





What is this about?

This is about families in Marrickville with young children aged up to 5 years.

in the best way possible.

Therefore we did a research project in 6 neighbourhoods around Australia, and care services: the services that they use or not, whether they like their

This booklet says what we found out in Marrickville.

Who did the research?

We are from the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South

Gowrie Queensland, Gowrie New South Wales, Gowrie South Australia,

the Australian Research Council (ARC Linkage Project 100200297) paid for the research.

How was the research done?

may want services for a few hours each week, others for several days. For care payments.

harder for them to pay for the services they want.

Where was the research done?

these neighbourhoods were in the inner city, some in the outer suburbs, and

How was the research done?

In each neighbourhood we talked to around 20 families about the care and grandparents and aunts. People volunteered to take part in our research, and we gave them \$50 for their costs and to say thank you. We spoke with them for tell anyone who said what.

We met people at various places in the neighbourhood and through early childhood and family services, at playgroups, libraries and neighbourhood centres. We also talked to early childhood workers and service providers in the neighbourhoods.

We talked to 18 families in Marrickville between October and December 2011.

What does this booklet say?

This booklet says what we found out in Marrickville. It starts with some

families we spoke to in Marrickville and, most importantly, what they told us.

How can I find out more about the research?

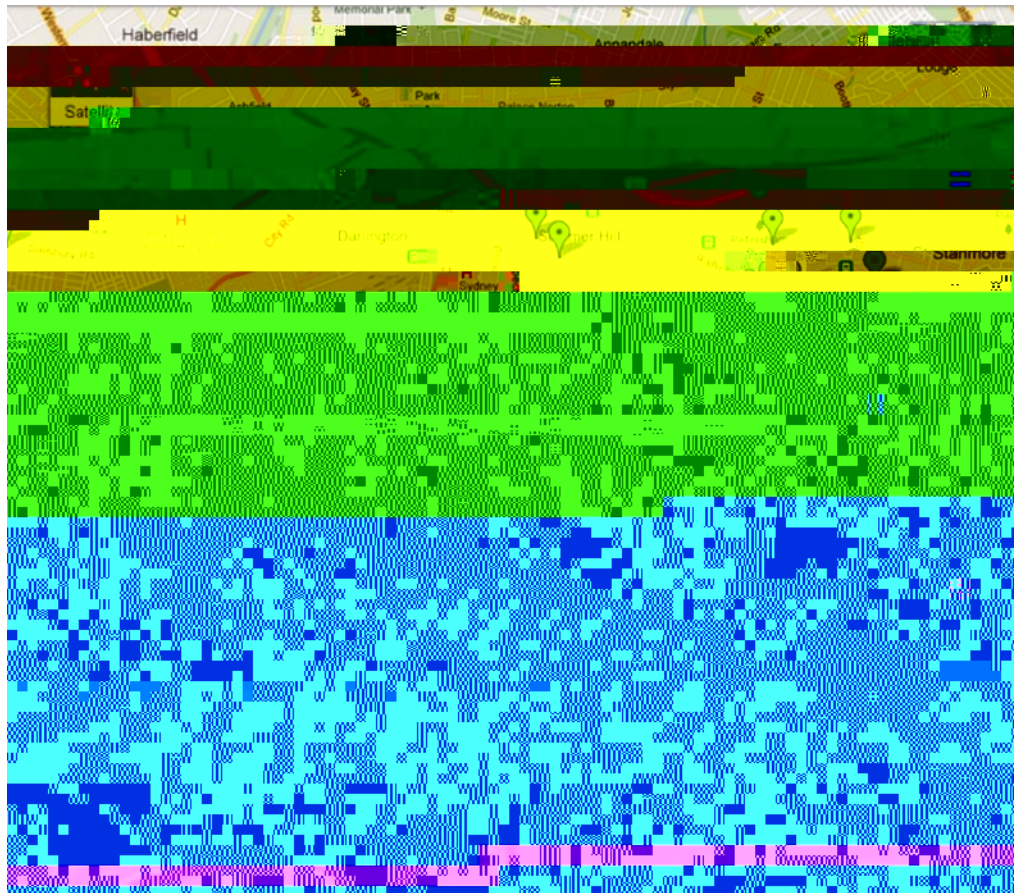
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You are welcome to distribute this brochure to other people.
An electronic copy is available at: www.sprc.unsw.edu.au.

long day care centres, some with preschool programs, 2 preschools, 1 occasional care service

primary schools in Marrickville.

