

SKIP in Tāmaki

Whānau Community Dinner

SKIP (Strategies with Kids, Information for Parents) came to Tāmaki over 2014, to help The Glen Innes Family Centre and The HEART Movement to develop an understanding about what whānau in our community need to develop great parents. To begin, we decided to gather community facilitators and parents in Tāmaki to work together in sharing and documenting what they thought. We learnt about 'User Centred Design' as a model and worked together with several organisations to bring people together. This document details that journey and the raw data that has been collected thus far. This is very much only the very first step of SKIP in Tāmaki and we will continue to be developing this knowledge as we move along.



Written by Tara Moala
December 2014

“ I loved the fact the environment was non threatening, calm, relaxed and the families felt they could engage and hold conversation without feeling inadequate or judged for who they were or how they looked".

- Tai Brown
Community Worker



Contents

Purpose and Outcome	3
Organisations and Groups involved	3
Process	5
Feedback	6
Facilitator Notes from on the Night	7
Notes from the De-brief Meeting	7
What made it 'WOW'	
Try to Include Next Time	
Analysing The Asset Maps	
Identifying Possible Themes	
Leading Steps to Take Next	10
Appendix - Asset Maps	11
Parents with under 5 year olds (predominately) Table	
Parents with 6 to 11 year olds (predominately) Table	
Parents with 11yr olds plus (predominately) Table	
Dads Table	
Young Mums Table	
Parents with children of mixed ages Table	
Community Workers Table	

Purpose and Outcome

The purpose of hosting an event in the community was to gather parents in Tāmaki and learn from them **what it is like for them, to be parents in their community**. We wanted to gather themes that are relevant to local parents and use those themes to gain an understanding about what parents need, in terms of support and what further questions to ask within in-depth interviews with parents in Tāmaki.

We achieved this task well, however there were other outcomes that were just as valuable for the community that were also achieved.

- Some local community organisations that support parents were given the opportunity to reflect on their current practices whilst describing their services/ activities. Key community workers were able to engage with each other and be involved in the activities on the night to gain a collective understanding about what organisations believe whānau experiences of parenting are in Tāmaki.
- Parents that attended enjoyed connecting with other parents in their own community and learning from each other about different parenting journeys, experiences of tough times, and ideas for working better. We have received a lot of feedback asking for more or similar events to be held purely for this outcome.
- A fantastic night celebrating parents and whānau was had by all, the venue was well received and the food even more so. All feedback received from everyone was that the actual night was enjoyable and a lot of fun.

Organisations and Groups involved

We had an overwhelming response of support from local organisations and community workers to see this event take place. Part of this, is because there were local community workers that were actively engaged in the development of the process and had been working behind the scenes, talking with organisations over the last few months.

Working Party

- Glen Innes Family Centre
 - ➡ Chris Makoare, Manager
 - ➡ Tara Moala, SKIP Champion
 - ➡ Anne Purcell, Community Development - Parenting
- The HEART Movement - Healthy Relationships in Tamaki
 - ➡ Cristy Trewartha, Past Co-ordinator
- SKIP - Strategies with Kids, Information for Parents.
 - ➡ Alison Eckford, Senior Advisor
 - ➡ Maraia Teepa, Project Manager
 - ➡ Victoria Parson, Project Manager
 - ➡ Annalise Myers, Community Development Practitioner

In the months prior to the event, Tara connected with every organisation in the community of Tāmaki that works alongside parents in different ways. Information was collected around

what services and activities they provided, and discussions were held around the possibility of connecting with local parents to discuss with them what their experiences are like and what they would like to see in ways of support for them. All of the organisations were interested and keen to support this process. Out of those 15 organisations, 6 were re-approached and invited to put forward whānau that would be willing to attend a community dinner to talk about what it's like to be a parent in Tāmaki.

