

Family Support Funding Scorecard

July 2016 – December 2016

To promote and protect the health and wellbeing of children & their families.



Outcomes for children and families



6 family support services

- 97%** parents/carers report the funded service assists them in accessing the support services they require.
- 74%** parents/carers report their child/children made progress towards achieving their agreed goals.
- 6%** parents/carers receive intensive support.
- 80%** parents/carers have completed the relevant/agreed activity.
- 100%** parents/carers would recommend the funded service.



Parent feedback

What has been the most significant change –

“It (playgroup) provides a great building block for the young ones and promotes early learning.”

“Playgroup is the highlight of our week and the only time we see other children. Would be devastating to not have it here.”

“Being in a remote community it is great to have the playgroup to give our kids a chance to interact with others and to begin the foundations for learning for their future.”

89% parents/carers report an improvement in their parenting practice.

Story behind the data

What has worked?

Partnerships

Strong partnerships have helped families that do not have ready access to early childhood and/or family support services (often due to isolation and/or financial hardship). Excessive wet weather in some remote locations has impacted the ability of some services to deliver activities and programs. Some integrated services have identified the need to improve partnerships that support the inclusion of children from diverse backgrounds including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Playgroups

Playgroups are delivered at community centres, in the park, at schools and in the home with a flexible program that is responsive to the needs of families. Playgroup provides social interaction and access to targeted support, information and/or referral to assist parents/carers and their children (e.g. counselling, online parenting programs, play-based resource kits). Parents and carers gain new skills and ideas to improve interaction with their children at home (e.g. play-based activities, behaviour management strategies).

Parental engagement

Families report feeling more confident in their parenting skills, have observed positive changes in their child’s behaviour and generally feel more comfortable in the community. Regular, holistic and respectful engagement with parents/carers (and children) supports families to feel comfortable and better able to participate in programs and activities. Some services found that providing nutritional cooking workshops into their program boosted participation and engagement of families.

Supporting families

Parenting programs, including Circle of Security and Triple P have resulted in significant improvements in child development and access to other services that the family require. Staff are engaging well with parents and children to ensure that they feel confident in their surroundings and are able to ask for support. Services have provided practical support to parents to enroll their children in Prep and support the transition to school. Services are keeping families connected and informed by providing access to technology when they are apart (eg child birth in regional centre).

Continuous Improvement

The Department of Education and Training will work with family support services to:

- further develop their data collection skills and processes
- develop their culturally inclusive practice
- promote their service through regional and central communication pathways
- identify strategies to support the delivery of quality services for families
- embed a focus of outcomes into reporting and use data for continuous improvement

Family support services will:

- develop new and existing partnerships to improve service delivery
- review their processes for data collection to ensure information is captured accurately and in a timely manner
- implement strategies to improve participation of children from diverse backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in some services
- explore options to improve the recruitment, retention and professional development of staff to enhance the quality of service delivery
- review activities and programs to more effectively deal with seasonal weather conditions
- implement communication strategies to promote and advertise their service in the community.

Survey sample is at least 30% of the total target group.



544 Total # of children participating

0.2% Children with disability

30% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children



460 Total # of parents/carers participating