



The Sunshine Project

CREATING CONDITIONS TO GROW THE GOOD LIFE



About the Project

The Sunshine is a 2-year action research project working with a small group of families in Rockingham/Kwinana to learn from their experiences of hardship and try new approaches to enhance their access to healing, supportive relationships, learning, opportunities, capital and other resources to find their way to the good life. We are now a year into the project. Anglicare WA and Ruah Community services have jointly self funded this first phase and are seeking supporters as we move into the ideation and prototyping phase to test innovative ideas.

Insights Report

Following several months of deep listening, mapping and co-design with participating families, interviews with subject matter experts in Kwinana/Rockingham and New Zealand, and a horizon scan of literature and case studies, we have produced an insights report which captures key learning about what life is like for families right now, what the good life could look like and what system level factors are blocking/enabling service providers from doing their best work and families from moving towards the good life.



Gallery Walk

In October, our gallery walk provided a show and tell to enable the community to engage with the stories and insights from the project so far. We welcomed representatives from Government, local industry, social service and local community groups as well as participating families and members from the public. Attendees were able to offer their own reflections and input and several organisations have indicated their keen-ness to participate in the ideation and testing of ideas for families to grow the good life in Kwinana.





Behind the Scenes

Behind the scenes we have been sharing the insights of the project and building our understanding and relationships with a range of key players in the Kwinana community:

There are really strong alignments between our project and the work of the **Communities for Children** and its Kwinana Strategic Plan, headed up by Huia McGlinchey at **Smith Family**. We enjoyed engaging with the many service reps who form part of their alliance at their most recent network meeting.

We shared insights about families experiences of accessing the mental health system with the **Rockingham Kwinana Mental Health Subnetwork**, which align with some of their key advocacy themes to the Mental Health Commission.

We met with the new Alliance Manager for the Rockingham **Kwinana Family Support Network**, Wintana Reda and Sue Nickisson to share and learn about their tools and practices to wrap support around families.

We attended the Elders lunch at the **MACC Aboriginal Cultural Centre**, and chatted with **Lisa Garlett from Koya** to learn more about the centre's vital and longstanding role in the community.

We met with **Jodie Jones at Salvation Army** to share learning and visit their new Kwinana community drop-in space.

We have connected with **Alyce Brewis** and **Jenny Marslen** from the **City of Kwinana** place team about opportunities for place based community building.

We've also met with **Kwinana in Transition**, Brooke from **Medina Residents Association**, Mariza D'Souza and the local school chaplains network and the team at **Befriend**.



What's Coming 2023

In response to the strong interest from community orgs and Kwinana locals who want to be part of the next phase of Sunshine Project, we are adapting our process to include their participation.

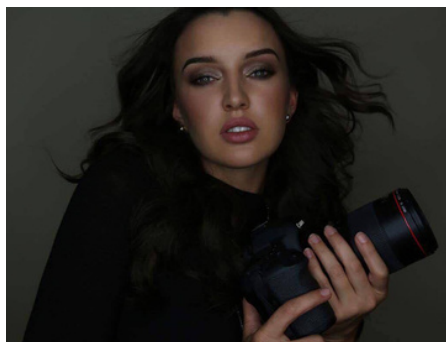
In early 2022, we will bring interested parties together for a Place Lab process, to generate innovative ideas around the themes from the insights report, around growing the good life in Kwinana.

A facilitated design sprint will enable participants to generate ideas and prioritise those with best potential.

Participants will then be supported to create small scale experiments to go out and test these ideas and come back together to share learning.

We are keen to partner with those who can bring resources to the table to support the idea generation process and also the testing of innovative ideas.

Alongside this, our Families Facilitation Coach Beth Webster will continue working closely with the participating families, to support their journeys.



Photos from the Gallery Walk are by photographer Charlie Octavia, one of our Steering Group members who has lived experience and is a strong advocate for reforms in the area of family domestic violence. www.charlieoctavia.com/

Sharing Stories

We are often asked whether participating families will appear in public to share their stories in person.

Some of the families have indicated they wish to maintain their privacy and do not wish to be identified with their traumatic experiences. Several have indicated that they are keen to use their voice to influence change, and intend do so once they have some time and distance from some of their immediate experiences.

We will support their access to advocacy training but are also respectful of their own pace and desire to share their stories in their own ways.

Meanwhile we will continue to check in that the ways we are representing their stories reflects how they would like these stories to be told.



Last month, our team presented the content from the Gallery Walk to Anglicare's senior leadership team as well as its Board. The design team presented with our Steering Group lived experience rep, Charlie Octavia, who shared briefly from her own experiences, alongside the stories of participating families.

Connect with Us

If you'd like to contribute to the project or if you'd like more information, contact:
joni.sercombe@anglicarewa.org.au
 or amy.deklerk@ruah.org.au