Organisations Invited to Support

- Glen Innes Family Centre - Chris Makoare and Kathleen Nelson
- Te Waipuna Puawai Mercy Oasis - Awhi Hillman and Adelaide Sampson
- Tamaki Community Development Trust - Roxanne Adams and Sirikit Diaz
- Island Child Charitable Trust - Danielle Bergin
- Genesis Youth Trust - Tai Brown
- Ruapotaka Marae - Georgie Thompson

All of the organisations wanted to approach whānau that they knew could contribute and did so. Within 4 days of the invitation being put out, our numbers for the dinner were full, which meant 1 organisation only had the opportunity to have 1 of their whānau attend and 1 other organisation wasn't able to have any of their whānau attend. This was a real shame, however was also such a great indicator that our relationships are strong with these community organisations and that they are all actively supportive of our efforts to support parents in the community. In the future, it would be great to create another event where more whānau are able to attend.

Volunteer Support

Difficult to measure, but it is important to acknowledge with the amount of support that was gifted to the process.

- **Marist Rugby Club** - gave a discounted price for the use of their rooms, access to their resources like extra tables and glasses and supported our planning prior to the event.
- **Genesis Youth Trust, Island Child Charitable Trust and Tamaki Community Development Trust** - These three organisations not only promoted the event, received registrations and supported the whānau to attend, but they also provided transport on the night and attended to ensure that their whānau were comfortable enough to stay.
- **Island Child Charitable Trust** - provided \$100 worth of petrol vouchers for us to use on the night however we'd like.
- **Six child minder, food and note taking volunteers** - Six people stepped up to help out with the children that attended the night, with serving food and clearing plates between each course and with note taking on tables that needed it.
- **Ten HEART Facilitators** - ten local people gave their time to become trained before the event, attend and facilitate tables on the night and then come back together to reflect and relay their thoughts on their tables at a debrief meeting. These people were vital in ensuring that the event was locally run, and that each table felt comfortable through out the night.

Process

There have been five steps that have happened thus far in this process.

- **Planning of the process** - a series of meetings with people that made up the working party to plan the process, what we wanted to achieve and how we wanted to achieve it.
- **Facilitator Training** - a training night with local people that were interested in becoming facilitators at the Whānau Community Dinner. This was organised with The HEART Movement Champions and ten of those people were trained on this night to become the facilitators for each table.
- **Promotion, Registrations, Organisation** - Connecting with different organisations that work alongside whānau in Tāmaki who could invite them to attend the community dinner. Also promoting to local whānau who were not connected in any to any specific organisation. Organising the logistics of the night - venue, catering, set up, roles, stationery, site plan, event plan etc.
- **Whānau Community Dinner** - a dinner where local whānau engaged with local facilitators with the support of community development practitioners to gather information around local parenting knowledge. This was attended by:
 - 14 x different whānau from the community of Tāmaki which included 17 parents and 34 children.
 - 10 x HEART Facilitators
 - 4 x child minder/ food volunteers
 - 2 x note taking volunteers
 - 5 x community workers from 4 different community organisations
 - 7 x working party members from SKIP, GIFC and HEART
- **De-brief Meeting, collection of information** - a debrief night where the 10 facilitators re-gathered with the working party members to reflect on the findings from the community dinner, and gather what themes were common to parents in Tāmaki.
- **Next steps for in-depth interviewing** - There has been interest from a few of the facilitators to take part in the next steps to conduct some in-depth interviews with local whānau and suggested names have already been tabled.

Feedback

"I'd like to mention that events like this are great investments towards the prevention of youth offending in our area."

- Youth Worker.

"I've met some people who I have seen around G.I that I've never said hello to or even hi. I talked with some other Dads that are going through some of the same things as me. Dinner was awesome, wow, thanks for inviting us tonight. Do they do this often?"

- Dad Participant.

"I met a lady from the Sisters of Mercy who was in my group. I told them about wanting to get my kids some draws to put their clothes in. The sister said she can help me get some draws for my kids. I was like 'REALLY' she also mentioned that they run courses for mothers and I told her that I would be keen to come have a look and look at doing a course"

- Mum Participant.

