

The Connected Beginnings Program is funded by
the Australian Government

Building a movement!



TC Connect
For the kids of Tennant Creek

TC Connect at the Desert Harmony Festival

Over two colour-filled days in the Pikka Pikka-ka space at the 2018 Desert Harmony Festival in Tennant Creek, TC Connect offered the opportunity for the children and families of Tennant Creek to engage together, to build a story of hope and to learn and grow alongside each other.

TC Connect was a collaborative effort between community, service providers and agencies in town, including FAPT, Pikka Pikka Playgroup, HIPPY, Territory Families, Barkly Education, Barkly Arts, Catholic Care, NT Health, Department of Education and Barkly Regional Council with extra assistance from Miss Colourful Way, 8CCC and DJ Charly. The event was facilitated by Connected Beginnings Tennant Creek, an initiative funded by Department of Education and Training in Canberra to improve the lives and opportunities of children 0-5 years of age.

Responding to the hundreds of voices of Tennant Creek kids collected over some months, TC Connect's intention was to bring colour and hope to the children of the town.

Each offering was carefully designed to engage kids in celebrating their families, thinking about their dreams, and bringing life and love to their environment. It was a celebration and the beginning of a movement for change.



Foundations for our work: 1000 voices of Tennant Creek

Across town, a collective is emerging to co-create an integrated response for Tennant Creek's young children and families. This work is being informed by the voices of community, consolidated over many months within two Connected Beginnings initiatives: 1000 Community Voices and 1000 Children's Voices.

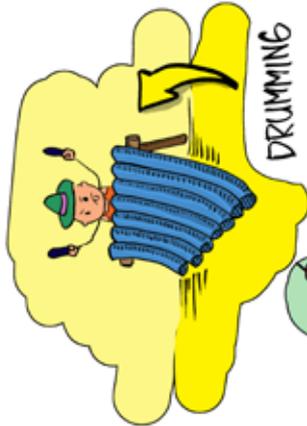
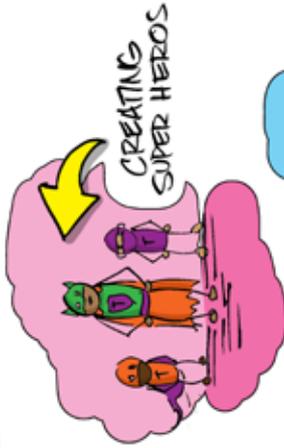
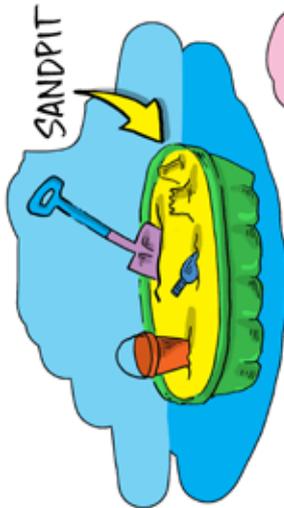
A short, illustrated story has brought to life the children's voices that were collected during the first half of 2018. While not a story book for children themselves, the book provides an insightful sense of life in Tennant Creek and is drawing partners together around a common agenda – the children's agenda.

This book is available for collective use from the Connected Beginnings office in Tennant Creek.

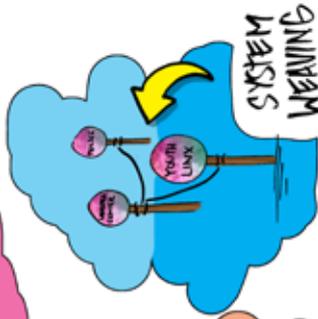


PIKKA PIKKA-KA

Desert Harmony Festival 2018

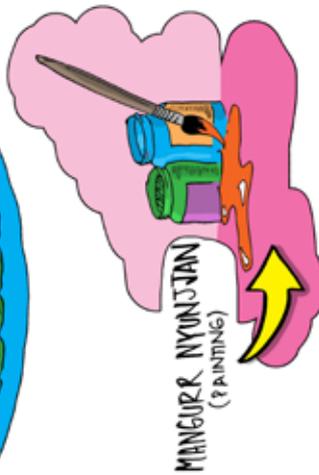
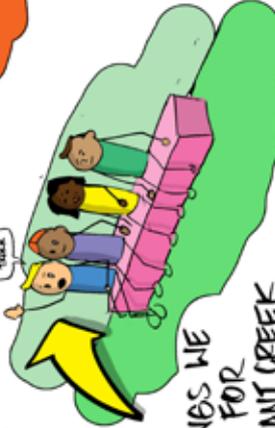


