

COUNT ME IN!

Newsletter 2, May 2017



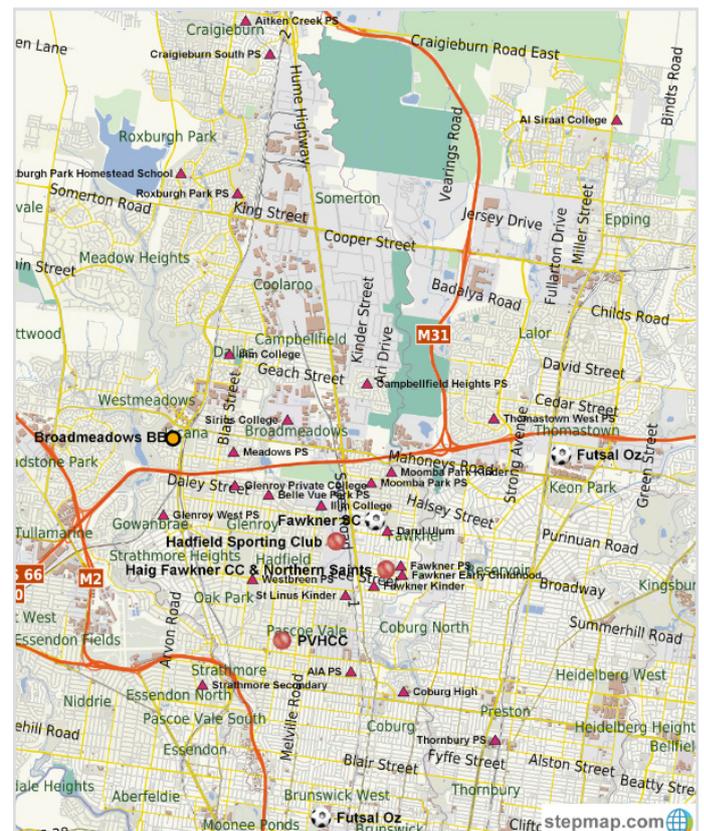
“I liked when we got together and started learning together. None of us were in separate groups and we all were playing as one.” (Child)

Count Me In is a sports participation pilot program which commenced in 2016. It is helping young people and families from migrant and refugee backgrounds to participate in local sports clubs and organisations.

Our Community Support Coordinator, based at Merri Health, has been working closely with recently arrived migrant and refugee communities to link these families into partnering sporting clubs. This has been achieved by providing information, support and encouragement, building trust, and identifying and creating welcoming sporting environments for migrant families.

Since September 2016, 172 children have begun playing a variety of sports through Count Me In.

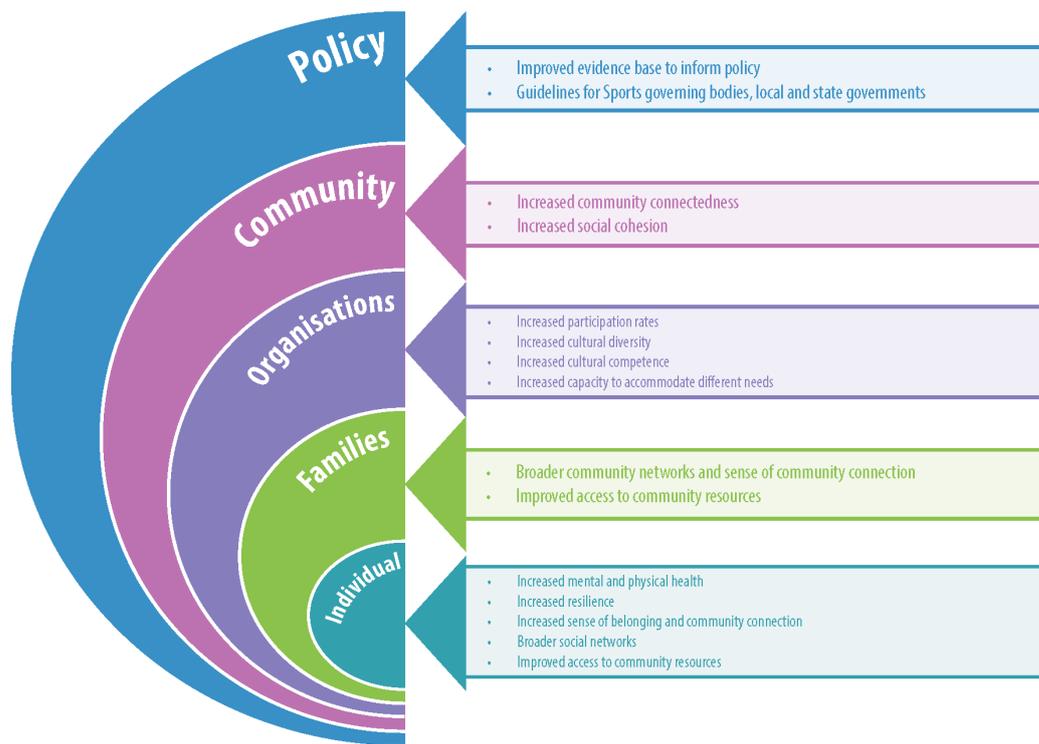
The map below shows a lot of our project activity has been in the northern suburbs of Moreland, particularly Fawkner, Hadfield and Glenroy but also the Hume area. The children participating in Count Me In attend 28 different schools which have been mapped below along with the participating sporting clubs. It has been wonderful to see these children and their families meeting new people outside of their school communities.



