

Orana Supported Playgroups

Contact details

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Hours of service: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Team Leader: Margaret Ann Mould
Acting Regional Manager:

Manager: Cathy Lambert
Director Operations: Vivien Tait

About the program

The Orana Supported Playgroups began in 2002. In 2003, some additional funding for one specific location was offered through Families First.

The service was initially funded for three years through the Federal Government's Stronger Families Stronger Communities program. This funding ceased on 30 June 2004 and when all slippage was exhausted, the project continued to be funded by UnitingCare Burnside.

The project is mobile and travels around Dubbo and surrounding communities.

Eligibility

Families with children aged 0-5 years who currently have not or do not access early childhood services.

Objectives

The objective of the service is to increase family and community wellbeing. This is done through participation in playgroups and parenting training and support programs that are offered at venues. The structure and content is 'user friendly' and culturally appropriate.

Referral

Self, family, friends, DOORWAYS, Emergency Accommodation, Family Support, Community Health Centre (Early Childhood Clinics), Aboriginal Family Health, Department of Human Services NSW (formerly DoCS), Department of Housing, Schools, Brighter Futures, Communities for Children, Aboriginal Intensive Family Support Service (AIFSS), Family Referral Service.

Services

Orana Supported Playgroups (OSP) currently has three playgroups at its Dubbo base as well as groups in Trangie and Narromine.

The project is designed to encourage parents and their preschool aged children who would otherwise not have accessed early childhood services to participate in a playgroup service that can be tailored to suit individual and group needs. While it is a primary goal of this project to provide a service accessible and useful to Aboriginal families, it is open to encourage all families who do not currently access playgroups or other early intervention services readily or regularly.

Funding

100% UnitingCare Burnside

Key facts

The playgroup facilitator provides a range of activities designed to promote all aspects of the child's development involving the physical, cognitive, social and emotional.

The facilitators engage with the parents/carers who are present and encourage them to be involved in the activities with their children, and also provide support, advocacy and referrals to other services as required. The sessions give the mothers/fathers/carers, as well as their children, the opportunity to meet together on a regular informal basis. They can start to form social networks, which are so important for the strengthening and empowering of families. In addition, staff members give them the opportunity to learn new skills.

Community consultation is encouraged every step of the way in order to be able to offer the type of session that would be most appreciated and supported by the intended service users. Discussions with service users are held about venue, timing of sessions, session content, craft activities etc. Service users are encouraged to have input at all times. The playgroup facilitators are keen to act on their suggestions as far as possible to give service users a real feeling of ownership of the project.