COLOUR RUN

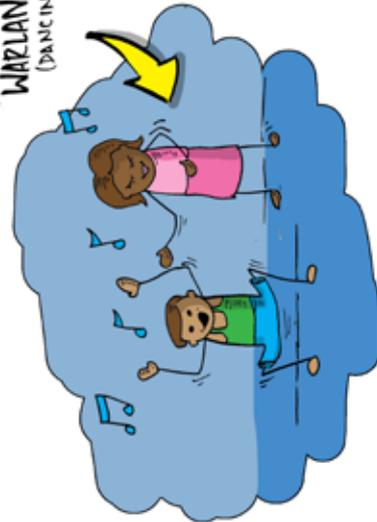


EAT A RAINBOW

A BIKE TRUCK



WARLAN JANTA (DANCING)



Superheroes for Tennant Creek

What the world needs now is more superheros! The children of Tennant Creek have created the next generation of superheros for their community. In small groups, children talked with a graphic scribe to have their ideas brought to visual reality. The characters and their super human skills provide a telling insight into the challenges and the dreams of the children.



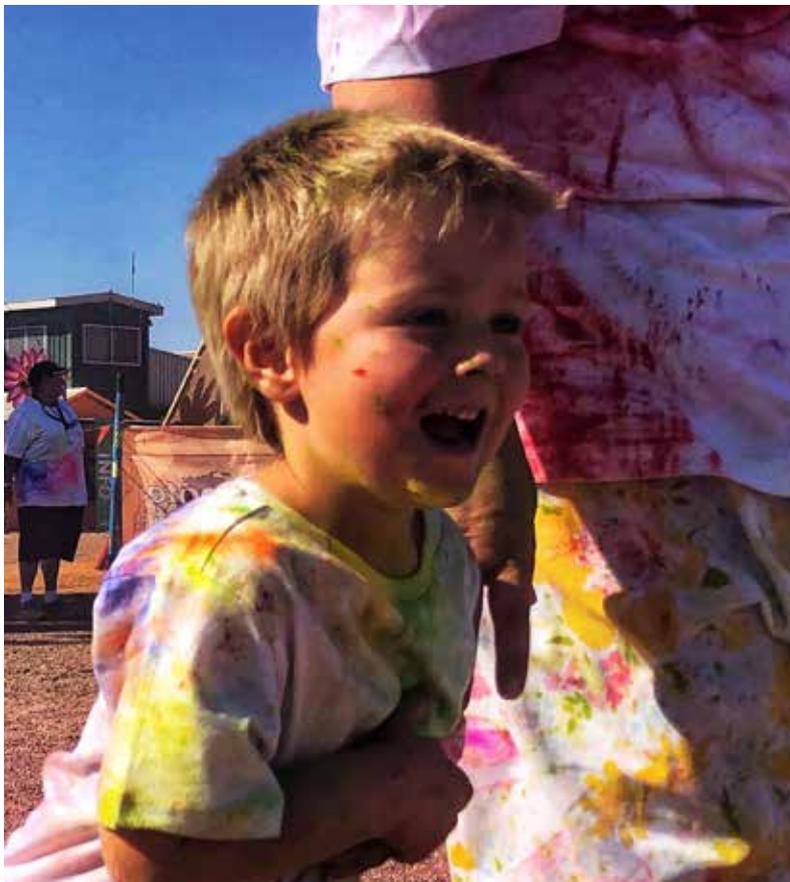
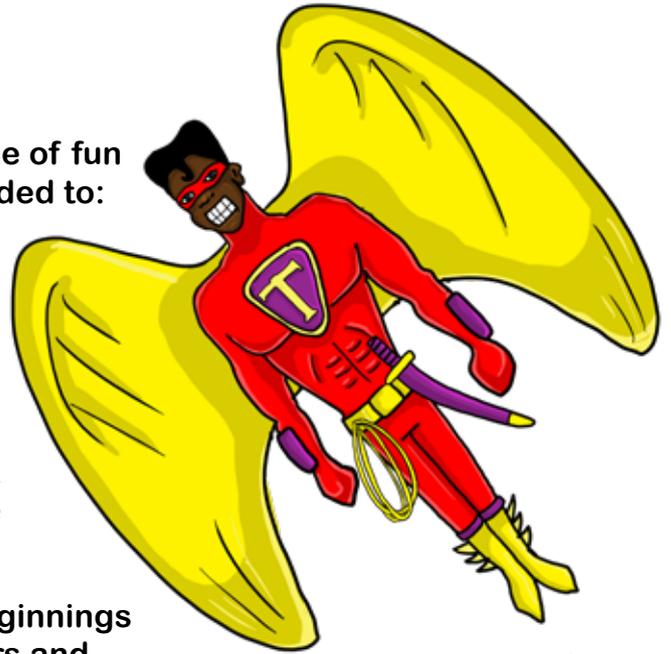
Up, up, and away!

