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### **HIPPY Claymore Celebrates Success**

Families and children enrolled in the Macarthur Diversity Services Claymore HIPPY program recently celebrated the successful completion of the first 15 weeks of the program.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is an international home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program targeting disadvantaged families in our community. MDSI Community Services Manager Judith Taylor sees the HIPPY program as “truly empowering parents to be their children's first teacher”. HIPPY fosters parent involvement in school and community life to maximise the chances of a successful early school experience and for some parents, it also offers a supported pathway to employment and local community leadership through employment as a HIPPY Tutor.

Funded by the Commonwealth Government through the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Claymore HIPPY commenced in early 2009 with 35 enrolled families and children.

Chris Hayes the Member for Werriwa visited the families and children at a HIPPY BBQ and mini reward ceremony aimed at recognising the fantastic achievements the HIPPY children have made. Chris handed out certificates and books to HIPPY children, chatted to families about how the program has helped them and encouraged the HIPPY Tutors to keep on with the “great work” of helping families in the community. Rula Khouri a parent in the program “proudly talks to anyone about how fantastic the program has been for her daughter in helping her learn to read”.

MDSI wishes to thank our event sponsors McDonalds, Lollipops Playland and Café Campbelltown. MDSI is currently accepting enrolments for an additional 30 families for 2010. Inquiries to Julie on 46271188.

media release