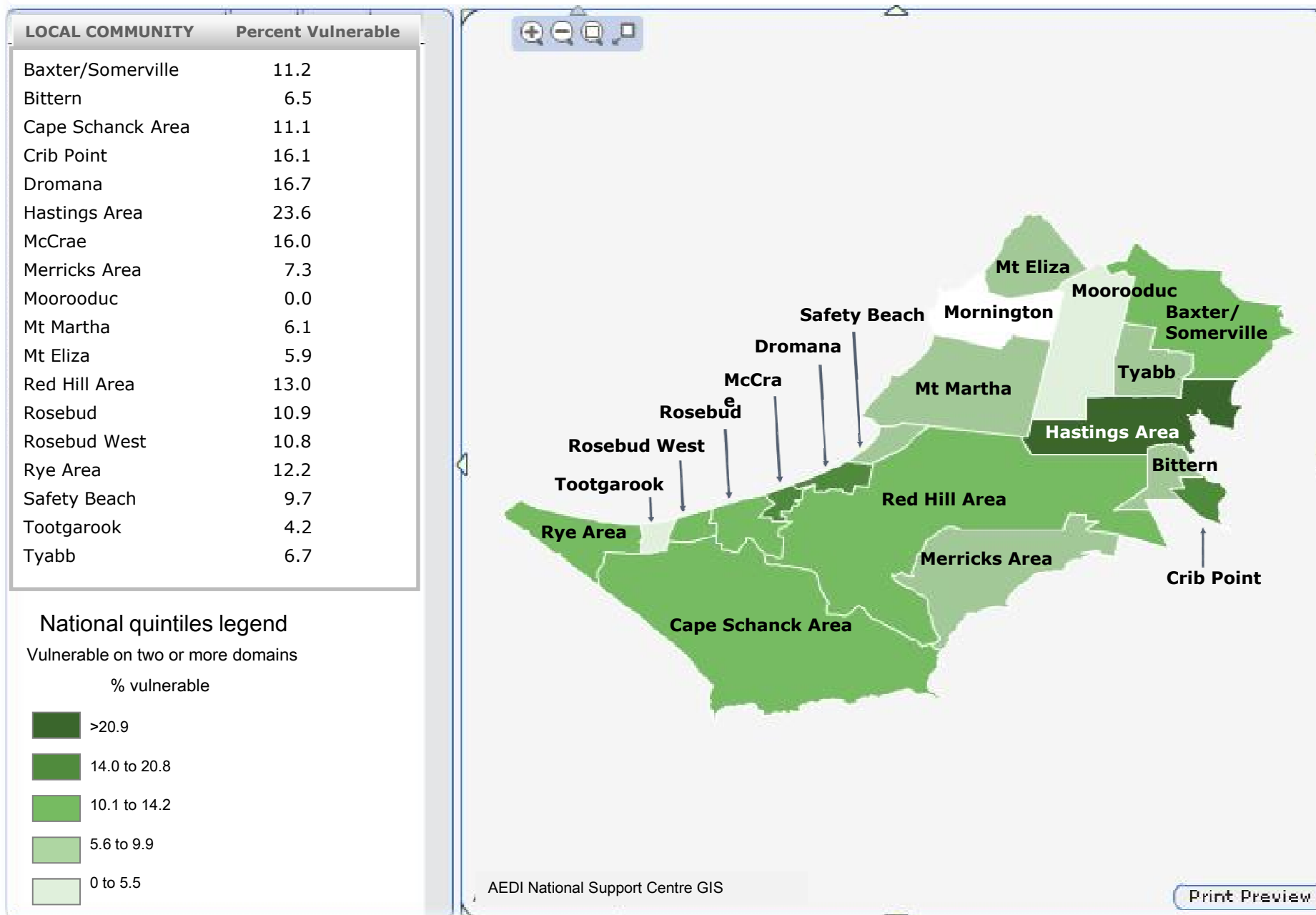


Transition Pathways for Supported Playgroups

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Map 12: Proportion of children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains





Transition Pathways for Supported Playgroups

- Key issues
- Way Forward
- Challenges



Playgroups on the Mornington Peninsula

- ❑ Mornington Peninsula has a strong network of Community Playgroups across the Municipality
- ❑ Approximately 2,000 children attend 42 Playgroups
- ❑ Churches and Philanthropic and key partners participate in the provision and management of both Supported Playgroups and Community Playgroups
- ❑ SPPI (Supported Playgroup and Parent Group Initiative) State Funding was received in 2008
- ❑ Playgroup Development Officer position established 2009
- ❑ Network of 4 Supported Playgroups has been established in partnership with key agencies



Supported Playgroups on the Mornington Peninsula

- Biala Play Partners
Children with Disabilities
- West Rosebud Supported Playgroup
Families with complex needs
- Westernport Supported Playgroup
Families with complex needs
- Carousel Playgroup
Women experiencing PND
- Ring O Roses DV Playgroup



Key Challenges

Working with two supported Playgroups the key issues to be addressed are

How do we encourage group cohesion ?

How do we ensure that families take an active role in Playgroup development ?

How do we enable families to transition ?



Two approaches to using Five Star

- ❑ West Rosebud Supported Playgroup – Five star used to assist a transition playgroup to develop their skills and expertise
- ❑ Wallaroo Supported Playgroup Five Star used to enhance the quality of play experience offered at the group and to encourage families to take a role in the Playgroups development



What does Five Star provide ?

For Families

The opportunity for reflection –Is playgroup meeting the need of me and my family

The opportunity to focus on the importance and value of play

The opportunity to enjoy social time together



What Does Five Star Provide for Facilitators and Playgroup Partners

Feedback and group reflection

Opportunity to challenge families and develop their skills

Opportunity to develop meaningful partnerships



Challenges

- Introduction of complex concepts – multiple intelligences .How do we introduce them in a user friendly way
- Ensuring everyone contributes –Effective Group facilitating
- Managing group conflicts
- Ensuring new and established families are able to contribute equally in the process



Outcomes

- Reducing Isolation
- Facilitating links to a range of agencies and social supports
- Providing and enabling the provision of developmentally appropriate play and learning opportunities

Five Star helps to achieve these three outcomes also identified as essential element of supported Playgroups within Mornington Peninsula Playgroup Strategy



Five Star Playgroups

- ❑ Meeting held with West Rosebud Supported Playgroup to discuss transition pathways
- ❑ Families were enthusiastic about working with the Playgroup Development Officer to complete 5 Star
- ❑ Transition Playgroup established
- ❑ Links established with other local community Playgroups to share ideas and strategies
- ❑ Working on 5 Star and completing tasks was established as part of the regular Playgroup Program



Five Star Outcomes

- Greater Awareness of Local Services

Resource directory developed by group for new families. Visits to local services have been arranged.

- Acceptance and Inclusion

Group discussions on welcoming and inclusion issues has led to development of new operational procedures

- Increased confidence in Parenting Skills and Strategies

Regular group discussions and ideas sharing has led to increased parental willingness to discuss issues and concerns



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