



What is the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters?

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is a two year home based parenting and early childhood learning programme that empowers parents and carers to be their child's first teacher. The programme builds the confidence and skills of parents and carers to create a positive learning environment to prepare their child for school. The programme also offers some parents and carers a supported pathway to employment and local community leadership.

More than \$100 million has been committed to HIPPY to support continuing programme delivery in the first 50 locations and expand the programme to an additional 50 locations, with a focus on delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. The first 25 of the additional 50 locations have been selected and will commence programme delivery in 2014. Planning is underway to identify the remaining 25 new locations and once fully implemented, HIPPY will operate in 100 communities across Australia.

How does the programme work?

Parents and their children enrol in the programme in the year before the child commences formal school and participate for two years. The programme activities are designed to be integrated into the daily life of the family. The first year of the programme provides children with activities which support pre literacy and pre numeracy skills. The second year extends these activities and provides parents with additional information about children's learning and development.

Each programme location is staffed by a tertiary qualified coordinator and a team of home tutors. The home tutors are usually past or current parents participating in the programme who live in the local community. Home tutors are paid employees and receive training and support from the coordinator.

Home tutors schedule regular visits with parents to work through the programme activities in the family's home. Parents are also encouraged to participate in regular parent group meetings. Role-play is the usual method used by home tutors to facilitate the understanding of the parents about how to do the activities.

What benefits does the programme deliver?

The programme supports positive parental influences by developing foundations for learning and providing parents with confidence and skills to contribute to their child's learning environment.

Benefits for children -

- Encourages a love of learning.
- Maximises chances of enjoyment and doing well at school.
- Promotes language and listening skills and develops concentration.
- Builds self-esteem and confidence in learning.
- Improves communication between parents and children.

Benefits for families -

- Helps create a learning environment at home.
- Increases parents' knowledge of child development and the way children learn.



- Provides parents with opportunities to enjoy positive time with their children.
- Enables parents to be actively involved in their children's education.
- Supports parents to meet regularly and promotes a sense of inclusion and connectedness with their community.
- Increases parents' self-confidence.
- Has an overall positive impact on family relationships.
- Creates employment and training opportunities.

What is the role of the Brotherhood of St Laurence?

The Brotherhood of St Laurence, through HIPPY Australia, has exclusive licensing rights from HIPPY International to run the programme in Australia. The Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) has sub-licence arrangements with other not-for-profit organisations (programme providers) to deliver HIPPY to selected communities.

What does the funding enable?

Programme providers receive funding to support key elements of the programme including:

- the employment and training of tutors and local co-ordinators;
- local operating costs; and
- programme materials.

Where did the programme originate?

HIPPY began as a research project in Israel in 1969. The programme currently operates in the United States, Germany, Austria, South Africa, Canada, El Salvador, Italy, Australia and New Zealand.

In 1998, BSL established the first Australian programme in the City of Yarra, Victoria. Over the next decade BSL partnered with other not-for-profit, local organisations across Victoria, Tasmania and NSW to deliver HIPPY in a total of nine locations.

How can I become involved?

There is no cost to families participating in the programme. Parents and carers can contact the programme providers in their community or HIPPY Australia to find out more information about the programme and how to participate.

Contact HIPPY Australia through their website at www.hippyaustralia.org.au or phone (03) 9445 2400.



Where is HIPPY currently being delivered?

HIPPY is targeted at disadvantaged areas with a high proportion of families with young children. A range of factors are considered when identifying HIPPY communities such as Census information, Australian Early Development Index results, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas data and the Australian Standard Geographical Classification.

National implementation (with Australian Government funding) saw HIPPY expanded to a total of 50 communities between 2009 and 2011, including the original nine locations established by BSL from 1998. Thirteen HIPPY communities commenced delivery in both 2009 and 2010 with an additional 15 commencing delivery in 2011.

Attachment A provides details of the location of the first 50 communities and the associated programme provider.

Is the programme currently delivered to Indigenous communities?

In 2010 the programme was established in two Indigenous specific communities in the remote locations of Katherine (Northern Territory) and Pioneer (Mt Isa, Queensland). In addition, a number of the first 50 HIPPY locations enrol a high number of Indigenous families, for example HIPPY Inala, HIPPY La Perouse and HIPPY Alice Springs. The first 25 of the 50 communities targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families commence programme delivery in 2014.

How will the additional 50 communities be selected?

In 2013 the first 25 new HIPPY communities were selected to commence programme delivery in 2014. Attachment B provides details of the location of these communities and the associated programme provider.

A process to select the remaining 25 new HIPPY communities is currently underway and further information can be located on the Department of Education website at www.education.gov.au/hippy.

The selection of the remaining communities is a two staged process. During stage one, communities were invited to nominate for HIPPY to be delivered in their community from 2015. Potential communities were then shortlisted to participate in information sessions, facilitated by HIPPY Australia (stage two).

Community selection is determined by the assessment of potential communities against a number of selection criteria and other considerations.

Stage one criteria specify that communities must have -

- A minimum population of 100 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander 0-4 year olds.
- A strong need for an early childhood programme.
- A not-for-profit programme provider who will deliver the programme or the ability to source a suitable provider.



Stage two considerations include (but may not be limited to) -

- The ability of the community to participate in the programme in line with the HIPPY model.
- Strong community support for HIPPY.
- Factors that may influence the success of HIPPY delivery in the community.

