



WORKING TOGETHER



Education  
Public Schools

**Better  
Chances  
FORUM**



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## Working Together

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**Working Together** is a joint initiative of the Better Chances Forum (BCF) and NSW Department of Education (Public Schools) connecting schools directly with community service providers.

Since the initiative began we have had 280 staff attendances from NSW Education and community and government service providers in the Northern Rivers Region.

The initiative started in 2017 with networking events connecting BCF members with NSW Department of Education Schools Services staff in Tweed Shire, and later in Lismore and Clarence Valley.

In 2019, the event was extended to connect school principals with community service providers. 58 principals across Richmond, Lismore and Lennox Coast connected with 41 programs across 28 agencies and service providers.

### How it works

**Working Together** is a two-hour 'speed dating' event. Community service providers (stall holders) set up a small stall and have 5 minutes to speak with school principals (and other key staff). The providers inform principals of their service, show how they can work together and provide promotional material. The principals then move the next stall and the event continues.

A **Working Together** booklet is created for each event which provides a consolidated list of service and contact details. This booklet becomes an easily accessible resource for principals and other school staff to connect students and families with support.

Find out more about **Working Together** at [socialfutures.org.au/development/better-chances-forum/](https://socialfutures.org.au/development/better-chances-forum/)



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we live and work and their continuing connection to land, water, sea and community. We pay respects to Australia's First Peoples, to their unique and diverse cultures, and to Elders past, present and future.



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## Impact

On average 94 per cent of attendees agree that attending a **Working Together** event has had a positive impact – that it will assist them in their work.

What principals say about **Working Together**:

- 'communication is key and relationships are essential'
- that they learned about contacts for external organisations including some they intended to follow up with particular students and families
- and that they would love to participate in the initiative annually and involve other support staff from their schools

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## About the Better Chances Forum

BCF supports better chances for children, young people and their families by bringing together workers from over 50 organisations across the Northern Rivers to:

- explore service system challenges, gaps and opportunities
- identify and share information about what's working well and what's not in our services and communities
- consider how BCF members can work better alongside communities

We are working to reduce the number of children and young people in out of home care (OOHC) in Northern NSW. BCF is convened by Social Futures.

For more information contact:

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