

5 April 2006

## Celebrating a Joint Local Initiative

The first meeting of the Migay Group recently occurred in Gilgandra thanks to the support of a host of local organisations including Barnardos, the Gilgandra Education Department, the Booris Playgroup Aboriginal Corporation, the Gilgandra Area Health Service, the Gilgandra Youth Services and the Community Working Party Group. Migay means women in Wiradjuri, and local women celebrated the launch of the initiative at the first meeting held at the Booris Playgroup Aboriginal Corporation in Warren Road.

The aim of the new Migay Group is to address, support and facilitate community programs in Conjunction with Barnardos. Programs such as education, health and personal development issues will provide the focus. The group will also share and document life stories and exchange ideas of local relevance.

By building strong community partnerships, the group hopes to lift the profile of strong migays (women) in Gilgandra, and ensure that the welfare of families is addressed positively and effectively. The encouragement of Aboriginal women to develop leadership skills, will provide opportunities for greater participation in active parenting and school involvement.

High on the agenda of the first meeting was the need to develop parent support opportunities. Excitement surrounded discussions about a number of programs Barnardos is involved in, to provide support for families within the Gilgandra community, including a forthcoming Parenting Workshop.

The workshops will endeavour to provide brighter futures for children and families, by encouraging young mums to develop better parenting skills. Held weekly at the Booris Playgroup Aboriginal Corporation, the Parenting Workshops will run throughout May and be presented by Lou Gillman of the Gilgandra Western Area Health Service and Amy Shine of Gilgandra Preschool.

The formation family support groups such as the Migay Group, will further serve to strengthen and unify families. Continued development of such community groups and collaboration between service providers will hopefully yield numerous benefits in the area of

For more information on the Migay Group, Parenting Workshops or local Barnardos' services, contact Gail Naden or Faye Carney on 6847 1766

To donate to Barnardos or express interest in volunteering your time, contact Barnardos on 1800 061 000 or visit [www.barnardos.org.au](http://www.barnardos.org.au)

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