"I don't often go to these community things, and it was really good for me to meet other dads and hear from them about experiences that we go through as well! I got some ideas from them that I wouldn't have thought of. It was just awesome and I definitely want to come to any other ones please."

- Dad Participant.

"Personally the food was a hit for me I left 1.5kgs heavier...but I loved the fact the environment was non threatening, calm, relaxed and the families felt they could engage and hold conversation without feeling inadequate or judged for who they were or how they looked. Fantastic evening Tara, thanks for the invite & opportunity to expose some of the families I work with to a "Community event driven by people who are passionate about their Community". Outstanding & well done."

- Social Worker.

Facilitator Notes from on the Night

We gathered notes from all 10 of the tables and each of the facilitators 'dumped' all of their thoughts at the end of the event onto big paper. This way, we could bring it all together at a debrief meeting to make sense of it together.

Notes from the De-brief Meeting

After the Whānau Community Dinner, we re-met with the 10 HEART Champions that facilitated the table discussions. At this De-brief meeting, we analysed all of the paperwork we gathered as well as drawing from personal experiences. We identified some key thoughts and reflections from the night.

What made it 'WOW'

- The confidence I felt in all of the HEART facilitators
- The way people were greeted as they arrived
- That the kids were able to eat with the parents
- The way the mens table was a lean on
- A great way to have some conversation about things that matter without having it seem too scary
- The parents and our table were more nervous and quiet, after we talked about the questions (on the facilitator table mat) they started to become relaxed
- That there were no barriers to coming, free, kids can come
- Parent could talk openly and not be judged about their lifestyle
- Could relate to each others comments - positive and negative
- So brave at what they women shared
- The venue was known to people
- The amount of team work everyone showed
- Working together with children and parents
- Excellent venue
- Families felt really relaxed and enjoyed the evening
- The men at our table
- A community dinner that was hosted by locals. Brilliant.
- A wow for me was not actually positive. It was the parents didn't like the way their parents brought them up (conscious about that).
- The food and how the people got along well.

Try to Include Next Time

- More events like this in the community so that more whānau can get to them.
- Make sure that all volunteers are briefed prior to the event on their tasks for the night.
- Set up of who is on what table
 - the make up of participants; more variety on tables to make it more interesting.
 - Make the tables with mixed gender tables/ or keep them same gender tables (some liked one way, some liked the other way).
 - Mix the facilitators (male and female) up on the tables.
- Just put the children and adults together (from the young mums table, other tables were pushing their kids to the children section. Possibly place the young parent tables the closest to the children's tables for their ease).
- Sing a waiata at the start
- Do the asset mapping first
- When doing the asset mapping, have a map on where everything is in the community already (note: this was intentionally not done so that it didn't prompt mentions of services/ activities that were not actually used).
- Make sure that all questions are tested before the event so that we know they are good ones.
- At the end of the event, have the chance for someone to talk more if they didn't get the chance to talk at the table.

Analysing The Asset Maps

- **What are the differences/ similarities between the maps?**

- There was not much mention of the early learning spaces in the community - spaces that we go to for education.
- The notes on the mens map were more activity based and the notes on the womens maps were more services based. (*So when targeting different groups, we need to get messages out to those spaces*).
- Shopping spaces/ centres are highlighted (Ruth).
- They knew where everything was and what was accessible and free for them.
- Most activities involve open/ green spaces. (*So need to incorporate that in any planned actions*).
- There were reoccurring names and agencies through out each map - a lot knew of government services as well.
- The services known to them and where they are.
- Women are the ones who know where to go for support, so we need to work on connecting better with men.
- To create a good list of free and cheap activities in the area.
- They all had at least one things that was different on each map.

