*<2015 YouTube video>*

**Community engagement in learning**

**Sue Campbell – principal, Officer Specialist School**

Well community engagement is really crucial to a school like ours, especially a young school but not exclusively of course.

The students learning needs a context and we need to know our families well, we need to know how to engage with our broader community because this is the community that are going to support our students in the future, it’s the community that are going to provide the opportunities but we need to make sure that the programs that we’re running and the learning outcomes are actually relevant to the student needs and to the family needs, particularly in a specialist setting.

**James Atkinson – manager, Regional Services Group**

It is about encompassing the community broadly and that includes our schools, it includes our teachers and certainly more importantly our students and their families. And I think this is the platform that will nurture a lifelong educational learning experience.

**Rikki-Lee Mumbler – parent, Broadmeadows Valley Primary School**

Being involved in Parent Ambassadors and being on school council has pushed my confidence and that’s helped me gain employment at Hume Council, from the work that I’ve been doing here at the school. I can’t thank the school enough from how much they’ve built me in the person that I have become and I’m still learning.

**Sue Campbell**

We need to help raise the capacity of our parents. Many of our students have challenging behaviors or certain needs in respect to their disability, so part of our role is to provide networks and support for those families, and that way we know the kids will do better.

**Rikki-Lee Mumbler**

You are your first child’s teacher, from birth, and you know, you’re going to be throughout life and knowing that once you have that connection with your kids in the learning process, their learning outcomes are going to be way different and you see that throughout the whole year and you see that in the report, you see that in their confidence. Like my girls’ confidence weren’t so great and now they’re just soaring.

**Marija Deljanovski – parent, Officer Specialist School**

The community is what raises children, not single schools or single parents, it’s everybody together.

**Sue Campbell**

I think this is a really common sense approach by the government. It’s obviously an area that we’ve perhaps neglected in the past and yet it gives such a context and relevance to student learning. We know that we’re connecting well with the community and so it’s something that we really welcome and the focus I think will really do a lot to improve the learning outcomes of our students in the future.