Combining the old and the new

Working with the Queensland Country Women’s Association to provide integrated child and family programs
Who we are

- We help people change their lives through support and education
- We speak out for a fairer society where everybody thrives
- We’re Australia’s first charity
- We’re a not-for-profit and non-religious organisation
- We’ve helped people, families and communities achieve positive change for 200 years
A commitment to integrated child and family work

• In Queensland, TBS is funded by Office of Early Childhood Education and Care (OECEC) to provide 9 out of 12 Early Years Centres (EYC):

  ‘to build on the existing network of child and family support services and move to a more integrated service delivery system’.

• More specifically, the OECEC specifies that the EYCs

  ‘provide a one-stop-shop service supporting the health, wellbeing and safety of families who have young children aged 0 – 8 years’ (or who are expecting a child).
Why the QCWA?

• Rural and regional communities need the same support for children as those in the city.
• QCWA has been supporting women and children in rural communities for 90 years
• QCWA has over 200 branches across Qld
**TBS and QCWA Scoping Project**

- To assess the scope and feasibility of establishing early years services using QCWA infrastructure and member volunteers, TBS expertise in child and family services and local service networks.

- To develop a detailed proposal and model to deliver early years services to mothers and young children in rural and remote areas via a mutually beneficial partnership between the QCWA and TBS.

- To help reinvigorate the QCWA membership by linking younger women into current activities and actively involving existing members as surrogate grandparents and/or mentors to young mothers and their children.

- Secure additional funding and partnerships to support pilots that may arise as a result of this project.
Outcomes of Scoping Project

Outcome 1
It is feasible to develop a partnership between TBS and QCWA that leads to the provision of integrated early years services in rural, remote and regional areas.

Outcome 2
The QCWA is interested in exploring new ways of working in their communities that will support their overall objective, which is to support women and children.

Outcome 3
Three key locations have been identified to trial the provision of services in a partnership between the QCWA and TBS.

Outcome 4
Despite the interest in the project and much positive feedback, there were QCWA branches that indicated a pilot program would not be feasible for them at this time.
Pilot Locations

Gordonvale
Calliope
Wallangarra
Calliope – the resources boom has created a baby boom in the bush

- Rapidly growing community
- Very limited service and social infrastructure
- Declining affordability for food, fuel and housing
- Lack of on-the-ground services and infrastructure, such as public transport
- Lack of early childhood services
- No family support services
- Supportive QCWA branch
From this...  

To this...
Aims of the Calliope Community Hub

• Promote healthy pregnancy, birth and infancy
• Improve parenting and family supports
• Strengthen early childhood development, learning and care opportunities
• Strengthen community connections
QCWA Calliope
- Provide hall for use
- Support programs through volunteering
- Sit on Advisory Group to support ongoing operation of the Hub

Calliope Community Hub
- Universal and supported playgroups that are accessible to all families with young children in the area
- Targeted family support
- Evidence-based parenting classes
- Mother’s support groups
- Maternal and child health services
- Support for families who home-school children
- Children’s craft classes run by QCWA members

Queensland Health
Provide Maternal and Child Health Services

Gladstone Regional Council
Social worker to provide counseling to children

The Benevolent Society
- Provides governance/structural support
- Facilitates fundraising
- Coordinates programming
- Employs staff to work in the Hub
  - 0.5 FTE Family Support Worker/Coordinator
  - 0.5 FTE Early Childhood Educator

Funding provided from
Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Aurizon, Santos, FRRR, Arrow,
Next steps...

- Commence construction on hall renovations
- Finalise formal partnership agreements
- Employ staff
- Finalise evaluation framework
- Commence programs June 2013
Outcomes.....
Thank you

Jess Wilson
jess.wilson@benevolent.org.au