



TIME AND LOCATION OF FOCUS GROUPS FOR THE EVALUATION OF BETTER START (ROUND TWO)

Evaluation of Better Start: parent/carer and service provider focus groups

ACIL Allen Consulting (formerly the Allen Consulting Group) is currently undertaking an evaluation of Better Start on behalf of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Earlier in the year, an online survey and focus groups were undertaken with service providers and parents and carers who are part of the Better Start initiative. The evaluation is now beginning its second round of data collection, which will involve a second online survey (to be run in October 2013) and a second round of focus groups.

The purpose of second round focus groups is to discuss key issues raised in round one of the evaluation, including whether Better Start is meeting the needs of families and carers. These focus groups will also provide an opportunity for those to participate who were unable to earlier in the year, or who are new to the program.

A total of 22 focus groups will be undertaken in round two of the evaluation of Better Start, across 11 locations. These include eight metropolitan locations, one outer-metropolitan, and two regional locations. Light refreshments and a \$30 supermarket voucher will be provided to focus group participants in recognition of their time.

We note that focus groups are only being held in a limited number of locations across Australia. The online survey will provide an opportunity for parents/carers and service providers in other locations to participate in the evaluation.

Better Start service providers who are part of a consortium are encouraged to forward these details to individual service providers within your consortium to participate.

For any further information or to RSVP, please contact the project manager:

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STATE/TERRITORY	LOCATION	DATE	Focus group time – PARENTS/CARERS	Focus group time – SERVICE PROVIDERS
VICTORIA – Melbourne (Metropolitan)	Victorian Association for the Teaching of English 1/134-136 Cambridge St, Collingwood	Monday 16 th September 2013	10:00 -11:30am	1:30 – 3pm
QUEENSLAND – Brisbane (Metropolitan)	Hotel George Williams 317-325 George Street, Brisbane.	Monday 16 th September 2013	10:00 – 11:30am	1:30 – 3pm
VICTORIA – Geelong (Regional)	Best Western Admiralty Motor Inn 66 McKillop St, Geelong	Tuesday 17 th September 2013	10:00 - 11:30am	1:30 – 3pm
QUEENSLAND – Gold Coast (Outer-metropolitan)	Southport Community Centre 6 Lawson Street Southport, Gold Coast	Tuesday 17 th September 2013	10:00 - 11:30am	1:30 – 3pm
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY – Canberra (Metropolitan)	Northside Community Service 2 Rosevear Place Dickson, Canberra	Wednesday 18 th September 2013	1:00 - 2:30pm	3:00 – 4:30pm
NEW SOUTH WALES – Sydney (Metropolitan)	Surry Hills Library and Community Centre 405 Crown St, Surry Hills, Sydney	Thursday 19 th September 2013	10:00 – 11:30am	12:30 – 2:00pm
NEW SOUTH WALES – Wollongong (Regional)	Corrimal District Library and Community Centre 15 Short Street, Corrimal, Wollongong	Friday 20 th September 2013	10:00 – 11:30am	1:30 – 3pm
SOUTH AUSTRALIA – Adelaide (Metropolitan)	Fullarton Park Community Centre 411 Fullarton Road, Fullarton, Adelaide	Monday 23 rd September 2013	10:00 – 11:30 am	1:30 – 3pm
TASMANIA – Hobart (Metropolitan)	The Rydges Hobart Corner Argyle Street and Lewis Street, Hobart	Monday 23 rd September 2013	10:00 – 11:30am	2:00 – 3:30pm
WESTERN AUSTRALIA – Perth (Metropolitan)	Subiaco Business Centre 531 Hay St, Subiaco, Perth	Tuesday 24 th September 2013	10:00 – 11:30am	2:00 – 3:30pm
NORTHERN TERRITORY – Darwin (Metropolitan)	Centrepoint Business Centre 48-50 Smith Street, Darwin	Thursday 26 th September 2013	10:00 - 11:30 am	2:00 – 3:30pm