Thank you to the following sports clubs for their support of Count Me In

Pascoe Vale Hadfield Cricket Club, Haig Fawkner Cricket Club, Preston YWC District Cricket Club, Hadfield Netball Club, Soccer Rising Stars, Futsal Oz, Hadfield Football Club, Northern Saints Football Club, Fawkner Soccer Club, Coburg Little Athletics and Broadmeadows Basketball Association

Count Me In Conceptual Model



RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

The Count Me In project is underpinned by a conceptual model which is presented below. The model outlines how we expect to see positive outcomes not only for individuals but for families, organisations and the wider community. We also aim to influence policies for sporting bodies and government regarding sports participation for social inclusion.

We are still collecting lots of data from the children, families and sports clubs involved in the project. So far our results show that the role of a bicultural Community Support Coordinator is the critical factor in supporting refugee and migrant children and their families to understand how Australian sporting club operate and to feel comfortable to join as members. Sarwat Nauman has been absolutely fabulous in this role.

Karen and Dana conducted focus group discussions with children and their parents during April to explore the experiences they have had playing sport and being connected through the Count Me In project.

This research will help us to keep improving the program and to develop recommendations for clubs and other organisations involved in promoting sports participation.

As shown by the quotes below, children and their parents have been enjoying both the social and the physical side of playing sport.

"[I want my daughter to play sport] to show her, because in my country ladies shouldn't play this game, even my husband is saying, "Why is she going to cricket?". I want to show that even girls can do it. Girls can play anything and be active." (Parent)

"It's a get-together for parents as well. You have a bit of a chat and we socialise." (Parent)

"It's fun and it's good for your body. It helps you get active and increase stamina and get fit." (Child)

"You get to meet a lot of different people with lots of teams. You get to learn your opponents and communicate." (Child)

"Here we are multicultural country, so there's so many other things. We learn from each other, we have differences . . . If they're not involved then they're not exposed to those things. They wouldn't learn these things. It's a very good way. The sport is a very good way to learn these things." (Parent)



BADMINTON FOR WOMEN

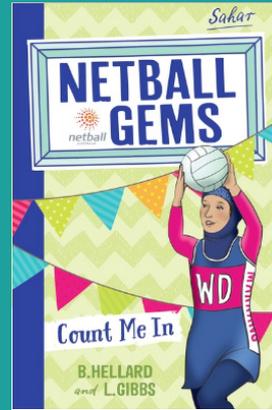
We now have two sessions of badminton running in Oak Park and Fawkner. Approximately 30 women have begun playing women's only Badminton - provided by Badminton Victoria and their wonderful coaches Pauline & Olivia.

We would like to thank the ongoing support of Badminton Victoria for this program as the women are loving it.

"We met so many friends."

"We really look forward for that day. We look forward to it."

"In fact, our husbands encourage us to do this. As many activities, social activities or sports. Encourages us to do whatever is good for our health and fitness, because they understand how we stay alone at home taking care of kids. Doing the same thing again and again. So, they encourage us to do this."



FUN FACT

Lisa Gibbs, a key member of the research team at the University of Melbourne, writes the children's book series 'Netball Gems' with her sister Bernadette Hellard.

The eighth book in the series is titled 'Count Me In' and follows the story of Sahar, a new migrant to Australia, playing netball for the very first time.

FUNDING SUCCESS!



We recently received the welcome news that we were successful with two research grants for Count Me In! We have received a Melbourne Engagement Grant from The University of Melbourne and a VicHealth Innovation

Grant which will enable us to continue to develop and evaluate the Count Me In program.

Thank you to all the clubs and families that have participated in Count Me In so far!

Dr Karen Block and Dana Young, The University of Melbourne & Sarwat Nauman, Merri Health

For more information about Count Me In or to be added to the newsletter mailing list please email Dana Young: dana.young@unimelb.edu.au

This project is conducted in partnership with Merri Health, Hadfield Sporting Club, Moreland City Council, Fawkner Primary School, The Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health, Arabic Welfare, Netball Victoria, Brunswick Zebras Football Club, Carlton Football Club, AFL Victoria and Centre for Multicultural Youth.

The Jack Brockhoff
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Moreland City Council

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