CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRES IN TASMANIA

PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN CO-DESIGN AND DELIVERY
I'M NO EXPERT!

• We must find different ways of working with communities that are characterised by disadvantage because our traditional ways are not working.

• The lives of children in these communities matter as much as the lives of children everywhere yet their trajectories and outcomes are so very different.
A little snapshot of our community and our Child and Family Centre.
Most of our team – a mixture of CFC staff, Child Health from DHHS, teacher and teacher assistants from DOE and our Aboriginal Early Years Education Worker from DOE. Missing are our volunteers from the community and other service providers from NGO’s.
SO HOW DID WE GET TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY?

• Our child and family centres are committed to finding new and effective ways of engaging with families many of whom have no reason to trust institutions of any kind.

• There is no short cut to true engagement and partnership. Time, hard work, consistency, genuineness and reflection are needed.

• A genuine belief in the positive intentionality of all parents is critical.

• A shared vision is also needed. This must be shared by the team as well as the community.
A CHANCE TO DREAM AND PLAN TOGETHER

• Our vision, Working Together Agreement and core outcomes were created in forums consisting of parents, community members, service providers and CFC staff.

• These forums were facilitated by skilled trusted outsiders with whom we had a positive relationship.

• Proper time was given to this process with time for feedback and change.

• This work was vital and set the whole culture of our centre.
SOME THINGS WE KNOW:

We know that:

1. Relationships are critical and take up the bulk of our work.
2. We have expertise to share but it is worthless if we go about sharing this in the wrong way.
3. We really need to listen to families
4. Consistent shared values and agreed ways of working as a team are essential.
5. Feedback is vital. Listen, reflect and act.
Brave, reflective parents committed to learning more about parenting and adding tools to their parenting toolbelt. Recent graduates of Circle of Security of Parenting and now participating in Being a Parent.
Contributing not just to our CFC but also having a say on the new community park with members of the Launceston City Council and participating in Launceston’s White Ribbon Walk.

Parents have told us that one of the things that is working about the CFC is that they now have the confidence to give to their community.