- **What are the best ideas from the maps?**

- Men didn't know where support places were and wanted to sort things out more themselves with their own networks of friends and family.
- Make sure that we do planned actions in and around the GI shopping area and include NZ Post - which was mentioned a lot.
- People want Maybury Reserve to be lit up at night time. (*Chris fed back here that this has been intentionally not actioned from a local board perspective due to the unsafe nature of the reserve and that that particular space needs to become safer before they encourage people to be present there at night time*).
- When men have conflict at home with their partners or children, they need timeout and take it by walking/ going to Point England Beach/ Rivers/ Reserves. However they don't necessarily come back and resolve that conflict in the family.

- **What it means for the work you do?**

- We thought that everyone knew where we are. These maps show that is not entirely true.
- We need to run or plan for events for parents and have the local agencies attend to talk about their services.
- Services and schools need to network more
- There needs to be better knowledge for the Tāmaki community about services like TWP, Hippy etc.

Identifying Possible Themes

Champions Table 1

- Smacking vs having alternative options
- Men didn't know where help was with their kids
- Safety aspects in the community
- Economic Security (Housing situation and finances)
- There is an unconditional love they felt for their kids
- There is unconditional love from their children to them as parents

Champions Table 2

- Being better parents and having the tools to be great/ being open
- A lot more choices are available when families are connected to organisations
- Different people need support at different stages of their parenting journey
- Families didn't want to parent on their own and they have good role models
- Parents are reluctant to share about their parenting
- There are family dynamics with in-laws and clashing of parenting styles - need to promote good relationships in the area
- This community is predominantly the working poor - they are in survival mode a lot
- Safety in community
- Influences in the community - home, peers, school, community
- There are a lot of stressors on families (working, finances, no family time, unstable housing, values and morals conflict and therefore absolutely no self-care time)

Champions Table 3

- **Smacking** as a boundary enforcer, for consequences and as discipline. Smacking is used for a reason and not just because "I'm pissed off". Dads use it as a tool as a parent
- They are prepared to **be there** - it's more important than working, giving un-obligated time to children, experiencing their children's achievements (sport, ceremonies, assemblies). **Kids before work.**
- **Emotional Support** - hugs and kisses at home and school, being able to provide balanced emotional support to all children (split/ mixed families). Ensuring that their partner receives balanced respect from all children as well (in split/ mixed families)
- Routine is important for dads
- **Role modelling** from parenting history - they are changing what they show their kids from what they saw/ felt as children. i.e. family violence and anger.
- Dads are more understanding about being a stay-at-home-parent because of their experiences of being at home now.
- They are doing the best that they can - they are showing and practicing love with their kids.

Champions Table 4

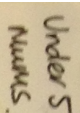
- Transportation to and from the shops is a problem
- There are not enough resources for support in the community
- There are too many liquor stores in the community
- The community is now divided between the rich and the poor
- Glen Innes is more safer for the children than out in South Auckland

Leading Steps to Take Next

As of December 2014, here is the plan for our next steps as a collective. We know that our work has just begun. We need to understand more from local parents, and share the knowledge that we have found out so far.

- **Share the knowledge** that has been gathered through this process with other organisations to use. In particular, the asset maps, could be developed into one and shared with others immediately.
- **Tidy up all of the themes** and consolidate them into set **key questions** for some more in-depth interviews.
 1. Teach some of the HEART facilitators some **quick interviewing techniques** and get them to interview two people each - 1 participant from the community dinner, and 1 other person from the community.
 - or/ and**
 2. The SKIP Team (Annalise, Alison, Maraea, Victoria) can come back and follow up over 2 days with **in-depth interviews** based on the key questions and gather more information. (Some of this could be group interviews if better).
- Take the information from whānau community dinner themes and the in-depth interviews to **create design principles/ design tikanga** which will be able to guide any future actions in Tāmaki around parenting.

