

## KIND in Hobsons Bay 2016 Outcomes Evaluation

Kids Thrive received funding to deliver the KIND program in Hobsons Bay in 2016 from: the Australia Council for the Arts, Ian Potter Foundation, RE Ross Trust, Sidney Myer Fund, Hobsons Bay City Council, ISIS Primary Care, Angior Family Foundation and Victorian International Container Terminal Foundation.

Participating schools were Altona Nth Primary School (grade 1/2) and Bayside P-12 College (grade 1/2).

The KIND program is based on Derman-Spark and Edwards' (2010) anti-bias framework<sup>1</sup> and pursues the four goals outlined in the framework:

1. Self-esteem and valuing one's own culture
2. Valuing differences
3. Noticing unfair behaviour because of those differences
4. Taking action against unfair behaviour.

Children in **KIND in Hobsons Bay** participated in arts activities and conversations about diversity and empathy led by Kids Thrive artists and cultural conversation leaders, created original songs, and participated in community performances at the end of terms 2 and 3. The program also provided professional development training for teachers and agency workers in the anti-bias framework, and using the arts for education and social change.

This evaluation identifies the impacts of the **KIND in Hobsons Bay** program in 2016.

Data for the evaluation was obtained from the following sources:

- Steering committee and 'frontline workers' evaluation feedback
- Steering committee minutes
- Student progress reports - these detailed reports were completed by teachers for each child in their class, detailing each child's progress as a result of KIND in relation to 11 dimensions
- Teacher and principal evaluation
- Interviews with children conducted by Kids Thrive artists.

### OUTCOMES

#### 1. To what extent have children, teachers, agency staff and steering committee members participated in KIND in Hobsons Bay?

- 81 children from 4 grades across 2 schools, and their significant adults
- 2 primary school sites
- 5 teachers
- 2 principals
- 1 assistant principal
- 1 Hobsons Bay-based agencies (ISIS Primary Health Care) and the Hobsons Bay City Council

- 5 agency and city council professionals
- 1 cultural conversation leaders
- 8 artists and arts professionals

## 2. What has KIND in Hobsons Bay 2016 delivered?

- 7 steering committee and teacher frontline meetings
- 2 Professional Development and teacher curriculum days
- 51 arts and cultural conversation workshops
- 2 costume design workshops
- 1 combined schools rehearsal
- 4 community engagement events – 2 assembly performances; 1 combined schools concert; 1 CD launch.
- Performances reached 240+ family and community members
- 5 original songs written by children with Kids Thrive artist; and 1 collaborative song with Lexine Solomon from ISIS.

## 3. What are the impacts of the KIND in Hobsons Bay program?

As a result of participating in the *KIND in Hobsons Bay* program 95% of students demonstrated an improved ability to recognise unfairness both in the behaviour of others and themselves.

### Students demonstrated improvement in the following areas:

94% improved self-confidence.

89% capacity to self regulate behavior.

94% demonstrated improved empathy.

95% increased capacity to participate in teamwork.

95% demonstrated greater willingness to share aspects of their own culture.

91% demonstrated greater respect for others.

90% showed greater respect of diversity.

95% improved ability to recognise unfairness both in the behaviour of others and themselves.

86% demonstrated greater capacity to take action to address unfairness when they recognised it.

68% of families demonstrated improved engagement with schools.

## 4. To what extent have teachers and principals improved their understanding of discrimination and the issues facing their students

60% of teachers and principals indicated they had improved their understanding of discrimination and issues facing their students as a result of **KIND in Hobsons Bay**.

## 5. To what extent have teachers and relevant agency staff developed their skills around arts-based learning?

72% of teachers, principals and agency staff indicated they had improved their knowledge and skills around arts-based education as a result of **KIND in Hobsons Bay**, with 47% using these skills in their professional settings.

## 6. To what extent have parents/carers, schools and community agencies strengthened their connections?

**KIND in Hobsons Bay** improved parent engagement by 84% and impacted the level of engagement between schools and agencies by 91%

### CONCLUSION

KIND is an arts-based learning program focusing on cultural diversity and valuing differences, using the anti-bias framework developed by Derman-Sparks and Edwards (2010).

2016 saw the KIND program delivered for the first time in the Hobsons Bay region. It was delivered across four grades from two different schools in the Altona North area.

Evaluation evidence demonstrates that the program has a significant positive impact for students and staff, improving the skills and capacities of children and teachers, and building links between families, schools, Hobsons Bay City Council and ISIS Primary Care.

The program is effective in engaging children, families and education professionals in positive, creative interactions and dialogue about culture, diversity, tolerance and empathy. The program is effective in addressing racism and bias in primary-aged children, and in building links between schools, families and the community.

<sup>1</sup> Derman-Sparks, Louise and Julie Olsen Edwards, 2010, Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Washington DC

#### Trainers

*'I felt (student) became courageous in Kids Thrive, and it offered her an opportunity to be someone different.'*

*'As soon as we talked about feelings it seemed to release a lot of energy and the kids relaxed more. When we first looked at difference the kids started attacking each other, but we were able to stop and look at it and talk about it. There was a light bulb moment for two kids when they realised their mums both loved cooking - rather than 'my mum is a much better cook than yours'.*

#### Kids

*'When someone's different – I feel curious about what it's like to be different. When they're the same – it's like I'm a little bit in love.'*

*'I like the way we make songs.'*

*'We have things in common our mums are both great cooks.'*

*'I got a compliment today and it made me feel happy.'*

*'Kids Thrive is my favourite day.'*

