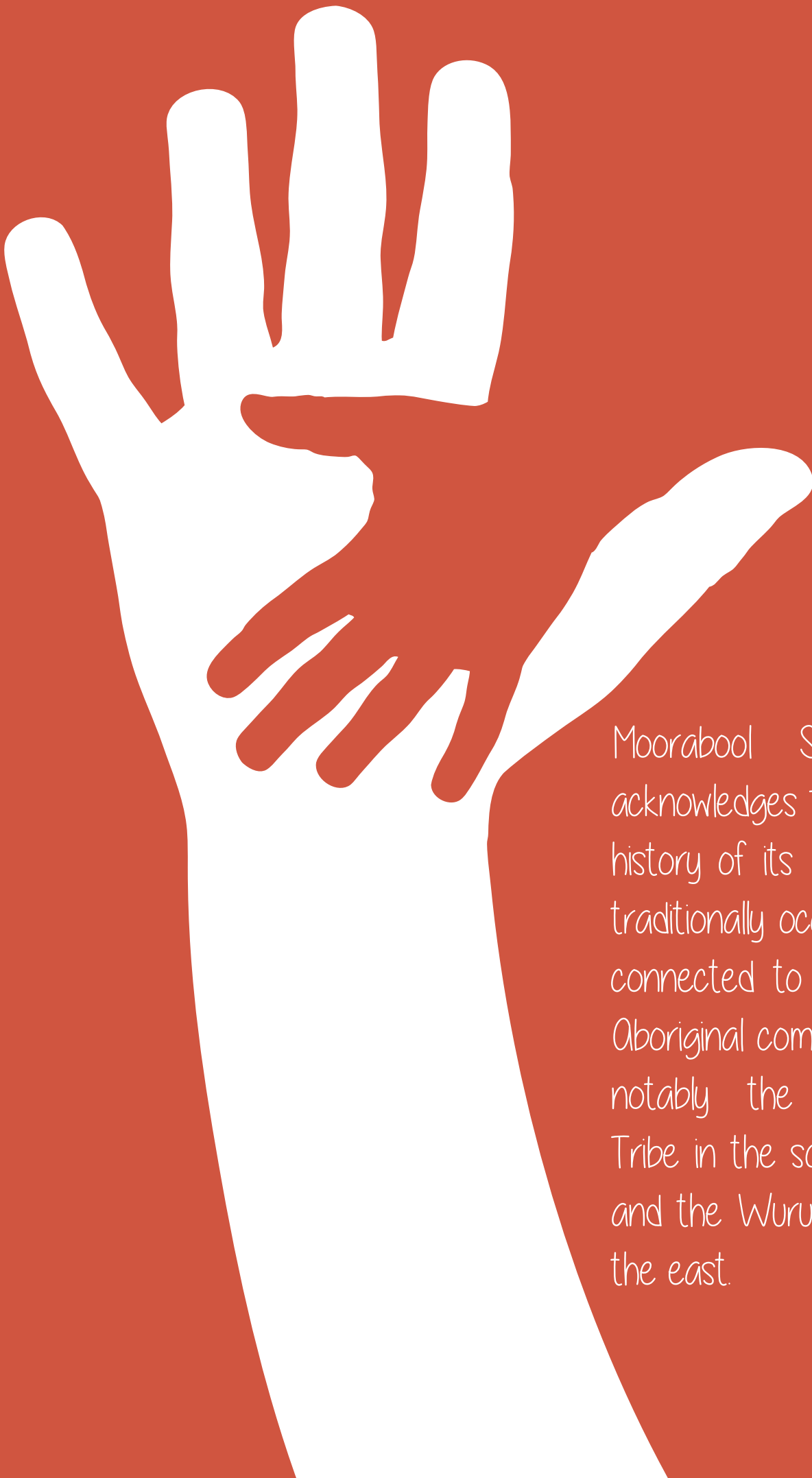


MAKING MOORABOOL
A GREAT PLACE TO
LIVE: THE PLAN

CHILDREN'S
VERSION





Moorabool Shire Council acknowledges the Indigenous history of its land that was traditionally occupied by and connected to a number of Aboriginal communities, most notably the Wathaurong Tribe in the south and west and the Wurundjeri Tribe in the east.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Moorabool Shire Council would like to thank the children, families, and the many people who work with children and families in Moorabool for sharing their ideas so they could be included in this plan. Special thanks is given to children and their teachers from the following schools for their assistance:

- ☀ Ballan Childcare Centre
- ☀ Ballan Primary School
- ☀ Bacchus Marsh Primary School
- ☀ Darley Primary School
- ☀ Gordon Primary School
- ☀ Myrniong Primary School
- ☀ Pentland Childcare & Kindergarten
- ☀ Pentland Primary School
- ☀ Wallace Kindergarten
- ☀ Young St Kindergarten



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ABOUT THE PLAN

Moorabool Shire Council, and other people who work with children and families, have written a plan to help make Moorabool even better for children, their families and friends.

