

Westpac and Port Augusta City Council back local community, deliver better outcomes for families and children.

Children, young people and families in Port Augusta are more connected to their community following the successful completion of Westpac's Safer Children, Safer Communities program, delivered by Port Augusta City Council in partnership with the local community.

Launched by Westpac in 2020, Safer Children, Safer Communities invested in locally led partnerships across Australia to tackle the barriers preventing children and families from thriving. Through the program, [The Benevolent Society](#) partnered with community organisations to support flexible, community-led initiatives that strengthen outcomes for children, young people and families.

"The Safer Children, Safer Communities program has made a real difference for children, young people and families in Port Augusta. By working together with local organisations, we've helped create more opportunities for people to connect, access support and feel part of the community. We're proud of what has been achieved and the positive impact it will have for years to come." said CEO John Banks at Port Augusta City Council

The program's independent evaluation found that community-led partnerships deliver stronger outcomes for children and families by combining practical support with trusted local relationships.

The program gave communities the flexibility to respond to what families needed most, rather than what funding rules prescribed.

That meant local organisations, with deep relationships and an intimate understanding of the communities they serve, could design solutions that worked.

"The success of this program is reflected in the numbers. More than 38,700 people participated in 92 **Let's Explore** Port Augusta events, while 54 students built their confidence and learning through the **Let's Go** Learning Club. Through **Let's Discover**, we have transformed everyday public spaces into places that encourage learning, creativity and connection. Projects such as murals, pavement art and communication boards have provided opportunities for children and families to explore, interact and learn through their surroundings. By involving local schools and students in the design process, these projects have created a stronger sense of community ownership and pride."

"This program helped break down barriers for local families by creating welcoming opportunities to connect, learn and participate in community activities. We've seen increased confidence, reduced isolation and stronger family connections, while providing a supportive pathway for children and families to access new experiences and services." said CEO John Banks at Port Augusta City Council

The evaluation report is available [online here](#).

For further information please contact Council's Media and Communications Officer on (08) 8641 9100

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