The department will use a range of data and information to assess a community's ability to meet the above criteria and considerations including 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 0-4 population counts; 2012 Australian Early Development Index results, 2011 Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas data, Australian Standard Geographical Classification data, other early childhood, education and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programmes currently operating in the community, and information collected by HIPPY Australia during the information sessions conducted in the shortlisted communities (stage two).

How are HIPPY programme providers selected?

Once communities are identified, BSL undertake a separate competitive selection process to identify suitable programme providers to deliver HIPPY. Further information on programme providers is available on the HIPPY Australia website.

Has the programme been evaluated?

In November 2011, an evaluation of the national rollout of HIPPY was commissioned - *Investing in Our Future*, undertaken by the Monash University. To view the evaluation report, visit the HIPPY Australia website.

Jurisdictional Roll-out

The jurisdictional distribution of HIPPY communities is provided below.

State	2009	2010	2011	2013	Total
NSW	3	5	5	8	21
VIC	6	2	4	3	15
QLD	2	3	3	7	15
SA	1	2	2	3	8
WA	2	0	1	3	6
TAS	6	0	0	0	6
NT	1	1	0	1	3
ACT	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	22	13	15	25	75



Attachment A

The first 50 HIPPY communities

State	Communities	Programme Provider
NSW	Ashmont	Anglicare
NSW	Bidwill	UnitingCare Burnside
NSW	Bowenfels	Centacare Bathurst
NSW	Cabramatta	Learning Links
NSW	Claymore	Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative Ltd
NSW	Fairfield (includes East Fairfield and Villawood)	UnitingCare Burnside
NSW	La Perouse	Gujaga MACS
NSW	North Dubbo	Centacare Bathurst
NSW	Nowra	Nowra Support Services
NSW	Riverwood	Learning Links
NSW	Warrawong	Barnardos Australia
NSW	West Tamworth	Tamworth Family Support Services
NSW	Windale	JobQuest
VIC	Braybrook	Western Region Health Centre
VIC	Colac	Glastonbury Community Services
VIC	Dallas/Broadmeadows	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Dandenong	South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre
VIC	Fitzroy	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Frankston North	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Geelong	Glastonbury Community Services
VIC	Long Gully / California Gully	St Luke's Anglicare Ltd
VIC	Moonee Valley	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Moreland	Merri Community Health Services Inc
VIC	Robinvale	Robinvale Community Health
VIC	Winchelsea	Glastonbury Community Services
QLD	Caboolture	Australian Red Cross Society
QLD	Inala	Inala Indigenous Health Service



QLD	Logan Central	Kingston Eastern Neighbourhood Group
QLD	Manoora	Playgroup Queensland
QLD	Mount Morgan	Australian Red Cross Society
QLD	Pioneer	Centacare Townsville
QLD	Riverview	Playgroup Queensland
QLD	West Ipswich (includes Leichhardt and One Mile)	Australian Red Cross Society
SA	Davoren Park	Novita Children's Services
SA	Elizabeth Grove	Anglicare SA
SA	Mansfield Park	Novita Children's Services
SA	Salisbury North	Novita Children's Services
SA	Whyalla Stuart	UnitingCare Wesley Country SA
WA	East Geraldton (includes Rangeway, Karloo and Utakarra)	Child Australia
WA	Girrawheen	Ngala Community Services
WA	Rockingham	Ngala Community Services
TAS	Burnie	Rural Health Tasmania Inc
TAS	Clarendon Vale	Colony 47
TAS	Launceston	Anglicare Tasmania
TAS	West Coast	Rural Health Tasmania Inc
TAS	Sheffield	Kentish Regional Clinic Inc
TAS	Smithton	Rural Health Tasmania Inc
NT	Alice Springs	Yipirinya School Council Incorporated
NT	Katherine (SLA)	Anglicare NT
ACT	Charnwood	Uniting Care Kippax



Attachment B

The first 25 additional HIPPY communities focussing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

State	Communities	Programme Provider
NSW	Albury/Wodonga	Gateway Community Health
NSW	Armidale	Armidale Family Support Service
NSW	Broken Hill	Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation
NSW	Moree	Miyay Birray
NSW	Orange	CareWest
NSW	Raymond Terrace/Port Stephens	Port Stephens Family Support Services
NSW	Wellington	Barnardos
NSW	Willmot/Shalvey/Emerton/Hebersham	Catholic Care Social Services
QLD	Bundaberg	Bundaberg Baptist Family Day Care Scheme
QLD	Burdekin	Centacare Townsville
QLD	Hervey Bay	Australian Red Cross
QLD	Palm Island	Cathy Freeman Foundation
QLD	Toowoomba	Goolburri Aboriginal Health Advancement Corporation
QLD	Upper Ross	NQ Community Services
QLD	Warwick	Australian Red Cross
WA	City of Armadale	Communicare Inc
WA	City of Gosnells	Communicare Inc
WA	East Kimberley	Wunan Foundation
VIC	East Gippsland	UnitingCare Gippsland
VIC	Latrobe Gippsland	Anglicare Victoria
VIC	Mildura	Mallee District Aboriginal Services
SA	City of Onkaparinga (Aldinga Beach/Christie Downs/Morphett Vale/ Hackham West/Huntfield Heights/Noarlunga Downs)	Anglicare SA
SA	Murray Bridge	Anglican Community Care
SA	Riverland	Anglican Community Care
NT	Palmerston	Good Beginnings