Many people have contributed to what goes in the plan. This includes:

TEACHERS IN
KINDERGARTENS,
CHILDCARE CENTRES
AND SCHOOLS

PEOPLE WORKING IN
PLAYGROUPS, AFTER
SCHOOL CARE AND
HOLIDAY PROGRAMS



NURSES, DOCTORS
AND OTHER PEOPLE
HELPING TO KEEP YOU
HEALTHY

PEOPLE IN SPORTS AND
RECREATIONAL CLUBS,
INCLUDING SWIMMING
POOLS, FOOTBALL CLUBS,
NETBALL CLUBS, MUSIC
AND DANCE GROUPS

PEOPLE WORKING
IN LIBRARIES

PEOPLE WORKING TO
KEEP THE COMMUNITY
SAFE, SUCH AS THE
POLICE

ANYONE ELSE WHO
WORKS WITH BABIES AND
CHILDREN AGED UP TO
12 YEARS OLD

So you don't have to keep reading this long list of people in the plan, when we mention them again we will call them 'service providers'. That's because they provide different kinds of services for children and their families.

A MODEL FOR THE PLAN

This plan is about making sure Moorabool is a great place for all children and their families. Moorabool Shire Council and service providers know that lots of things are important to make this happen. To understand the different things that influence the way children learn, grow and develop, we looked at a model developed by an American writer called Urie Bronfenbrenner. The model is called the ecological systems model. (1)

One way to understand this model is by thinking about a set of nesting dolls. Because this plan (and Urie's model) is about giving children a great start in life, **children (that's you) are at the centre. That is, they are like the doll nested in the very centre of all the other larger dolls.** This doll fits inside the next biggest doll, which in the plan includes **everyone in your family. We know your family is important to you and you are important to them. Your family is also important in helping you to grow, learn and develop.**

This doll fits inside the next biggest doll, which in the plan is **everyone and everything in your local community. This includes Council, childcare centres, kindergartens, schools, sports clubs, pools, parks and playgrounds, shops, doctors, dentists and everything else. All of these things, along with your family, help you and your friends to play, learn and grow.** This doll fits inside the final and biggest doll, which in the plan includes **other big ideas, laws and plans in Victoria, Australia and the world, especially those about children. These things help service providers think about what they need to do to help you live, learn and play in Moorabool.**

An example of one of these big ideas is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Rights are those things that all children, wherever they live in the world, should be able to do or have. Two examples of children's rights are:

1. **Article 12:** Children have the right to share their ideas, and for adults to listen and take them seriously.
2. **Article 13:** Children have the right to have access to information, and to share their views with others, in different ways, unless it harms or upsets people. (2)

Moorabool Shire Council and Moorabool service providers support these rights and other rights included in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We also understand that to write the best possible plan, we need to hear from children and their families.

BIG IDEAS

laws and plans in Victoria, Australia and the world, especially those about children.

