



SOUTH WEST METROPOLITAN PARENTING SERVICE

A guide for professionals:

Professionals involved with families with children aged from birth to 18 years are eligible to refer to South West Metropolitan Parenting Service (SWMPS) programs and individual support service. The SWMPS is a partnership between Meerilinga, City of Cockburn and KEYS. Meerilinga Parenting Service leads the Fremantle/Melville Hub, the City of Cockburn Parenting Service leads the Cockburn Hub and KEYS for Parenting leads the Kwinana/Rockingham Hub.

Universal services are available to parents to respond early to the emerging issues that arise during the course of parenting and provide practical and useful support to prevent an escalation of need and of risk. As such, parenting services respond to more general parenting issues with lower intensity service delivery models.

SWMPS provide a range of evidence based and evidence informed workshops and peer support programs within the regional catchments. These arrangements reflect the Department of Local Government and Communities (now Department of Communities) Strategic Plan 2014-2018 by working towards best possible outcomes for Western Australian communities.

A key objective of the partnership is to create an integrated service system across the region that provides accessible universal support to parents and referral arrangements to professionals that enable collaboration and clarity.

Making a Referral

- SWMPS organisation contacts –

Meerilinga Parenting Service, Cockburn Parenting Service & KEYS Parenting

- SWMPS referral form

A referral to SWMPS

A referral to SWMPS may be the best way of connecting families to support where families exhibit any of the following factors that may impact upon their parenting:

- Experiencing common parenting problems that may be affecting the parent child relationship or child's development
- Families under pressure due to a family member's social or economic disadvantage that may adversely impact on a child's care or development
- Young, isolated and/or unsupported families
- Families requiring cultural sensitivity and respect



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Referrals may not fit into these categories and co-existing issues may be present such as significant parenting problems that may be affecting a child's development or wellbeing; family conflict, including family breakdown; families experiencing the impact of a family members physical or mental illness, substance abuse, disability or bereavement. In these instances a referral should be discussed with service staff prior referral.

The following may assist in determining the eligibility for Universal Services:

Factors for consideration

What specifically has happened to the family or child that has caused concerns and what is the impact on their safety, stability, health, wellbeing and development?

- Is there a history or pattern of significant concerns with this family in the care and wellbeing of their child or other children in the family?
- Are the parents aware of the concerns, capable and willing to take action to ensure the child's safety and stability, and promote their health, wellbeing, and development?
- Are the parents able and willing to use support services to promote their own or their child's safety, stability, wellbeing and development?

On receiving a referral from a professional the SWMPS team will conduct further assessment of the parent's eligibility and may refuse or defer until the parent is ready or request involvement of intense local family services organisations. SWMPS will inform you of the outcome of your referral.