MAP 1: MARRICKVILLE CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES



About families with young children in Marrickville

year old children in Marrickville:

852 have one or both parents born overseas

166 live in families on under \$600 a week

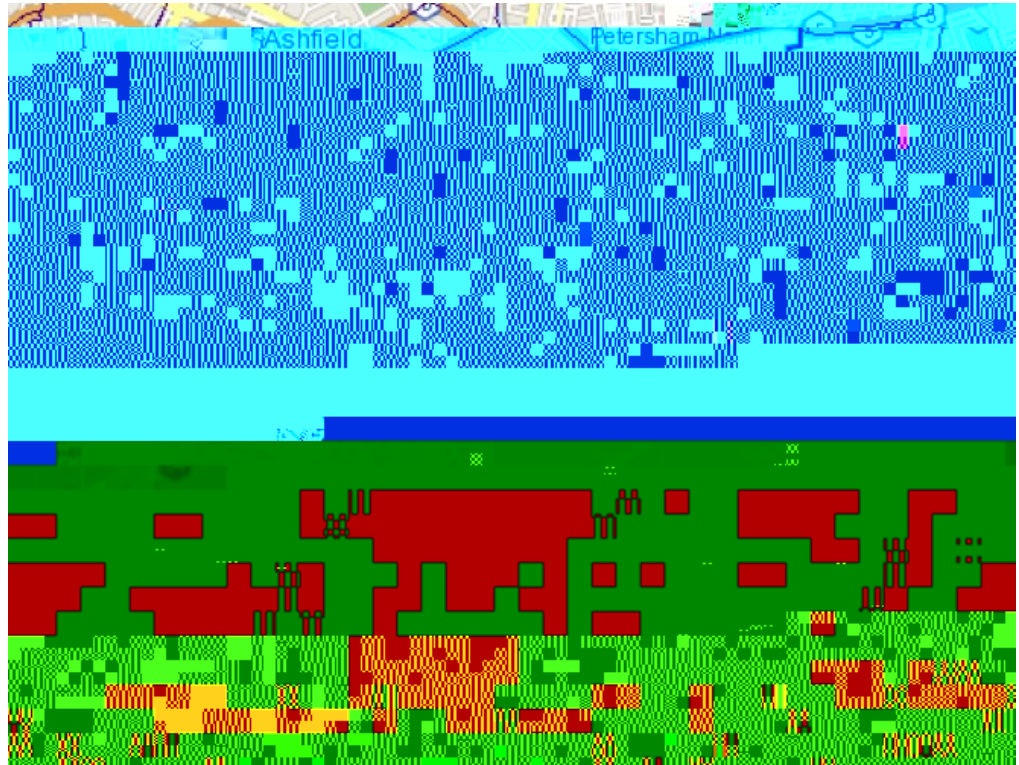
137 live with a single parent

1299 have one or both parents employed

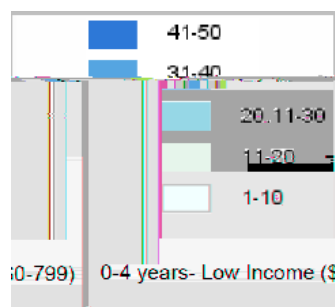
990 live in houses that their family owns (either fully or with a mortgage)

Map 2 shows that there are more low income families with young children in Marrickville than in the neighbouring suburbs

MAP 2: LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN MARRICKVILLE



Per cent of children aged 0-4 years in families with a weekly income of under \$799



a grandparent.

MARRICKVILLE

Many babies stay at home

baby are ready.

Grandparents and friends help with child care

Some families are quite isolated

child care. It may make parents sad, lonely or stressed, or it may mean that they

People find Marrickville family friendly

and walk around with their young children. There are many services for families

Lots of parks, lots of great services for children, the restaurants and cafes are very family friendly, even footpaths have got little indents for prams.

Marrickville's mult cultural nature appeals to families

A lot of Vietnamese, Greek, a lot of Island people moving into the community, which I find is great. It exposes the kids to different cultures.

Good public transport helps

Several families who spoke to us don't have a car. Other families have one car but both parents work. Living in Marrickville is good for these families because everything is close by. They can walk their kids to child care or preschool and then the good transport links.

I work in Leichhardt and her preschool is just up the road here in Marrickville, so I basically come and drop her off here in the morning and then walk back up to the main road and catch a bus through.

Families need child care that fits around work

care services to help, but they are not always available and it can be stressful.

The day care centres would have been good if it was earlier starts, because a lot of my jobs are earlier starts and if I didn't have my mum, it would have been a massive problem.

Early education is important

Many parents want their kids to go to child care or preschool so they start learning early. This includes social skills like playing with other children, sharing, having a good start in school. This is especially important to parents on low income, Australian culture.

We put him in childcare to make him comfortable with an Australian environment ... It's about how he can socialise with small kids and also learn English.

Child care payments can be confusing

Most parents can get money from government towards their child care fees, like in the forms, but others don't help or make mistakes. This can be confusing or

On the day I put enrolment form - I think I didn't fill out the child care benefit number so I had to pay the whole fee for months, so I was so worried, the problem is they didn't tell me.

Child care can be expensive

References

service providers who talked to us and:

Marrickville Council Children and Family Services,
Children's Services Directory 2009