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

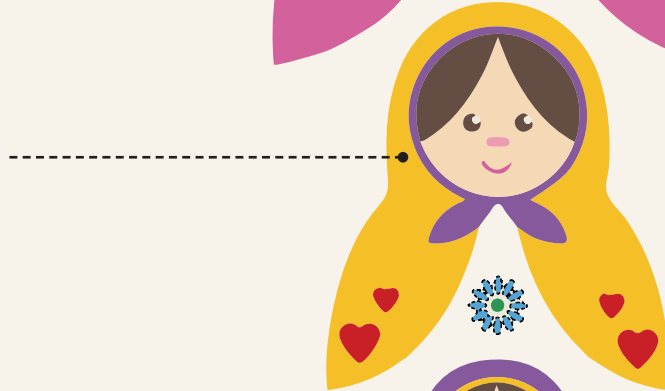
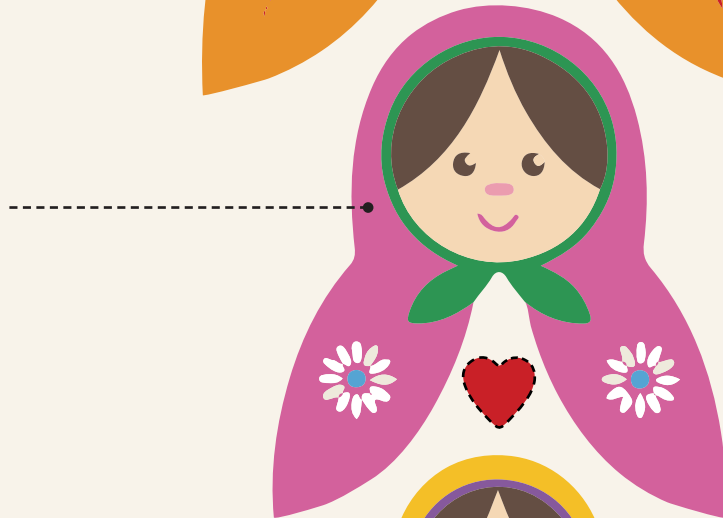
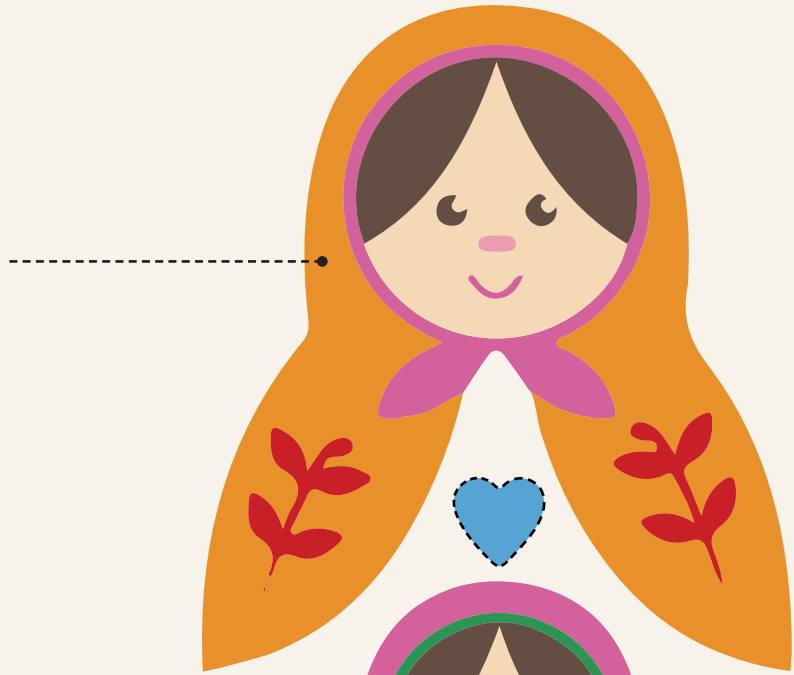
includes Council, childcare centres, kindergartens, schools, sports clubs, pools, parks and playgrounds, shops, doctors, dentists.

YOUR FAMILY

important in helping you to grow, learn and develop.

YOU

and all other children.



WHO WE TALKED TO

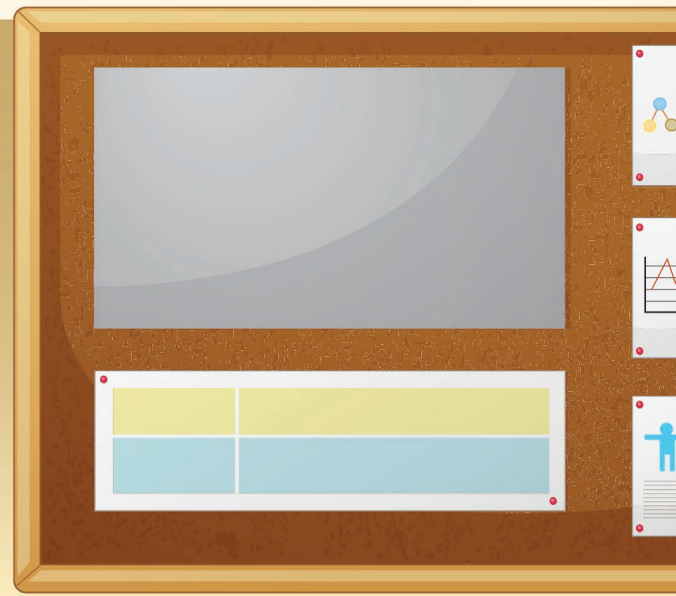
We received ideas and suggestions from 301 children. Some children were visited in their childcare centre, kindergarten or school. They were asked what they liked and didn't like about where they live, and what would make it better. Other children sent their ideas to us by placing them in a suggestion box that was left at their school. These children were asked

'What would make where you live, learn and play better for you and your friends?'

