

OVERVIEW OF FISH SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

Levels of support and advocacy for children, parents and family include:

INDIVIDUAL (supporting event preparation, participation, debriefing, e.g., see pamphlet)

GROUP (designing, delivering, and facilitating peer-led group education, learning and support, e.g., see pamphlet)

COMMUNITY (developing and changing practices of people who influence or direct parents and families' lives, e.g., info/training/workshops for workers, carers and others, consultations, partnerships)

SYSTEM (promoting and lobbying for policy, practice, and service design changes, e.g., research, conferences, panels, submissions)

See our website for more info and copies of our reports and submissions.

MEETING SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

A peer support worker may provide support for a parent or family member for a meeting to make sure their voice is heard and they can participate in decision-making, e.g., planning meeting, family group conference. Support may be before, during or after a meeting, or all three.

Email us a request. This is dependent on meeting type, requirements and peer worker availability and demands.

COURT SUPPORT

Peer Support Workers are at Broadmeadow Children's Court on Thursdays to support parents attending for care and protection matters. Court can be a lonely experience and sometimes it is hard to know what's going on. Peers with lived experience can chat to other parents and family and provide emotional support as needed. Parents will be approached and it is their choice to talk or not.

No referral required – see us at court

PHONE SUPPORT

Support, advice, tips and information for parents and family about child protection and out-of-home care experiences. This is a good place to let off some steam and talk about frustrations. It can be a good way to think about how to talk with workers, lawyers, etc. about your children.

Free call. Call anytime. Peer workers will usually answer direct Monday to Tuesday, 10 am-2 pm. Leave a message anytime for a call back.

1300 942 598

GROUP SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

Morning Teas/ Parent catch-ups

A parent-only safe space that is run by parents for parents. Peer support workers organise and run the sessions. Parents can share experiences, chat about communicating with workers and carers about their children, talk about system issues, get tips from each other, and share information about services and programs.

Sessions are open to parents whose children were removed, are at risk of being removed, or were restored.

Every second Monday:

10.30-12.30, in-person or Zoom.

See dates on our website and Fb page.

Information sessions & workshops

Some morning tea/catch up events include information sessions provided by peer workers for parents. Example topics include self care and family time. Parents can request topics.

We also run workshops for parents that cover skills and information for navigating different parts of systems and processes in child protection and out-of-home care, e.g., restoration.

Check our website for more info.

PEER SUPPORT WORKERS

FISH peer support workers are parents with lived experience of child protection and out-of-home care systems. They have successfully navigated the systems and have restoration experiences. They can share their stories and provide support around experiences they understand.

REFERRAL FOR PEER SUPPORT

No referral form.

Parents and Family: Send us an email or call our free line 1300 942 598 and speak to a peer support worker.

Agencies, workers and others: Ask the parent or family member for permission to share their number or email with us, send it to us via our peer email and we'll do the rest.

FAMILY INCLUSION

Family inclusion is the active and meaningful participation of parents and family in the system, in practice and in the lives of children. It requires open, warm, professional relationships aimed at building equity. It is underpinned by respect and trust.

CONTACT INFORMATION

FISH general inquiries:

E: contact@finclusionh.org

W: <https://finclusionh.org/>



Talk to a peer worker:

P: 1300 942 598 (free call)

Leave a message for callback anytime and a peer worker will call back. They usually answer calls direct Monday-Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm.

E: parentpeersnewcastle@gmail.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/familyinclusionhunter/>

Info about peer services:

<https://finclusionh.org/peer-services/>



Real parents.
Real experiences.



Family Inclusion Strategies in the Hunter (FISH)

parent-led organisation providing support and advocacy and building better relationships for children, parents and families involved with child protection and out-of-home care systems