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**Connecting  
Communities for  
Kids  
spokesperson**

## **ECONOMIC REVIEW FOR CONNECTING COMMUNITIES FOR KIDS**

Connecting Communities for Kids (CCK) is a collective impact initiative developed to empower parents, children and professionals in the communities of Cockburn and Kwinana to improve childhood outcomes. They work with the community to find solutions to childhood vulnerability themes, which involves a variety of small and large programs with a number of stakeholders and agencies engaged at any one time.

One of CCK’s current programs is the Community Mothers Program – a volunteer group of mothers providing monthly at-home visits to community mums. With the aim to better understand the impact of the program, CCK reached out to Volunteering WA to connect them with a skilled volunteer who could assist.

A volunteer from BHP’s Finance team had a long history of financial budgeting and forecasting along with a background in accounting and data science. With a passion for volunteering and an interest in doing something good for the community, the volunteer was happy to get involved.

After an initial face-to-face meeting, the volunteer worked with the CCK team to review and analyse the existing data on the program. With the realisation that the program was not at the necessary maturation point to undertake a full economic evaluation, the tasks were modified to include a financial report and a simplified budget and model.

## Benefits of volunteering

### For the volunteer:

- ✓ Improved sense of well-being / happiness
- ✓ Greater awareness of wider social issues
- ✓ Improved customer focus
- ✓ Pride in the company / job

### For the community organisation:

- ✓ Access to expertise not already available
- ✓ Ability to move forward on a project where skills / funding has not been available
- ✓ Assistance for their staff

While the project's final outcomes differed to what was originally sought, the CCK team reported that they now have a clearer understanding of the program's expenditure along with a plan on how to reduce expenditure through in kind support. As a result, the CCK leadership group is now able to make better informed decisions regarding the Community Mothers Program.

The CCK team reported that they would readily work with a skilled volunteer again, choosing assistance from a skilled volunteer over a small cash donation. When asked what it was like to work with the volunteer, the CCK team replied,

*"The volunteer was interested and genuinely wanted to be involved in contributing to the greater cause of helping children to thrive."*

Likewise, the volunteer remarked that contributing to a community project was a highlight of the experience, reporting that he would take part in skills-based volunteering again and recommend his colleagues to do the same.

Well done and thank you for your contribution!