We also received ideas and suggestions from 271 family members and 104 service providers. In total, we heard from 676 people.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



FOUR BIG IDEAS FOR MOORABOOL

1. A sense of place: Children and families enjoy getting out and about in their community, and making connections with people and the environment.

2. The environment matters: Taking care of the environment is important to children who enjoy the natural environment, including plants, trees and animals. This includes keeping the environment clean, tidy and free of rubbish and graffiti.





3. Feeling heard and having choices:

Having a greater say is important for children and families. They would also like to have a greater choice of services, programs and facilities.



4. An active community: Children and families enjoy being active in their local community, and using the different sports and recreational facilities available.



THE PLAN

Based on these four big ideas, we came up with **four** important areas to focus on in our plan. They are:



These four important areas have been developed into an action plan. The action plan describes what Council and other service providers will do to make Moorabool an even better place for children and families to live.



In the next part of this plan, we will tell you some of the things you told us, and what we are going to do about it. You might not see all of your ideas here because this plan is not able to cover everything all at once. Council and other service providers also have other plans and other ways to achieve some of the ideas and suggestions you don't see here.



“[I WOULD LIKE] MORE SHOPS,
BIGGER AND BETTER”

“I LIKE TO PLAY CRICKET, FOOTY AND
OTHER PHYSICAL STUFF”

“[WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MY COMMUNITY]
IS SPORT AROUND THE TOWN”

“WE NEED AN INDOOR SWIMMING
POOL, BECAUSE YOU CAN HAVE PARTIES
AND IT WILL BE LOTS OF FUN FOR YOU
AND YOUR FRIENDS”

WHAT YOU SAID:

- Some of you enjoy being active and having fun playing sports, swimming, bike riding, and spending time in parks and playgrounds.
- Some of you want water parks and more swimming pools, more (and bigger) parks and playgrounds, sports grounds and indoor play spaces.

WHAT FAMILIES SAID:

- Many families think Moorabool is a good place for children to grow up, with lots of things for children to do.
- Families want to be able to access services they can afford, they don't have to wait for, and that are easy to get to.
- Many families want more childcare centres, kindergartens and schools. Some families also want more medical services, and especially more doctors.

WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO:

- We are going to have a closer look at what we are already doing to make sure it's what families want for themselves and for their children.
- We are going to provide new services and buildings for young children where there are not enough, to make sure that no children and families miss out on the services and support they need.
- We are going to make sure that service providers know what it means to work with people who might be different to them so they can make sure they do what is best for you and your family, and other children and their families.



“[I WOULD LIKE] FOR PEOPLE TO
FEEL SAFE”

“I LIKE THE PEOPLE IN MY COMMUNITY.
I LIKE THE FOOTY TEAM IN MY
COMMUNITY”

WHAT YOU SAID:

- Some of you said you like everything about your community. This included the things to do and the people in it.
- Some of you said it is important for everyone to feel safe.

WHAT FAMILIES SAID:

- Service providers could be better at asking families what they want and need, and at talking together about how they can best help you and your family, and other children and their families.

WHAT SERVICE PROVIDERS SAID:

- Service providers said that although they are working well together, they want to get even better at this.
- Service providers want Council to help them come together to talk with each other, share information and ideas, and learn together.

WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO:

- We are going to make sure we bring service providers together more often to share information, learn more about each other, and talk about how they can work better together to help you and your family.
- We are going to have a look at some of the things that make it hard for families to use different services and programs, and see what we can do to make it easier for them.



