



OOSH Hub Story

Network of Community Activities wants to introduce you to Hinchinbrook OOSH, a vibrant Service in Sydney's West. Hinchinbrook OOSH is one of the first Services to move into their 'OOSH Hub'. OOSH Hubs are a NSW Government program resulting from Network's advocacy and commitment to ensuring quality OOSH spaces for all children. Congratulations to Hinchinbrook OOSH for the outstanding work they have done personalising their new, devoted OOSH space. It looks fantastic!

To share your OOSH Hubs experience contact Network on network@networkofcommunityactivities.org.au

A New home, A new hope and Endless Possibilities

Our journey began 17 years ago when Hinchinbrook OOSH was founded. Our OOSH has been a much-needed service for many families over the years and we have seen many children come, learn, play and grow. Over the years we have been able to adjust to moving to different spaces within the school. Classrooms, the computer lab, the library and the school hall were all once our home. These adjustments did not come easy but were made possible through the support and collaboration we shared with children, families and the school community.



In 2020 the Department of Education announced that it would be delivering the Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Hub program. Over \$20 million has been allocated to the manufacturing of OSHC Hubs in NSW. We are one of the 47 schools that were in the initial round of receiving a new Hub. We were notified by the school principal and the excitement crept in.



We began with small steps like notifying parents and children, gathering children's ideas, suggestions and input for what they wanted their space to be like. We had various meetings with our OOSH Captains who shared children's ideas with us. Our families joined in the excitement and we had many parents counting down the days.



Through children's suggestions and input we were able to map out and plan for specific areas within the Hub, desired furniture and new toys. Joshua (12yrs) suggested we have a Lego table where all the Lego could be placed within the middle and not get lost. Our Lego table was built by a handyman in the local community. Some other suggestions were to have a Chess and foosball table. We purchased new toys and activities for children as well as a canopy for the relaxation area, all new home corner equipment, lounges and much more!



We have worked closely with the school community sharing ideas and strengthening our relationship. Mrs De Falco, our school principal, made suggestions for creating a natural environment with plants and seating for children.

In collaboration with Mr Vitnel the school librarian and Aboriginal School Coordinator, we planned for the spaces, and purchase of new toys. Mr Vitnel also donated some of the library school furniture for the hub. We also collaborated and learned about how to create a yarnning circle space for children to hold their meetings in. Mr Vitnel has since come back to check the areas and give us feedback and recommendations.



On the 1st of August we began moving in, all our educators came in to assist with the move. We also received help from the school cleaner and maintenance personnel. We worked very hard setting up each area with finishing touches. The general maintenance man Jim has also assisted us with using and setting up the vegetable garden. We have planted potatoes, lettuce, spinach, cabbage and carrots which children are now enjoying. Since children have been back from the lockdown in Sydney, we have received such amazing feedback. Our parents have shared their thoughts as they have walked into the Hub.



Ms Ramsay - *"This looks amazing"*

Ms Pham - *"This space is so beautiful!"*

Ms Da Silva - *"My son will love this space, there is so much to do!"*

Mrs De Falco (School Principal) - *"It's just beautiful ladies!"*

Mr Vitnel - *"This is so good; you guys are doing so much which is nice to see. My favourite part you have showed me is the Welcome to country you do in the yarning circle!"*



As educators we feel proud of our combined achievement with our community. This Hub has been a dream come true and a fresh space to program and enhance children's play and leisure. The best response though has been from our children. We are seeing children enjoy each space, being imaginative, creative and curious as learners. We cannot wait to continue to experience the Hub as our home where we gather together for future experiences, events and endless possibilities.