Powerful visuals were created through this activity that can be used as future mascots and reminders of the aspirations of the children of Tennant Creek. They will provide a visual connect point as a tangible reminder of the work we each need to engage in. The superheros will also be displayed at local organisations and businesses.

Activities

Across the course of the two days, a range of fun and high impact opportunities were provided to:

- Engage and connect the Tennant Creek community to each other, working to build a sense of inclusivity and shared responsibility
- Gain a deeper understanding of the aspirations of community and the best ways to engage with them on a change journey
- Raise awareness of the Connected Beginnings effort with their cross-sectoral partners and invite community to join the journey as part of the collective
- Increase understanding of key education and health messages for young children
- Practice working together as service providers and stakeholders working towards an integrated response and improved outcomes for kids
- Begin to build a movement for change for the 0-5 year olds of Tennant Creek



Children, families and collective partners laughed and learnt together.

Children returned to the space repeatedly over the two days to enjoy the fun.



TENNANT CREEK BOY

HAIR STYLE
FOR LOOKING GOOD AND
FEELING GOOD

MASK
PROTECT IDENTITY

**WRIST
GUARD**
KEEP ARMS
SAFE

RUBBER SWORD
FOR PLAYING

WINGS
FOR FLYING

ROPE
FOR HELPING
PEOPLE

LEG SPIKES
FOR RUNNING FAST

**PROTECTOR OF
HOPE!**

Build a wall of families

Celebrating family in Tennant Creek through art

Children were invited to create an artwork of their family to be displayed in the Pikka Pikka-ka space as a 'wall of families'. Facilitators engaged kids in conversation about their families, asking questions such as 'what is the best thing about your family?', and 'what do you love to do with your family?'. Kids enthusiastically told stories about their families and explained their artworks. Artworks were displayed in the space, and children enjoyed identifying their pieces on the wall and sharing them with family and friends.

Building on this activity into the future

Connected Beginnings will continue to build the wall using the activity as an engagement tool for families, and encourages partners to participate. Connected Beginnings will supply materials and support partners to participate.

Connected Beginning will approach local businesses for collaboration opportunities with the hope of displaying the pictures in shop fronts to bring more colour to Tennant Creek's main street.





TENNANT CREEK GIRL

FISHING ROD
TO GET FOOD FOR
HUNGRY PEOPLE

SNORKLE
FOR BREATHING
IN WATER

WINGS
FOR FLYING

WATER BOTTLES
TO HELP THIRSTY PEOPLE

ROPE
TO HELP PEOPLE

TUTU
FOR DANCING

BOOTS
TO RUN FAST

PROTECTOR OF
DREAMS!