“WE THINK BALLAN SHOULD HAVE AN ART GALLERY BECAUSE IT’S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO SHOW THEIR TALENT IN ART”

“[I WOULD LIKE] HAVING A BIG PARK WITH SLIDES AND SWINGS AND TREES”

“KEEP THE COMMUNITY SMALL WITH TREES AND WILDLIFE”

“SOMETHING THAT COULD BE IMPROVED WOULD BE THE BIKES PATHS. THEY ARE LITTERED WITH POTHOLES AND IT IS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE TO RIDE ON. IT WOULD ALSO BE GOOD TO HAVE A FRIENDLY TOWN”

“I WOULD [...] BUILD AN ANIMAL HOSPITAL THAT SAVES ANIMALS LIVES IF THEY ARE SICK OR HURT”

“I DON’T LIKE HOW WE DON’T HAVE WALKING TRACKS OR HORSE RIDING TRACKS”

WHAT YOU SAID:

- Some of the best things about living in your community are the parks, playgrounds, and sports ovals.
- Many of you enjoy being active and having fun outdoors with your family and friends.
- Some of you enjoy and appreciate the natural environment, including plants, trees and animals.
- Some of you think the roads and bike paths are bumpy and uncomfortable to use.

WHAT FAMILIES SAID:

- Many families are happy with the different services and facilities in the community and make good use of them.
- Some families think some things could be better. This includes having more and better services (see big idea number 1). It also includes having better and easier ways to get around the community, including better public transport.

WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO:

- We are going to look at how we can improve the conditions of roads, bike paths and walk ways so you can get around more easily to the places you want to go, and the things you want to do.
- We are going to talk to the Victorian State Government about why we need better public transport and ask them to provide funding to help pay for this.
- We are going to talk to you and your friends when we are designing play and outdoor spaces so that we make sure that the things you enjoy playing with are included in those spaces.
- We are going to make sure that the places you like to go are kept in good condition so that you can continue to enjoy using them.
- We are going to take a closer look at the play spaces we already have to make sure there is something for young children and older children, and children with different abilities and interests.
- We are going to help kindergartens include more natural outdoor play spaces in their playgrounds for young children to enjoy, explore, and learn about nature.
- We are going to be thoughtful about how we plan for children and families in the future so that those children also enjoy living in Moorabool and the great things there are to do here.



“[I WOULD LIKE] ...MORE PUBLIC PARKS WITH BARBEQUES AND PLAYGROUNDS. WE COULD ALSO USE A BIG PARK FOR FARMERS MARKETS AND OTHER YEARLY ATTRACTIONS”

“I DON’T LIKE GOING TO THE SHOPS BECAUSE IT TAKES A LONG TIME”

“WE COULD HAVE LOTS OF PLANTS”

“WHAT I DON’T LIKE ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY IS THAT THE ROADS ALWAYS HAVE POTHOLES AND ARE USUALLY BUMPY”

WHAT YOU SAID:

- Having a say about things that matter to you is important. Not having a say about what happens to you is the main thing you don’t like about living in your community.

WHAT FAMILIES SAID:

- Many families want to be asked their ideas and opinions about how to make Moorabool a better place to live. They also want people to listen to what they have to say and do something about it.
- Many families also want their children to be asked their ideas and opinions about how to make Moorabool a better place to live. They also want people to listen to what children have to say and do something about it.

