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REPORT CARD

Supporting
remote families
and their
children in far
western NSW



Louth

Child and Family Fun Day

The Louth Family Fun Day was conducted on Wednesday, May 2023 at two venues – the Louth Tennis Shed and the adjacent Louth Public School in Hughes Street, Louth.

The relaxed and fun filled day was designed to:

- Connect children, families, and community members with Hearing Australia, Jane Carroll Children's Author, Emily Armstrong from Saltbush Stretch and the Bourke and District Children's Services- Mobile.
- Provide avenues for children and adults to access hearing health checks, engage in a children's writing workshop, in addition to yoga flow, meditation sessions and 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.



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Key Outcomes

1. Event coordinated in partnership with RFDS SE (Mental Health team), Louth Public School, Hearing Australia, Saltbush Stretch, Jane Carroll and Bourke and District Children's Services Mobile.
2. The day was conducted from 10.00am to 2.00pm at the Louth Tennis Shed and The Louth Public to complement a regular Royal Flying Doctor Service SE Clinic (RFDS SE) located in the immediate area to the Tennis Shed, thus enabling an ability for participants to attend both the fun day and the clinic as required.
3. Children and staff from them Louth Public School attended and actively participated in all aspects of the program.
4. Children and families attended from the surrounding region including one family from the Enngonia region.
5. Estimated 46+ people inclusive of children and families, community members and agency representatives (based on attendance sign-in sheet and progressive counts during the day).



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- 6 A range of early childhood activities were provided by Bourke and District Children's Services – Mobile using the Tennis Shed outdoor environment.
7. Jane Carroll conducted a children's writing workshop at the Louth Public School from 10.15 am to 1pm.
8. Emily Armstrong offered outdoor yoga flow and mediation sessions for the children at the school prior to the writing workshop (10.00 am to 10.15am), then a 15-minute presentation, followed by a yoga flow mediation session (12.15 to 1pm) at the Tennis Shed.
9. Karen Rae from Hearing Australia set up a stand in the Tennis Shed with free take home items for children and adults, as well as providing hearing health checks throughout the event.
 - Access to preliminary Hearing Australia screening services appreciated by all in attendance.
 - Follow up hearing health actions enacted including recommendations for medical interventions and/or referrals or additional audio metrist assessments a to obtain hearing aids.
 - Initial consideration to further build on evidenced hearing health needs though a range of draft ideas such as future further visits by Hearing Australia representatives and/or examining options for add on approaches to reach people that may not have been able to attend the 17 May event.
10. Follow on video link avenues for the Louth Public School, and the children who attended the writing workshop to continue links with Jane Carroll and similarly for follow up connections with Emily Armstrong for interested parties to be enacted.



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11. Positive feedback received throughout with children, families and agencies valuing the opportunity to come together for a relaxed and fun filled day and to have access to the specialised skills that were made available at the event.
12. Delicious morning teas and the luncheon catering supplied by Louth Chamber of Commerce.
13. Accommodation provided via Trilby Station for Contact, Hearing Australia, Jane Carroll and Emily Armstrong. In addition, RFDS SE Child and Family Mental Health team member accommodated in Louth.
14. Eight (8) Agencies were represented in the day – Louth Public School, Louth Chamber of Commerce, Bourke, and District Children’s Services - Mobile, RFDS SE (Child and Family Play Therapist and Drug, Alcohol, Mental Health team), ICPA Louth Branch, Hearing Australia, Salt Bush Stretch and Contact Inc.
15. This event was made possible through the support of Hearing Australia, The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) Tackling Tough Times Together grant, NSW State Government through the Ministry of Health, and the donated Contact travel arrangements 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, community members and agencies from the Louth and beyond region.

