

Parent Links

Contact details

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Hours of service: Monday to Friday: 9am – 4.30pm

Project Officer: Marie Atkinson

Community Dads Worker: Grant Patterson

About the program

A program for all parents in the Manning area and service providers who work with our target group of parents (mums, dads and caregivers) and children aged 0-12 years. All services are free for parents who join the program.

Eligibility

Families living in the Manning area and service providers who work with the target group (see above).

Referral

Self-referrals and referrals from other government or non-government agencies.

Services

The program provides a number of services:

Early Stork Workshops

Four interactive workshops are aimed at first-time parents between 6-22 weeks pregnant. These workshops cover finance, relationships, health and nutrition and practical needs. The workshops are a great way to establish social contacts for first-time parents and are an early introduction to other services offered by UnitingCare Burnside throughout the remainder of their pregnancy.

Antenatal classes

We co-facilitate sessions in local antenatal classes in partnership with Health Services staff to promote the importance of fathers being actively involved in family life. A 'team' approach to parenting is promoted and we also work closely with staff from Biripi Medical Service and the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Strategy to facilitate access by new Aboriginal parents to antenatal and postnatal services.

Delivery of 'I'm A Dad' bags

'I'm A Dad' bags are delivered to first-time fathers in hospital following the birth of their baby. The bag contains gifts and information to promote the importance of the father's active involvement as a parent and the advantages of a 'team' approach to parenting.

Antenatal class reunions

Antenatal class reunions are held six weeks after delivery of the last baby in the group. The aim is to facilitate social support among new parents and celebrate their new roles.

Dads supported playgroup

A free supported playgroup is held every Saturday morning and supported by our Community Dads Worker for all dads who have accessed any of our services as well as any other referrals.

Engaging Dads Workshops

Workshops are conducted for local child and family service providers to encourage the development of father inclusive practices.

Improving father inclusive practices

A Community Worker provides support and resources to local child and family services to further facilitate a father inclusive approach to service delivery.

Family Relationship Support Project

Two group programs are run for children (aged 8-12 years) and parents who have lived with domestic violence.

Parentalk

Parentalk newsletter is distributed to all parents in the Manning Area. The newsletter provides a range of information relevant to their new role including details of local support services.

Training for local service providers

We provide accredited training for local service providers to increase their capacity to support parents in the antenatal and postnatal period.

Funding

Mission Australia