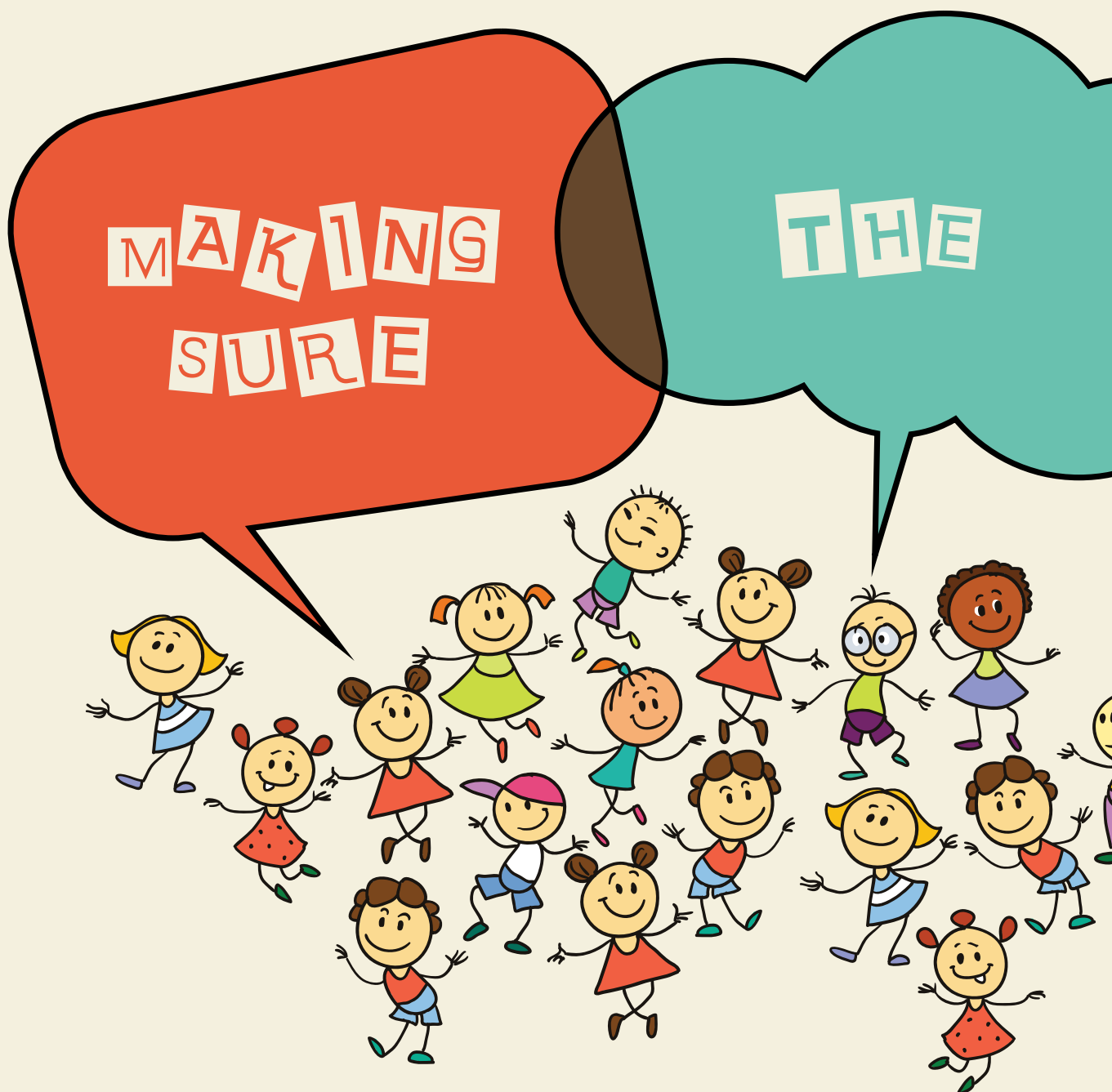
WHAT SERVICE PROVIDERS SAID:

- Making sure families know what there is to do and use in Moorabool is important.
- Some service providers think it is easy for families to get information about what there is to do and use. Other service providers think it can be hard for some families to get this information.

WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO:

- We are going to keep asking you and your family for your ideas and opinions about how we can continue to make Moorabool a great place for you to live, learn and play.
- We are going to make sure it is easy for you and your family to find out about all the great things there are for you to do in the community.

We will continue to meet and talk about how we are going with the plan. This will include looking at what we are doing well and what we can do better. We will also look out for any new ideas that might come up that aren't in this plan, which might need to be included in a new or different plan.

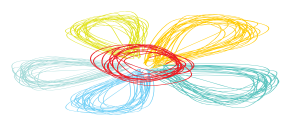
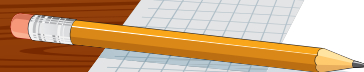
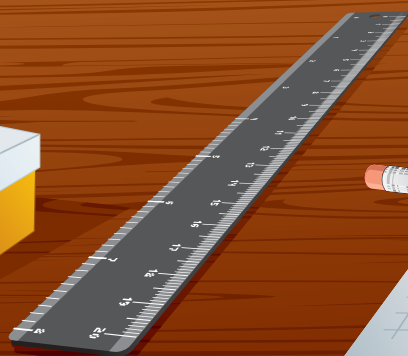
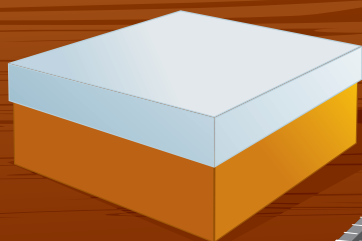