Weave our connections

Understanding the Tennant Creek early childhood and family service system

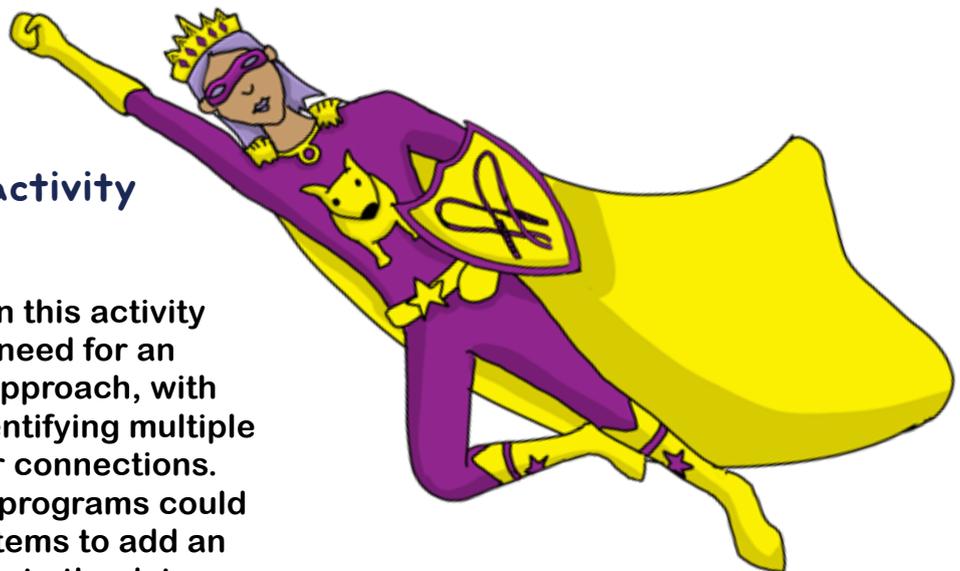


This was a one on one exercise where parents, or kids supported by a facilitator, physically mapped the services they engage with in Tennant Creek.

While offering a movement-filled opportunity over a large space, the activity also allowed a degree of privacy and anonymity to parents and kids to wind wool around physical markers representing services available to children and families in Tennant Creek. General data was collected at the end of the activity by counting the number of pieces of wool each marker had. We now had a sense of the complexity of the system in Tennant Creek, the services most accessed and some sense as to why they were accessed or not. The activity highlighted the breadth of services available to families in Tennant Creek.

Building on this activity into the future

The data collected in this activity further highlights a need for an integrated service approach, with each participant identifying multiple services within their connections. In future, individual programs could be added to the systems to add an additional dimension to the data.





PUPPY PROTECTOR



CITY VISITS PLACES FAR AND WIDE

CROWN BECAUSE SHE'S A STRONG WOMAN

DOG HOUSE TO SHELTER LOST DOGS

WHIP TO CATCH LOST DOGS

BOOTS FOR RUNNING FAST

FOOD AND WATER FOR HUNGRY ANIMALS

FRIEND TO DOGS EVERYWHERE

Running with colour

Ready! Set! DASH!!! And so began the Tennant Creek Colour Run for 2018!

This high energy activity connected children and their families in a dash around the Desert Harmony Festival arena, creating a safe and fun space for all to enjoy.

Donned in white t-shirts, the participants were splashed with colour as they ran through the small arena on a continuous loop. The laughter, big smiles, the joyous shouting and the clouds of colour rising from the area attracted a crowd of spectators to join in the fun.

Building on this activity into the future

There are opportunities to collaborate with partners to organise a follow up colour run in Tennant Creek with the remaining colour powder, continuing to bring fun and colour to Tennant Creek. We will continue building these connections during Child Protection Week, in association with emerging collective partners.





ETHAN MAN



MASK
TO PROTECT IDENTITY

STRONG TEETH
FOR CHEWING
AND SMILING

6 PACK
FROM HEAPS OF
EXERCISE AND
GOOD FOOD

GLOVES
TO KEEP HANDS CLEAN

SWORD
FOR CHOPPING UP
FOOD

ROPE
TO GET OUT
OF STICKY SITUATIONS

FOOTY
LOVES A KICK OF
THE FOOTY

**TENNANT CREEK'S
VERY OWN!**

Fly our hopes and dreams high



The Tennant Creek kids were asked what they wanted to be in the future and what they loved doing with their families in Tennant Creek. The kids then created artworks on pieces of bunting which were attached to a cord decorating the Pikka Pikka-ka space. The children loved seeing their artwork displayed. Adults who sat down with children wrote a brief interpretation of the artwork on the drawing.

Building on this activity into the future

Connected Beginnings will continue to build the bunting using the activity as an engagement tool for families, and encourages partners to participate. The words and artwork will also be used to contribute to the 1000 children's voices initiative.

Connected Beginning will approach local businesses and organisations for collaboration opportunities with the hope of displaying the bunting in shop fronts, local organisations or at events to bring more colour to Tennant Creek and to continue to connect up the story of hope and collective action.



