

# Aboriginal Intensive Family Support Service

## Contact details

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Dubbo NSW 2830  
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**Hours of service:** Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, but may work flexibly with families in times of need.

**Coordinator:** Alf Beale

**Manager:** Cathy Lambert

**Director Operations:** Vivien Tait

## About the program

Aboriginal Intensive Family Support Service (AIFSS) began in July 2007 and will be initially funded for three years. Family intake started early in 2008.

AIFSS works with families who live in the areas of Dubbo, Wellington, Gilgandra, Narromine, Coonabarabran, Walgett, Brewarrina, Coonamble, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri.

## Eligibility

Priority will be given to a family with a child or young person with a disability where:

- the family situation is complex and the family requires considerable support
- the family may be at risk of requiring an out-of-home placement for their child or have already requested placement
- there is a risk of family breakdown that is linked to the ongoing care responsibilities of the child with a disability
- the range of usual community support has been tried unsuccessfully.

Eligibility is assessed by the AIFSS Intake Panel. Where there is no capacity, an eligible family will be placed on a waiting list. All intake outcomes are relayed to the family or/and referrer.

## **Objectives**

The objective of the service is to sustain family placements and relationships. The target group is families with children (0-15 years) and young people (16-17 years) who have a disability as defined in the Disability Services Act 1993 and who may be at risk of out-of-home placement.

## **Referral**

ADHC, self, family, friends, DOORWAYS, Emergency Accommodation, Family Support, Community Health Centre (Early Childhood Clinics), Aboriginal Family Health, local (Aboriginal) Community Development Employment Programs (CDEP), Community Services – Department of Human Services NSW (formerly DoCS), Department of Housing, schools, Brighter Futures, Communities for Children, Little Steps, Orana Supported Playgroups.

## **Services**

The Aboriginal Intensive Family Support Service is a short-term, intensive, flexible, in-home service which assists Aboriginal families with a child or young person (0-18 years) with a disability who is at risk of out-of-home placement or family breakdown.

## **Funding**

NSW Family & Community Services - Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC).

## **Key facts**

A strengths-based holistic approach is used with the ultimate focus being on solutions and positive skill development rather than 'problems' or 'the disability'.

AIFSS caseworkers spend up to 10 hours per week with each family for up to 16 weeks.

AIFSS is guided by a reference group made up of key stakeholders including funders and partners.