

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Provided by the following services:



**CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINAL CONGRESS**



**NGAANYATJARRA PITJANTJATJARA YANKUNYTJATJARA
WOMEN'S COUNCIL**



TANGENTYERE COUNCIL



CHILDREN SERVICES SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Who are the funded Family Support Service providers in Central Australia?
 - Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Tyerrtye Arntarnte-Areme TFSS and IFSS)
 - Tangentyere Council Incorporated (Ketyeye)
 - NPY Women's Council (Walytjapiti IFSS)
 - Children's Services Support Program (Central Australia) Inc.

- **Target group**

- Families with children 0 to 18 years (for IFSS 0 to 12 years)
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous
- Non statutory and statutory cases
- Alice Springs – Tangentyere, Congress and Children's Services Support Program
- NT remote - Finke, Docker River, Imanpa, Mutitjulu (NPY)
- SA remote - Ernabella, Amata, Indulkana, Mimili (NPY)

- **What do Family Support Services provide?**
 - Information and referral
 - Assessment – of the whole family but with a focus on the needs of children
 - Assertive outreach / active engagement
 - Goal focused case plan
 - Case Management – a coordinating role
 - Practical parenting support
 - Counselling
 - Brokerage (TFSS, IFSS, Ketyeye)

Aim of Family Services

To promote the safety, stability and development of vulnerable children, young people and their families, and to build capacity and resilience for children, families and communities.

- **How do Family Support Services work?**

- Purposeful collaboration and information sharing with other child and family services agencies and other sectors
- A range of flexible intervention approaches tailored to meet the specific needs of families
- Culturally competent practice with Indigenous and non-Indigenous practitioners working together
- Collaborative approach with Child Protection with the aim of preventing families entering or re-entering the statutory Child Protection system

Child centred, family focused:

- Recognises the best interests of children are paramount
- The significance of the family in achieving positive outcomes
- “walking alongside families to achieve family goals, building on family strengths.”

Congress Targeted Family Support

- Team of 10 including: Manager, CCPW, 3 Caseworkers and 4 Aboriginal Family Support workers
- 0-18 years. Will accept antenatal referrals.
- Cases are able to remain open 3 to 6 months and then subject to review
- Following initial FSNA case is reviewed 3 monthly
- 33 families
- **Referral** is via **CCPW** or **community** referrals (Indigenous only)
- **Criteria: CP** cases **prior to an investigation** where **neglect or emotional** abuse has been alleged and is rated at a **child concern level**; both **Indigenous and non Indigenous** children and families
- **Area:** Alice Springs
- **Referrals not accepted** include: when the **risk is too high**; **physical or sexual abuse**; conflict of interest, client being referred is a staff member; current **open CP** case

Congress Intensive Family Support

- Team of 6 including: Team Leader, 3 Caseworkers and 2 Aboriginal Family Support Workers
- 0-12 years
- Able to work with family while there is an **open CP case** and family is on **CPMIM**
- Case is able to remain open after it has been closed by CP
- 18 families
- Referral via **Child Protection only**
- **Criteria:** parental neglect identified as a concern; requires open CP; OOHC cases where active reunification occurring; referred to CPMIM; voluntary engagement by family; Indigenous and non Indigenous families
- **Area:** Alice Springs
- **Referrals not accepted:** conflict of interest (client staff member); child/ren have been removed and there is no reunification plan

NPYWC Intensive Family Support

- Team of 5 IFSS workers, Anangu Support workers and a Senior Project Officer
- 0-12 years
- Able to work with NT families whilst family is **open to CP**, prioritising those families on **CPMIM**
- Able to work with SA families who are open to **CP**
- Case can remain open following CP closure
- 20-25 families
- Referred via **Child Protection**
- **Criteria:** parental neglect identified as a concern; requires open CP; OOHC cases where active reunification occurring; referred to CPMIM in NT; Indigenous families only
- **Area:** NT - Finke; Docker River; Imanpa; Mutitjulu
SA – Indulkana; Mimili; Ernabella; Amata
(to include Alice Springs when families are in for short periods i.e. up to 2 months)
- **Referrals not accepted:** conflict of interest (client staff member); child/ren have been removed and there is no reunification plan

Tangentyere Ketyeye Program

- 0-18 years
- Cases can be open for 12 months with extension negotiated if ongoing support required
- 30-35 families
- **Referral is directly to Tangentyere**
- **Criteria:** can have open **CP** investigation at referral or during engagement; OOHC case where **active reunification** is occurring; **voluntary** engagement by family
- Able to accept **community referrals**
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families accepted.
- **Area:** Alice Springs Town Camps and Urban area.

CSSP Family Support Service

- 0-5 years
- 8-12 families
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families accepted.
- **Referrals:** to FSS by service provider or self referred
- **Criteria:** parent/carer identified as experiencing challenges within their family unit that are negatively impacting on the child/ren in their care; can have open CP investigation at referral or during engagement; voluntary engagement by family
- **Area:** Alice Springs
- **Referrals not accepted:** Families with children not currently in the parent/carer custody; parents presenting with a number of very high risk factors (including physical or sexual abuse); no capacity to receive assistance (e.g. significant substance abuse)

For information and referral contact:

Tangentyere Council:

list.ketyeye@tangentyere.org.au

Ph: 8951 4225/265

Congress:

caroline.lovell@caac.org.au

Ph: 8959 4750

NPYWC:

nutritionmanager@npywc.org.au

Ph: 8958 2345

CSSP:

anna@childrenservices.com.au

Ph: 8953 4059