Eat a rainbow

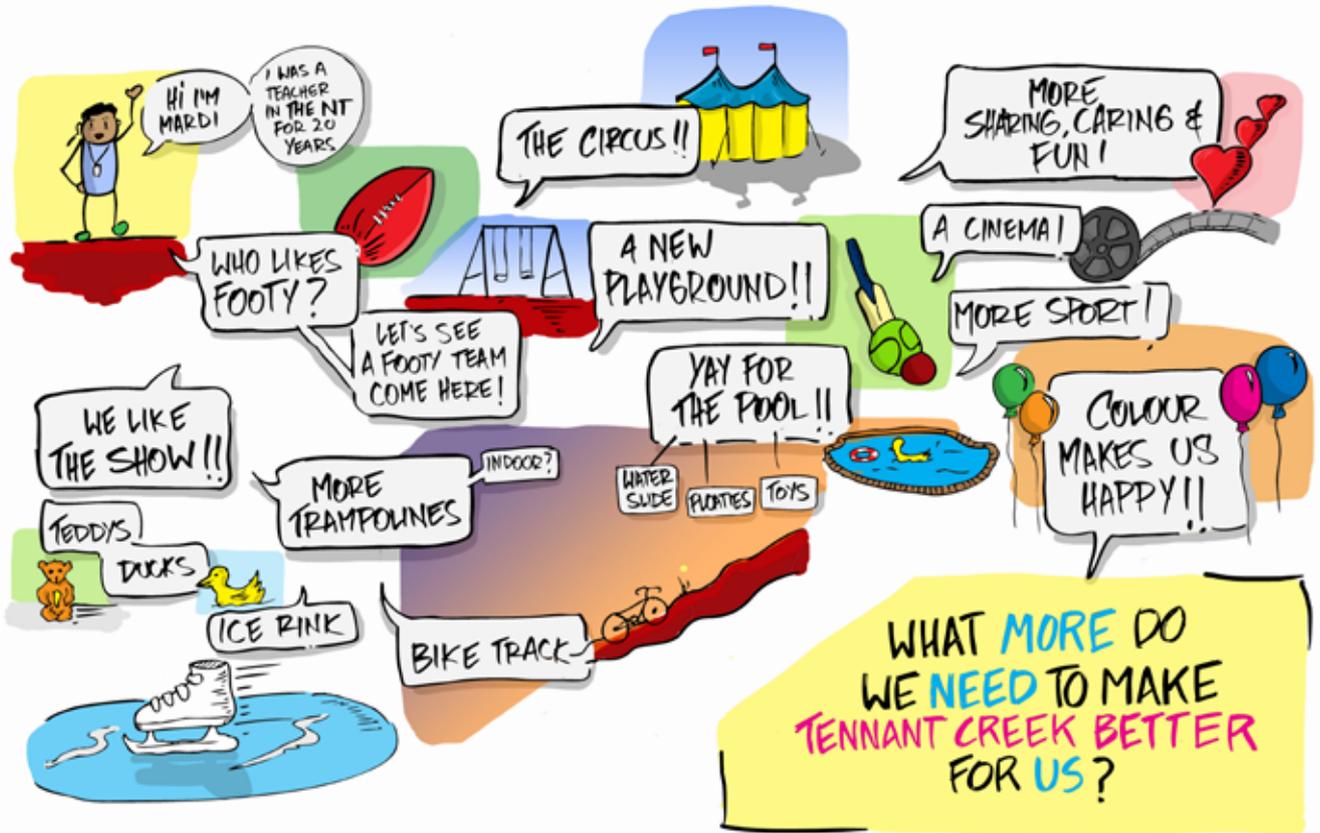
What a magical thought and what a delicious opportunity! The colourful food and rainbow concept was a big attraction and a great way to provide healthy food to the kids and adults in attendance. A variety of cut and whole fruits and vegetables was provided to participants with the instruction to make a rainbow by organising the pieces into colour. Following the activity skewers were provided for kids and adults to create their own rainbow kebabs. The big smiles and full cheeks tell the rest of the story!



Building on this activity into the future

Key health messages will continue to be a part of the Connected Beginnings story as we work to connect up education, health and the entire system to work together differently for the children of Tennant Creek.





DAN EGAN DESERT WINTER FESTIVAL 2018





THANK YOU!

Tennant Creek Early Years Network, Tennant Creek Community Family Reference Group, FAFT, Pikka Pikka Playgroup, HIPPY, Territory Families, Barkly Education, Barkly Arts, Catholic Care, NT Health, Department of Education and Barkly Regional Council

