



Integrated Family Services – Information for Families

Service background

Merri Community Health Services (MCHS) provides a range of services to children and families that include: speech therapy, physiotherapy, hearing test, nutritionists, paediatrician and other child focused children services. The Integrated Family Service works with vulnerable children, young people and their families to:

- Strengthen parenting and support child development
- Strengthen parent-child relationships
- Work co-operatively with other services involved with the family (i.e. family Violence, Schools, Disability, Child Protection, GPs, Hospitals)
- Advocate on the families behalf to promote and facilitate cultural connections and access to services and community support

The Service is a family service provider under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 and part of the Hume Moreland Child FIRST and Integrated Family Services structure funded by the Department of Human Services.

Eligibility

Families with children 0-18 living in the City of Moreland.

How we work with you

The focus of our work with families is to promote stability- through improving the parent's capacity to care for their children, improving families' knowledge, understanding and awareness re their children's development and by promoting the children's safety.

Our aim is to support you to provide a nurturing and safe environment where your children will thrive.

Service and Programs

General Resources:

- Information on services, community support, parenting, relationships
- Advocacy to ensure family rights and needs are responded to
- Support with accessing services, applications, housing

Family counselling that focuses on:

- Identifying and building on existing strengths in the family
- Strengthening family relationships
- Addressing past events that impede family functioning
- Resolving conflict between family members
- Referral pathways

Development of Parenting Skills and Strategies that focuses on:

- Addressing behaviours that may place children at risk
- Developing more effective parent-child communication
- Developing conflict resolution strategies
- Developing problem solving strategies
- Strengthening parent's capacity to respond to children's needs.

Development of Social Connectedness that focuses on:

- Linking into services, resources and other community supports
- Building social networks
- Referrals to services.

Group Work that focuses on:

- Building skills in parenting
- Strengthening parent/child relationships
- Increasing knowledge of children's developmental needs
- Addressing isolation.

Referrals

Individuals can self refer directly to our service or via ringing the Hume-Moreland Child first central intake:

MCHS Integrated Family Services Intake:
(03) 9355 9900

Child First Intake: (03) 9302 2700

We are happy to answer any questions you may have and look forward to a successful working partnership with your family.