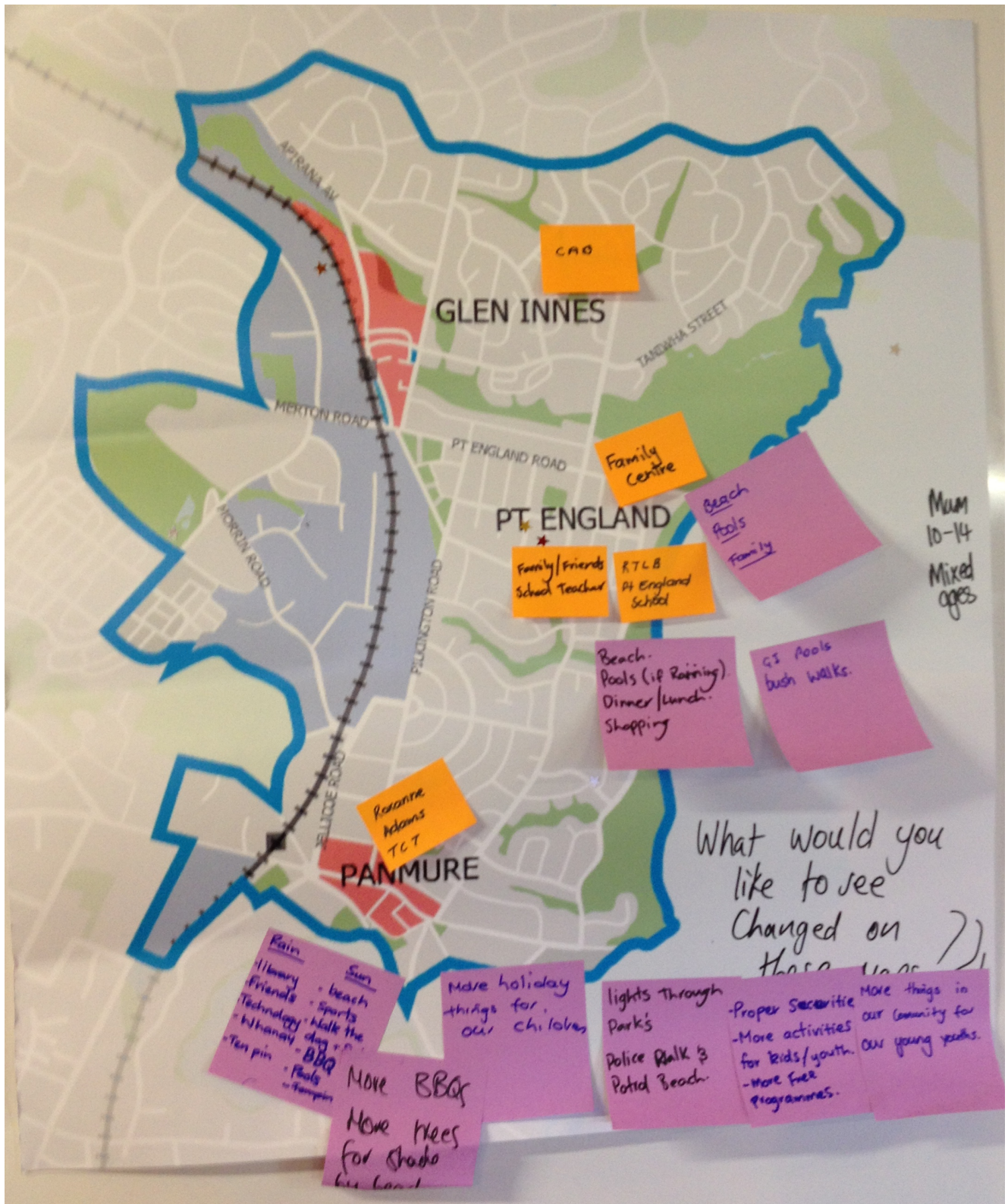
Parents with under 5 year olds (predominately) Table



