the Paroo Contact Children's Mobile facility, Vicary Street Wanaaring to complement regular Royal Flying Doctor Service SE Clinic (RFDS SE) located in the immediate area, thus enabling an ability for participants to attend both the day's activities and the clinic as required.

Bourke and District Mobile Children's Service attended and provided a range of early childhood activities, and the younger children also joined in the science activities.

Camilla Gordon shared a wealth of experience and hands on fun astronomy, gravity, physics, and energy science activities for children of all ages to enjoy together with their families, teachers and interested adults.





A planned evening walk to look at the night sky, stars, and planets on Tuesday 20 June. 6-7pm did not proceed due to heavy cloud cover across the sky.

Karen Rae from Hearing Australia set up in inside the Paroo Contact Children's Mobile facility providing hearing health checks throughout the event.

The ability to meet Hearing Australia representatives, and access preliminary Hearing screening services was appreciated by all in attendance.

Follow-on hearing appraisal immediate actions were enacted as required for some attendees, including immediate follow up appointments/referral to the adjacent RFDS SE Clinic for medical interventions or recommendations for further medical or audiometrist assessments.

RFDS-SE representatives – Lesley Harvey and Ali Lloyd (Mental Health Child and Family) and Robyn Fidge (Primary Health – Child and Family Nurse) attended and joined in throughout the day.





Wanaaring Public School Children and staff attended up until 11.30 am with the children and teaching staff actively engaged and enjoying the science focused activities.

Needs assessment surveys were made available relating to opportunities for three adult skilling or special interest training that will be made available for Wanaaring in the next six months. The Survey is also being promoted to the region through social media and copies will also be available at the Wanaaring Post Office. These proposed events will be funded through a Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal grant secured by Contact.

An estimated 36 people inclusive of children, families, community members and agency representatives were in attendance during the day. (Based on attendance sign-in sheet and progressive counts during the day). Additional attendees also informally dropped in throughout the day.

Positive feedback received from attendees valuing the opportunity to come together for a relaxed and informative day and to have access to the specialised skills that were made





available at the event.

Delicious morning teas and the luncheon catering supplied by Wanaaring Public School Parents and Citizens Association.

Accommodation provided via the Wanaaring Store and Caravan Park and privately for Contact, Hearing Australia, and Camilla Gordon.

Six (6) Agencies were represented in the day – Wanaaring Public School, Wanaaring Public School P&C, Bourke, and District Children's Services - Mobile, RFDS SE, Hearing Australia, and Contact Inc.

This event was made possible through the support of Hearing Australia, NSW State Government through Ministry of Health, and the donated travel assistance by Martin Daniell. Contact and RFDS SE acknowledge in appreciation this assistance.

Thank you sincerely to all involved for your valued support throughout that greatly contributed towards these positive results for children, families, and community members from the Wanaaring region.



