



Building Stronger, More Resilient Communities

FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING (FGC)



"NOTHING ABOUT US... WITHOUT US"

WHAT IS FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING?

Family Group Conferencing (FGC's) is a strategy to facilitate, child-focused, family-led decision making. Families participate in FGC's to establish a clear understanding of the issues and challenges faced by all parties and mediate towards negotiating a suitable pathway forward to support a child.

During FGC's, all parties come together, to participate in a formal, mediated discussion, with a neutral facilitator, to discuss the issues, and challenges that impact a family. Families are supported by the facilitator, to develop a Family Plan, that clearly records the role, and responsibilities of each party, and how the family will work together, to ensure a child remains, safe, secure, and supported. A representative from an agency may also be present to ensure mediated outcomes address the 'bottom-line' or non-negotiables.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING?

- Families are resourceful and can make decisions for themselves. FGC's foster families to feel empowered.
- Families report feeling less 'judged,' and that an FGC was the first time they felt 'heard' or 'consulted.'
- 76% of families thought their children achieved a better action plan using an FGC.
- FGC's can support the repair of ruptured family relationships.
- 90% of plans negotiated in FGC's, are approved by agencies.
- Statistically, families are more likely to adhere to a Family Plan designed by them, as opposed to a plan developed by an agency.

THE PROCESS OF FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCES

REFERRAL

A referral is sent to a facilitator, and the information is reviewed. Your facilitator may re-contact you to obtain further information, to make an informed assessment.

PREPARATION

Once your referral has been accepted, your facilitator will begin the preparation stage. This stage involves the facilitator meeting with each family member, and other relevant individuals, agency workers, and professionals to capture a clear picture of the family's situation. A key focus area of the preparation phase is to understand the issues and challenges impacting the family, as each family member perceives them.

CONFERENCE

The facilitator will then convene the conference, by bringing all members together, and facilitating a structured, safe conversation, to establish, clear and robust pathways forward for the family. Family's are encouraged to come to these outcomes themselves, and develop clear actions, and responsibilities for each family member involved.

IMPLEMENTATION

Following the conference, families are responsible for implementing the outcomes contained in the Family Plan. Agencies may also be responsible for implementation, and providing support to the family.

REVIEW

After 3 months, all parties will reconvene to assess the families progress. FGC reports, and outcomes can be used as evidence to support various assessments, and court processes.

HOW TO MAKE A REFERRAL

If you would like to make a referral for a Family Group Conference, or are not sure if Family Group Conferencing is a viable option for a family you know, or work with, please contact us directly via email, or mobile phone.

SERVICE LOCATIONS

Welcommunity are based in the Parkes area however, we service, Orange, Dubbo, West Wyalong, Lake Cargelligo and everywhere in-between!



CONTACT US

PH: 0484 921 882

E: Jessica@welcommunity.org

Web: www.welcommunity.org