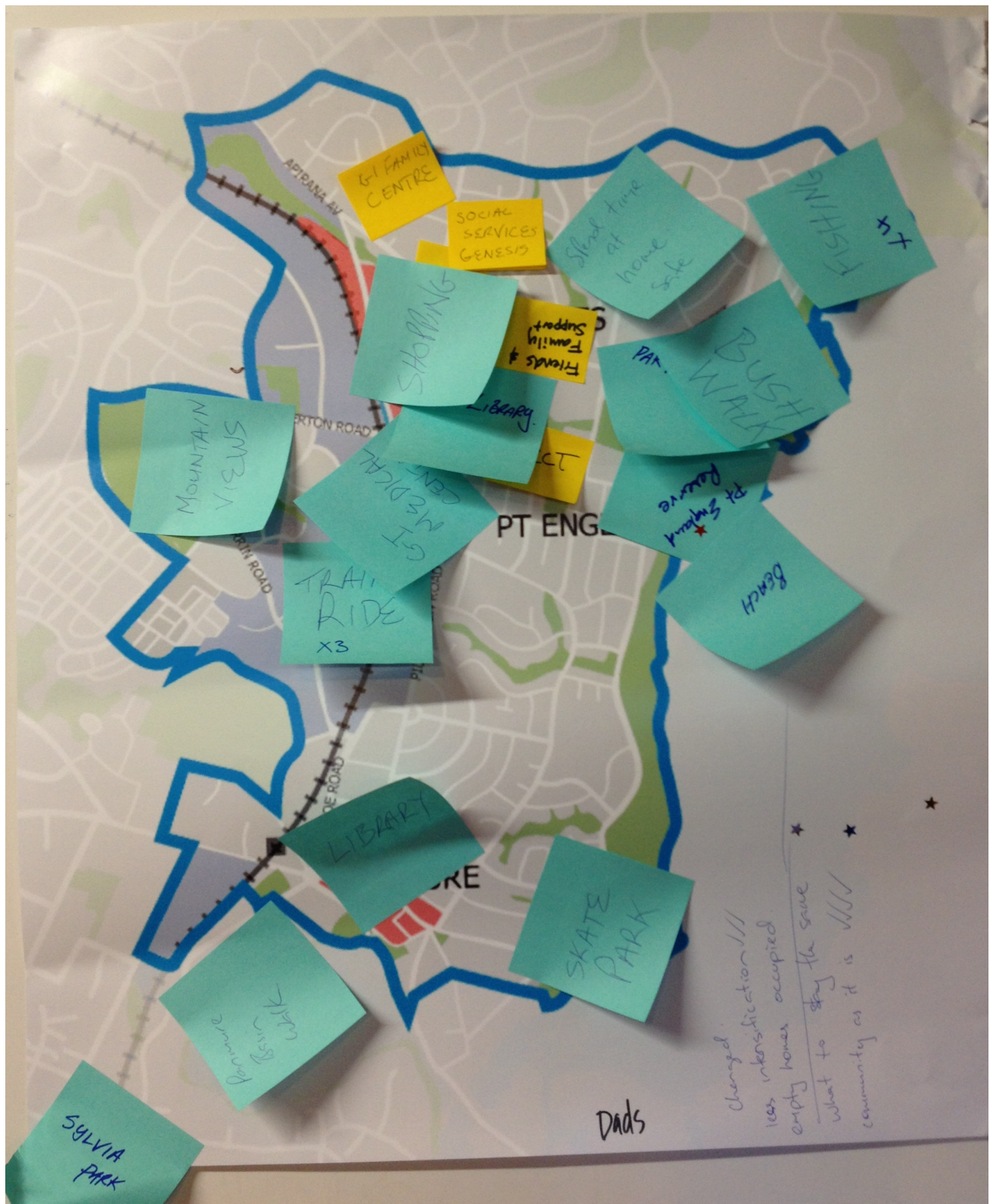
Parents with 6 to 11 year olds (predominately) Table