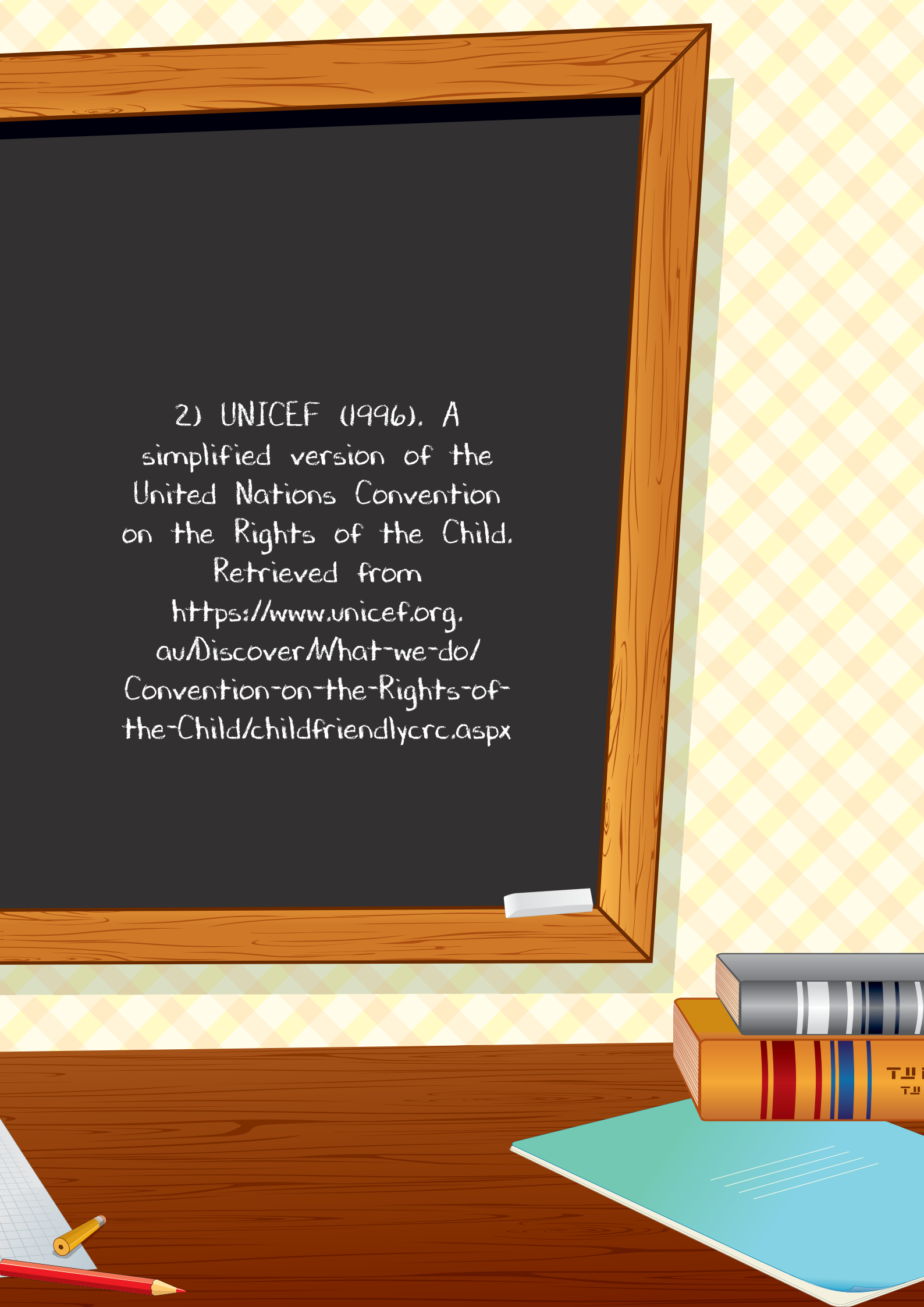
We will find ways to tell families how we are going with the plan, and to get their ideas about what we are doing well and what could be better. In these ways, we hope to make sure that Moorabool is and continues to be a great place for everyone.



REFERENCES

1) Bronfenbrenner, U. (1994). Ecological Models of Human Development. Retrieved from <http://www.psy.cmu.edu/~siegler/35bronfebrenner94.pdf>





2) UNICEF (1996). A simplified version of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org.au/Discover/What-we-do/Convention-on-the-Rights-of-the-Child/childfriendlycrc.aspx>

