

RAPT

Reconnecting Adolescents and Parents Team

Contact details

Burnside Referral and Information Line: 1800 067 967

Level 2, 15 Watt Street (PO Box 2061)

Gosford NSW 2250

T: (02) 4325 9600 F: (02) 4324 3588

E: jschumacher@burnside.org.au

Hours of service: Monday to Friday: 8.30am–4.30pm

Manager: Joe Schumacher

Operations Manager: Sue Jennings

Director Burnside North: Linda Mondy

About the program

The RAPT service is a result of innovative partnerships between UnitingCare Burnside NSW Community Services and the Federal Department of Family and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

In July 2001 Burnside was successful in obtaining funding from FaHCSIA to run a Reconnect program (an early intervention program that aims to prevent family breakdown and youth homelessness).

Then in October 2001 Burnside received further funding through the then DoCS Community Services Grants Program for three adolescent and family counselling positions. At this point, Burnside decided to incorporate all three individual programs to create one large and dynamic youth team, the Reconnect program and the adolescent and family counselling positions. The new-look team (RAPT) commenced operation in December 2001 and now offers a comprehensive service to young people and their families who are in conflict and are at risk of family breakdown.

All services are free of charge.

Eligibility

Young people aged between 12 and 24 years, living within the Gosford and Wyong Local Government Areas, who may be at risk of homelessness or have recently left home, and are seeking reconciliation with family and/or other

supports within the local community. As RAPT is a voluntary program, all participating family members including the young person/people must give their permission for RAPT to be involved.

Objectives

RAPT aims to provide services that result in strengthened family relationships and increased competencies for young people and their families.

One of the main objectives is to support young people within the family before conflict leads to homelessness. RAPT promotes family unity by building on the choices, opportunities and inherent strengths of the young person, their family and the community in which they live.

Young people are encouraged to build valuable community connections so that they can enhance their independence, safety, self-esteem and/or quality of life within the community.

Referral

Self referral from young people and their families, Government Departments (schools, health, Community Services), non-government welfare-based organisations; refuges help to link young people and their families with RAPT.

Services

RAPT is a voluntary service that aims to strengthen family relationships by offering practical and personal support to young people and their families, when and where they need it. RAPT assists families and young people with information and support around issues that may be causing tension within their family, or alternatively are stopping the young person and their family from coming together.

Through individual casework, RAPT offers support and advocacy to young people experiencing conflict at home. Program staff members are able to meet with the young person and/or their family in a non-threatening environment such as the family home or other current accommodation, school or youth centre. RAPT also offers educational groups for parents of teenagers to better prepare them for the challenges of adolescence.

A referral may be made by an agency or other advocate with the permission and in the company of the young person and or family, by contacting Burnside Referral Line.

Funding

Government & UnitingCare Burnside

Key facts

RAPT operates in a strengths-based, brief solution-focused model which encompasses group work, casework and community development. RAPT utilises the earliest appropriate interventions including conflict resolution and family mediation that work toward family reconciliation. The service is family focused, non-judgmental, responsive and accessible and is a mobile outreach service covering the entire Central Coast.