



## Fact Sheet

### Brighter Futures Program – Orana Far West

Updated: 16 November 2009

The Brighter Futures (Early Intervention) Program is a voluntary targeted program designed for families encountering problems that impact on their ability to care for their children. The program provides families with the necessary support and services to help prevent an escalation of the problems they are facing.

#### Target Groups

The Brighter Futures Program is for families who are expecting a child or have children up to and including 8 years of age (at least one child must be 8 years or younger or the family will not be eligible). Priority of access will be given to families with children less than 3 years of age.

To be eligible for the program the families must present with at least one vulnerability that, if not addressed, is likely to escalate and impact adversely on the capacity to parent adequately and/or on the well being of the children.

Vulnerabilities include:

- Low level domestic violence
- Parental drug and alcohol misuse
- Parental mental health issues
- A lack of extended family or social supports
- Parents with significant learning difficulties and/or intellectual disability and
- Child behaviour management problems (conflict or school problems)
- Lack of parenting skills / inadequate supervision

#### Service Activities

The key service components funded in the program include:

- Key coordination / service integration functions
- Case management of families
- Home visiting
- Offering quality children's services
- Parenting programs

#### Outcomes

The Brighter Futures Program aims to achieve 3 outcomes:

- To promote healthy development in children.
- To promote strong, functional and well supported families.
- To reduce and prevent child abuse and neglect in participating families.

#### Funding Sources

NSW Government Community Services has funded Mission Australia as the Lead Agency to deliver Brighter Futures in the Orana Far West Region, this includes: Coonamble, Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Bourke, Brewarrina, Gulargambone, Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Menindee, Wentworth, Dareton, Balranald and surrounding areas.

In the Orana Far West Region the Mission Australia has Community

Partners who deliver Parenting & Home Visiting Programs, these include: MacKillop Rural Community Services; Together for Under Five Families – Coonamble; NSW Outback Division of General Practice; Yarrabin Outreach / Reach; Kini Health; Lightning Ridge Transcultural Community Council; Yawarra Meamei Women's Group Inc; Lightning Ridge Safe House; Ourgunya Women's Inc; Centacare; Good Beginnings Australia; Mallee Family Care; Mallee Sexual Assault Unit/Domestic Violence; Resource & Toy Library – Broken Hill; Wilcannia Women's Safe House; Sunraysia Residential Services; Alma Public School; Broken Hill City Council Disability Services; Broken Hill Skills Centre; St Therese's Community School Wilcannia; Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation.

#### Mission Australia

Mission Australia is one of the nation's leading charities and community service organisations, having helped change the lives of individuals and families in need for almost 150 years. Mission Australia's vision is 'to see a fairer Australia by enabling people in need to find pathways to a better life'. Mission Australia currently operates more than 450 services throughout metropolitan, rural and regional Australia – in every state and territory. Our services are made up of community, employment and training services aiming to provide:

- Pathways away from homelessness;
- Pathways to strong families and healthy, happy children;
- Pathways through a successful youth;
- Pathways to skills and qualifications; and
- Pathways to sustainable employment

#### Contact Information

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