Parents with 11yr olds plus (predominately) Table



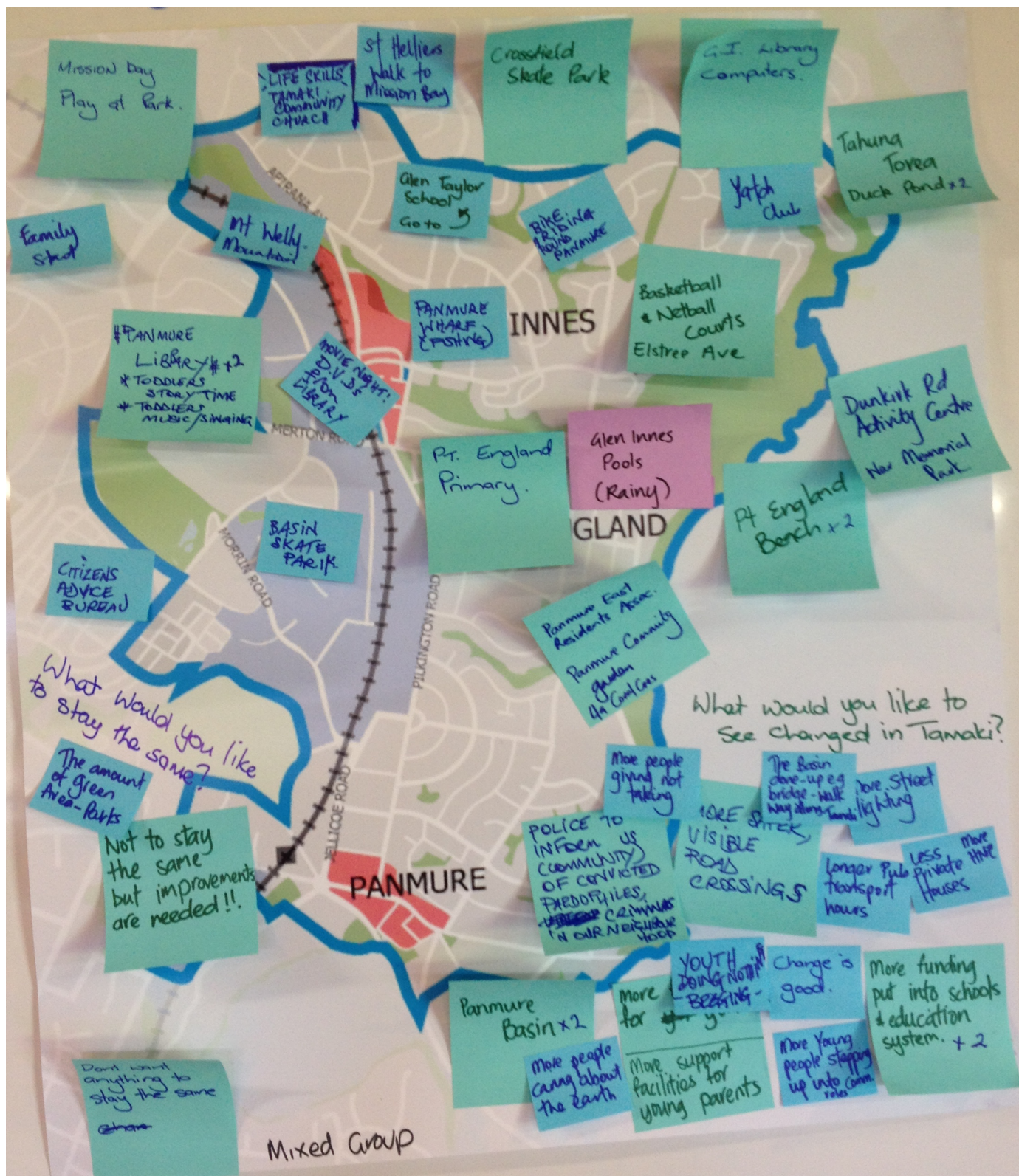
Dads Table



Young Mums Table



Parents with children of mixed ages Table



Community Workers Table

