

Kids Thrive KIND in Wyndham 2015 – Outcomes Evaluation

Kids Thrive Inc received funding to deliver the KIND program in Wyndham in 2015 from: the Australia Council for the Arts, Ian Potter Foundation, Sidney Myer Fund, Wyndham City Council, Wyndham Community Cultural Fund, and participating schools Wyndham Park Primary School, Manor Lakes P-12 College and Our Lady of the Southern Cross Primary School.

The KIND program is based on Derman-Spark and Edwards' (2010) anti-bias framework¹ and pursues the four goals outlined in the framework:

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

Children in **KIND in Wyndham** participated in arts activities, held conversations about diversity and empathy, created original songs, and participated in community performances at the end of each school term. 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.

The evaluation identified the impact of the **KIND in Wyndham** program at Wyndham Park Primary School, Manor Lakes P-12 College and Our Lady of the Southern Cross Primary School, based in the Wyndham region, in 2015.

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 the three 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
- End-of-year interviews with children conducted by Kids Thrive artists.

RESULTS

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

KIND in Wyndham involved:

- 72 children from 3 grades across 3 schools, and their significant adults
- 3 primary school sites
- 6 teachers
- 3 principals
- 1 assistant principal
- 3 Wyndham-based agencies (The Smith Family, Wyndham Community and Education Centre, and Wyndham Vale Community Learning Centre)

- 2 cultural conversation leaders
- 10 artists
- 1 community hub leader
- 5 steering committee meetings

2. What has KIND in Wyndham delivered?

KIND in Wyndham has delivered:

- 6 original songs and 3 raps
- 63 workshops
- 7 community engagement events/performances by participants to 500+ family and community members
- 4 professional development sessions for teachers and community agency workers
- 9 steering committee and frontline meetings

3. What are the impacts of the KIND in Wyndham program?

As a result of participating in the **KIND in Wyndham** program 97% of students demonstrated an improved ability to recognise unfairness both in the behaviour of others and themselves.

Students demonstrated improvement in the following areas:

93% improved self-confidence.

81% capacity to self regulate behavior.

80% demonstrated improved empathy.

70% increased capacity to participate in teamwork.

70% demonstrated greater willingness to share aspects of their own culture.

85% demonstrated greater respect for others.

93% showed greater respect of diversity.

97% improved ability to recognise unfairness both in the behaviour of others and themselves.

82% demonstrated greater capacity to take action to address unfairness when they recognised it.

60% 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

100% of teachers and principals improved their understanding of discrimination and the issues facing the children as a result of **KIND in Wyndham**.

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

100% of teachers, principals and agency staff said they had improved their knowledge and skills around arts-based education as a result of **KIND in Wyndham**, with 100% using these skills in their professional settings.

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

KIND in Wyndham has had a moderate impact on the level of engagement between families and schools and between schools and agencies.

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).

2015 saw the KIND program delivered for the first time in the Wyndham region. It was delivered across three grades from three different schools in the area.

Evaluation evidence demonstrates that the program was highly successful in improving the skills and capacities of children and teachers, and has continued to build links between families, schools, The Smith Family and other local agencies. It has also shown that the program delivers significant positive outcomes for children students and staff, not just in the Hume region.

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 children aged seven to nine, and in building links between schools, families and the community.

¹ 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