

Witness build stronger families



REFORMERS: Celebrating the work of the Stronger Families Alliance.

BLUE Mountains council hosted a celebration on Monday November 7 to mark the achievements over many years of a trailblazing social reform group called the Stronger Families Alliance.

The alliance is a groundbreaking collaboration of services and voluntary organisations working together to improve the wellbeing of children, young people and families.

At the event NSW Minister for Family and Community Services, Brad Hazzard, officially endorsed a report evaluating eight years of the Stronger Families Alliance. "Successful collaboration across government and non-government organisations is often attempted but rarely achieved. "The Stronger Families Alliance has shown that it's possible to do this, not as a one-off, but over many years," Mr Hazzard said. He thanked alliance members "for the hard work they have put into creating these great outcomes for children

and their families in the Blue Mountains."

The Stronger Families Alliance is a network of 46 partner organisations from the community, child, youth and family sector, as well as health, business, education and governments that implemented the innovative 'Collective Impact' model of community development before it was proven to deliver results in its founding country of the USA. Mayor Mark Greenhill called the Alliance "a trail-

blazing community network at the vanguard of international trends, collaborating to deliver the right support at the right time."

The report found solid evidence that the 'collective impact' approach maximises life chances for children and binds communities in an increasingly fractured world. The results were largely due to the ability of alliance members to respond quickly in a coordinated way and informed by the latest evidence about what works best

to counter child abuse and neglect, isolation, mental health issues and the literacy divide. "A sign of a truly advanced society is one that takes care of its children," Cr Greenhill said. "The kind of achievements we have seen from the Stronger Families Alliance is something our community should be very proud of. "I congratulate all members of the Alliance on achieving such exemplary work."