

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Provided by the following Aboriginal services:



Ngaanyatjarra
Pitjantjatjara
Yankunytjatjara
Women's Council



Family Support is...

- *To promote the safety, stability and development of vulnerable children, young people and their families, and to build capacity and resilience for children, families and communities.*

(Victorian Government Strategic Framework for Family Services 2007)

Issues and Challenges faced by Families in Central Australia:

- Alcohol and Drug misuse
- Unaddressed mental health concerns
- Homelessness OR poor housing conditions
- Neglect of children- including inadequate food, shelter, medical treatment,
- Domestic Violence- including being involved in family and domestic violence or child being excessively and inappropriately disciplined;
- Cumulative harm - harms occurring in an ongoing and persistent way

Intervening early

Family Support Services;

- Assist families to develop and enhance their parenting skills in areas of care that are most likely to reduce neglect and CP involvement
- Are Family centered
- Developmentally appropriate
- Child focused
- Trauma Informed
- Supportive and structured
- Contribute in building stronger, and resilient families
- Walk alongside families to achieve family goals, building on family strengths.

Benefits of Working Together

- ✎ Greater collaboration in practice
- ✎ Family conferences/meetings
- ✎ Strengthening relationships and networking
- ✎ Sharing of knowledge (Indigenous and non-indigenous) across formal and informal worlds
- ✎ Reduces exposure to systems abuse
- ✎ Languages
- ✎ NGO and GOV working alongside each other with the focus of best outcomes for children and their families

What do Family Support services provide?

- Assessment of whole family but with a focus on the needs of children
- Information and referral
- Assertive outreach/active engagement
- Goal focused case plan
- Case Management – a coordinating role.
- Practical parenting support.
- Brokerage
- Education and Support
- Advocacy

Who are the funded Family Support Service providers in Central Australia?

- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress – Family Support Service (Tyerrtye Arntarnte-Areme TFSS and IFSS)
- Tangentyere Council & Catholic Care NT – Intensive Family Preservation Service (IFPS)
- NPY's Women's Council – Intensive Family Support
- Catholic Care NT – Intensive Family Support Santa Teresa
- Lutheran Community Care – Intensive Family Support Hermannsburg (Ntaria)
- Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation – Intensive Family Support

Community Referrals and Departmental referrals accepted across all services