



MEDIA RELEASE AUGUST 24, 2021

Valuing Children Initiative celebrates a very special Book Week

The Valuing Children Initiative (VCI) is celebrating Book Week 2021 by bringing its Four Pillar Book Series to the children of Gosnells.

On Monday (August 23), VCI Development Executive Madeleine McLeod introduced children at the Gosnells' Child and Parent Centre to a magical world of Australian native animal characters as they explore the charity's pillar values of Growth, Safety, Voice and Listening.

Ms McLeod said Book Week was the perfect time to engage children with the important messaging of the Four Pillar Book Series.

"This year, Book Week is especially exciting for the Valuing Children Initiative because it's a chance to celebrate our Four Pillar Children's Book Series for the very first time," Ms McLeod said.

"The books were created by the VCI to support children's literacy and to provide parents and teachers with opportunities to connect and discuss important issues with children.

"Since their release in February, the books have been sparking meaningful discussions between adults and children around our four pillars of value which are integral to honouring the key needs of the next generation."

Written by Perth-based author Natalie Caudle and illustrated by Aleisha Zappia, the books are a perfect mix of impactful and fun.

The questions on the 'reflection page' at the end of each book can be used by adults to initiate conversations with children in relation to each book's topic.

"With the use of such delightful characters as Kelvin the Kangaroo, Kooky the Kookaburra, Ellie the Echidna and Summer the Swan we are able to empower children to have thoughtful conversations about their needs, wants and rights," Ms McLeod said.

"As much as these books are for children, they are for adults too. Each book serves as a tool to remind us of the kinds of things that are important to children at all stages of their development."

After a special book reading, the children were surprised with a very exciting visit from Patrick the Possum, who helped hand out copies of the books to his captive audience.

VCI also donated approximately 200 copies of the Four Pillar Book Series to be shared between the Gosnells and East Maddington Child and Parent Centres.

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Valuing Children Initiative background

The Valuing Children Initiative aims to inspire Australians to value all children, understand that a child's wellbeing is the shared responsibility of the entire community, and ensure children are at the forefront of our considerations. The vision of the Valuing Children Initiative is the creation of a society in which all children can flourish, have a safe, caring, and supportive childhood and maximise their potential.

The Valuing Children Initiative is a population approach to better outcomes for our future generations and our communities. When we value all children as citizens, we build a better community for everyone. With government and community advocacy for children; together we can build a population that values children and thrives from improved wellbeing.

The Valuing Children Initiative was established in 2016 as a Centrecare Incorporated program.

Valuing Children Four Pillar – Book Series background

Officially launched in April 2021 by Professor Fiona Stanley AC, the books use delightful Australian native animal characters; Kelvin the Kangaroo, Kooky the Kookaburra, Ellie the Echidna and Summer the Swan, to explore the Valuing Children Initiative's four core pillars of Listening, Voice, Safety and Growth.

In a partnership with sponsors Westbooks, 4000 sets of the books – which have been added to the State Library of WA's heritage section – have been donated to Western Australian primary schools, a further 250 sets to WA regional libraries and 100 sets to Perth Children's Hospital.

The books are available for sale at selected bookshops or can be purchased directly from the Valuing Children Initiative for \$12 each* or \$38 per set* (four books). *Plus postage if buyer unable to collect from Perth CBD.