



# Connections

child, youth and family services

## MEDIA RELEASE

Attention: COS, news, social affairs, youth, health & community

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# BILINGUAL WORKSHOP BUILDS PARENTING SKILLS IN MOUNT WAVERLEY

The Connections UnitingCare 'Positive Parenting Program' (Triple P) has been delivered to Monash parents in both Chinese and English for the first time.

The Monash Chinese Family Services Project (MCFSP), a joint initiative of Connections and the Monash City Council, delivered the proactive 'Positive Parenting Program' to 16 parents over four weeks and provided them with effective strategies and practical tools to manage the behaviour of their children.

The workshop was initiated by Graham Williams, Connections Program Manager, Outer East Integrated Family Services and was jointly presented by Craig Russouw in English and Joseph Jin in Chinese Mandarin. Through the sessions, Chinese parents learnt how to recognise the causes of common child behavioural problems, build a positive relationship with their child, set rules and give instructions that children can follow, and use discipline strategies that work.

All parents involved felt the program was useful and something they hope could be accessed by many more within the community.

Joseph Jin, Coordinator of the MCFSP, believes programs like this are the way of the future to ensure all parents receive the advice and assistance they need. 'The workshop was designed to target specifically Chinese parents and this innovative approach proved to be very successful. It sets up a very good model for running similar parenting programs to the Chinese community,' Mr Jin said.

Craig Russouw, Connections Project Officer, Inner East Child FIRST says 'the group was an eye-opening experience for all involved. As a facilitator I learnt a lot from my participants, as they did from me. Participants developed in their roles as parents over the four weeks and had a great time doing so too. Compassion, acceptance and support really knows no cultural bounds.'

Connections has a long and proud history of providing innovative services spanning over 80 years. This history has recently been documented in the historical book and accompanying display 'ReConnections and Recollections: Charting the history of Connections UnitingCare'.

Connections' Mount Waverley office is currently hosting the 'ReConnections and Recollections' travelling historical exhibition, which showcases rarely seen historical images and artefacts from Connections' 80 year history. Connections was formed through a merger in 2000 which included Grassmere Youth Services, Copelen Child and Family Services, Canterbury Family Centre and Wheelers Hill Family Centre.

Connections Chief Executive Officer Angela Forbes believes this parenting program delivered in Chinese mirrors the innovative approach Connections has applied throughout its history and is the way of the future for service provision.

'Connections' 80 year journey of care is one illustrated by the initiative of many courageous people and programs, and through programs such as the bilingual "Positive Parenting Program" we can continue to improve our services and meet community needs,' Ms Forbes said.

**More Information: 'ReConnections and Recollections' is on display at 31 Hardner Rd, Mount Waverley, until July 13. Connections Chief Executive Officer, Angela Forbes and MCFSP Coordinator, Joseph Jin are available for interview. Contact Connections Resources Administration Officer, Rhiannon Wapling on 03 9271 0800 or [rhiannon.wapling@connections.org.au](mailto:rhiannon.wapling@connections.org.au)**

Connections UnitingCare is a community organisation with a long and proud history of supporting marginalised and disadvantaged people. We offer a range of services across a continuum of care from preschool and childcare through to counselling and in-home support. We provide innovative and early intervention programs that support children, young people and their families giving them a better chance in life now and in the future.

More information at [www.connections.org.au](http://www.connections.org.au)