



Dandenong Primary School 1403

29th August 2011

To whom it may concern

Dandy Pals Community Hub is a supported community playgroup and family referral service based at Dandenong Primary School (DPS). This "one stop shop" aims to provide families a weekly playgroup, parenting information, family and health referrals in a friendly and collaborative environment. This initiative is proactive in identifying health and developmental issues in children 0-5yrs, smoother transitions to school, increased parent engagement and strengthening community partnerships. We strive for excellence in Early Years education and believe in developing strong and established links with parents, community and the school.

Partnering with the City of Greater Dandenong and Maternal and Child Health, has further enabled the success of this initiative. Having a Maternal and Child Health nurse on site, has encouraged hard to reach and vulnerable families to have vital access to health checks and receive health support. The importance of the Maternal and Child Health Nurse, having midwifery qualifications enables them to consult with new arrivals and enhance the family outcome. Babies and children are being weighed, immunised and much support is given to their parents. Often this friendly hello by the nurse, is much needed encouragement for isolated parents.

Maternal and Child Health Nurses, especially their outreach teams, are essential to ascertain improved health status of members in our community. In culturally and linguistically diverse communities, MCH nurses play a vital role and are much respected and appreciated for their professionalism and creativity to meet the everchanging demands and needs of the communities they serve.

Elissa Sewell
Wellbeing Officer
Dandenong Primary School
174-182 Foster Road
DANDENONG VIC 3175
PH: 9792 2743

**176-184 Foster Street Dandenong
dandenong.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
☎ 9792 2743 Fax (03) 9792 2367
David Crozier – Principal**