

North Campbelltown Area Family Centre

Contact details

74-80 Pendergast Road (PO Box 48)
Minto NSW 2566
T: 8796 3222 F: 9824 5348

Hours of service: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Services are provided out of hours by arrangement to suit service users.

Coordinators:

Bryan Fowler, North Macarthur Family Support Program
Natalie Russell – Early Intervention Program
Gabriel Thomsen – Brighter Futures Program, North Campbelltown Area

About the program

The North Campbelltown Area Family Centre has been operating since May 2000 and incorporates the Integrated Child and Family Early Intervention Service, the Integrated Child and Family Support Service, Small Feats Intensive Supported Playgroups, Street Treats Supported Playgroups and North Campbelltown Area Brighter Futures Program.

The Family Centre is located in a high-density public housing estate in south-west Sydney and delivers services to the whole of the Macarthur community, and in particular, Minto. These services are particularly crucial at present as Minto is undergoing a complete housing redevelopment and many families are required to move from their homes.

Services are free to families who participate in the program.

Eligibility

Priority is given to families living within the high density public housing estates; however, all residents of the Campbelltown Local Government Area may access the service. Issues affecting many residents include drug and alcohol, domestic violence, child protection, parenting skills and financial problems. All residents, however, are encouraged to access the universal services provided.

Objectives

- Families have viable, sustainable connections in the community and isolation is reduced.
- Strong healthy attachments between parents and children where children's needs are recognised and met.
- Improved confidence in positive parenting, problem solving and managing common life situations.
- Development of positive expectations for the future.
- Prevention of unnecessary out-of-home placement of children.

Referral

Self-referrals and government or non-government agencies.

Services

Services at the Family Centre aim to build families' confidence and skills and to make local communities in the Campbelltown Local Government Area a supportive, safe and friendly place to bring up children. Activities focus on solutions and a combination of practical and emotional support services are offered which are tailor-made for each family's needs. Services offered at the centre include individual and family work, supported playgroups, education support, middle childhood groups, early literacy programs, parent education and life skills groups, community building activities, drop-in crisis support, advocacy and referral service, and holiday programs.

Funding

- NSW Human Services through Community Service Grants Program
- NSW Human Services through Brighter Futures Grant Program
- Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs REACH Grant Program
- Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Communities for Children
- Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Intensive Playgroups Grant Program
- UnitingCare Burnside

Key facts

Service provision is delivered in various ways including groups, individual support and advocacy, and community projects and activities as well as community training. While some programs are centre based, the majority are delivered on an outreach basis to make them accessible e.g. schools, local community parks, community facilities and in families' homes.

There is a strong emphasis on creating a warm, welcoming and nurturing environment for families to increase their parenting skills, meet new people and develop support networks.

Strengths and competency-based approaches are used, with a focus on working with families to identify and implement solutions to issues impacting on their lives. Services are tailored to suit the needs and goals of the families using them.