



Stronger Families  
Learning Exchange

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The Stronger Families Learning Exchange at the Australian Institute of Family Studies provides a clearinghouse for strengthening Australian families and action research support for Stronger Families Fund projects.

The objectives of the Stronger Families Learning Exchange are to contribute to the evidence base about the effectiveness of early interventions for families, and to support the work of Stronger Families Fund projects.

The Stronger Families Learning Exchange is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services. It will provide information, resource sharing, training and advice on family wellbeing, primary prevention and early intervention, and it will service Stronger Families Fund projects and a larger network of people concerned with strengthening families and communities.

Views expressed in Learning Exchange publications are those of individual authors and may not reflect Department or Institute policy.

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# Stronger Families Learning Exchange

This is the second *Stronger Families Learning Exchange Bulletin* published by the Australian Institute of Family Studies

The Stronger Families Learning Exchange project being conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies is funded by the Department of Family and Community Services as part of the Commonwealth Government's Stronger Families and Communities Strategy.

The Learning Exchange aims to contribute to the evidence base about the effectiveness of early interventions for families.

As part of the Stronger Families Learning Exchange, a national clearinghouse provides the latest information on research and programs concerned with family wellbeing, primary prevention and early intervention. Readers will find a full description of Clearinghouse services on the inside back cover of this Bulletin.

The Exchange provides special training and action research support services to Stronger Families Fund projects. Under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy, a Stronger Families Fund is establishing projects across Australia to support parents and families in their role of caring for young children. Local communities are being encouraged and supported to develop ideas and local projects that meet the needs of individual communities and the families who live in them. To date, 25 of these projects have been funded.

All Stronger Family Fund projects are assigned a member of the Learning Exchange Training and Support Team to guide them through the process of designing and running an action research evaluation.

In this edition of the Bulletin, articles by Elizabeth Branigan and Colleen Turner explore some of the issues involved in action research, while Ellen Fish continues the discussion of early intervention begun in the previous issue. In response to requests from project personnel, Richard Munt writes on the challenge of building community participation.

*Meet the Projects* introduces the new Stronger Families Fund projects – Connecting Families, Illawarra, Ngaanyatjarra, and the Redland/Bayside project. *Revisit the Projects* brings updates from the projects – Ashmont, Beenleigh, Enfield, Goldfields, and Goodwood. We also meet the Australian Institute of Family Studies Training and Support Team, and the Bulletin concludes with the regular *Literature Highlights* and *Conferences* sections.

We very much hope you enjoy this issue of the *Stronger Families Learning Exchange Bulletin*.

**Judy Adams** is the Manager of the Clearinghouse arm of the Stronger Families Learning Exchange, at the Australian Institute of Family Studies.



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