

# RESTACKING THE ODDS

## LOCAL SIGNALS FOR LOCAL CHANGE

### Learning what works in Bourke

Like many regional and remote communities, Bourke in far northwestern NSW faces challenges in accessing timely, relevant data to support early years services.

Bourke and District Children's Services (BDCS), a local early childhood service, partnered with Restacking the Odds to strengthen how they understand what's happening in their community and tailor support for children and families.

Through the partnership, BDCS has been supported to make informed decisions, test new approaches and reflect on what works.

## Bourke and District Children's Services



BDCS is situated in Bourke, on the traditional country of the Ngemba people, with a population of around 2300. 38% of the community are First Nations.

BDCS operate a childcare, preschool and mobile playgroup that supports all children to reach their potential through its focus on First Nations involvement, shared learning and connected services.

**Restacking the Odds (RSTO) enables local early years partnerships and services to improve systems and practice using actionable data.**



## Partnering with RSTO

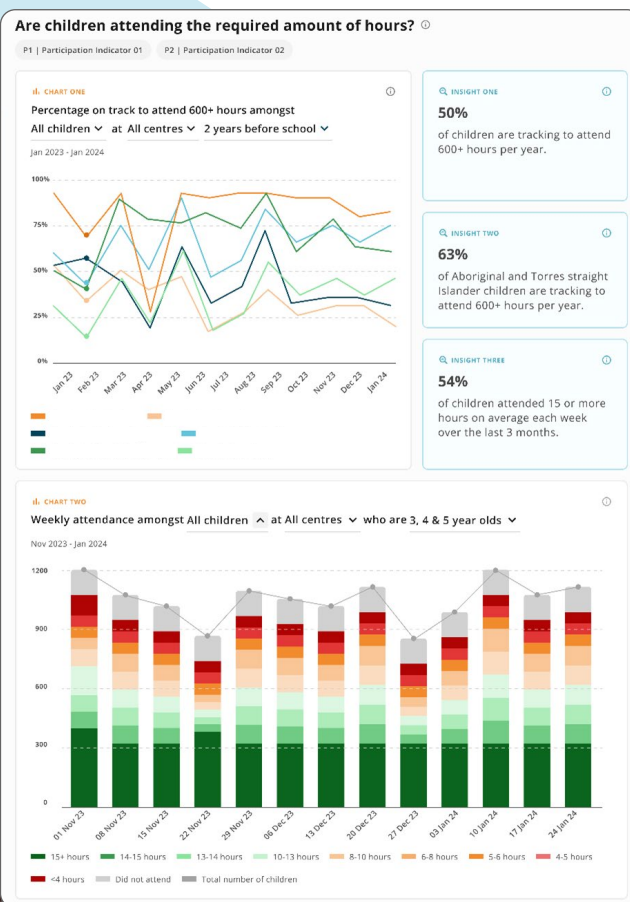
Through the partnership, BDCS has a clearer view of what's happening across its services.

Using RSTO tools, educators can see whether children are attending enough hours and where participation or quality may be dropping. This **helps them quickly identify what's working and where action is needed.**

With these insights, BDCS educators **act on opportunities to strengthen participation and quality** – designing and testing improvements that respond directly to community needs.

BDCS describes gaining a **'newfound awareness that actions in service have measurable outcomes'**.

**'[RSTO] facilitates real and measurable outcomes. It has taken ideas in our heads and made them come alive.'**



**Data strengthens educators' daily observations of children by providing measurable insights.**

## Building local capability

BDCS staff are building capability to use data for local learning and action.

This looks like:

- **growing confidence** to test and make small, practical improvements
- **nurturing a culture of continuous improvement**, where educators feel empowered to lead change
- **building skills in interpreting and acting on data**, reflecting openly and recognising where understanding could be strengthened
- a **renewed sense of motivation** from seeing how their everyday work contributes to long-term benefits for children.

**‘RSTO has led BDCS on an incredible journey that ultimately improves the experience children, their families and our team have in early education.’**



## Driving local change

With actionable insights and improved capability, BDCS is making meaningful changes to better support children and families, including:

- **boosting participation through proactive family engagement**, supporting the work of the Aboriginal Liaison Officer and broader leadership team to reduce barriers and build trust
- **monitoring indicators of quality and adjusting practices** as needed, reinforcing quality-focused initiatives such as ongoing staff training and professional learning
- **developing an understanding of what drives change** at BDCS, enabling staff to link workforce initiatives, such as their Indigenous Employment Strategy, to improvements in trust and participation
- **advocating for their community at state and federal levels**, calling for more childcare places in Bourke and funding to expand space and resources so more children can access early learning.



**BDCS' experience shows that with actionable data, services can take more confident action and learn what works to improve outcomes for children.**

RSTO is working with partners across Australia to support similar approaches tailored to local communities.

### For more information about RSTO

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RSTO is a collaboration between the Centre for Community Child Health at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Bain & Company, and Social Ventures Australia.

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*