

Child Wellbeing Program – Northern Country Team

Department for Education and Child Development

What we do

1. Work with preschools, primary schools and secondary schools to support staff/schools to respond to the wellbeing needs of children, young people and their families.
2. Provide information, advice and support directly to children, young people and families.
3. Make referrals to other support agencies and/or services who can offer specialised and longer term assistance.

Some of the issues faced by families that the program could assist with include, but are not limited to:

- **Family breakdown**
- **Parenting Challenges**
- **Mental Health**
- **Isolation**
- **Substance Misuse**
- **Family Violence**
- **Behavioural/ Social / Emotional issues**
- **Health / Disability**
- **Financial Hardship**

The program is voluntary, meaning it is up to individuals whether they want to work with the program.



The Child Wellbeing Team – Northern Country

The Northern Country Team consists of five Child Wellbeing Practitioners, a Senior Aboriginal Practitioner and a Team Leader, who all work across a number of sites in the Northern country Region, including the Barossa Region, Yorke Peninsula, Mid North and Port Augusta.

Sonja Tilbrook is the Child Wellbeing Practitioner working with your school, as well as other schools across Port Augusta and Quorn.

November 2016

What is the process?

The Child Wellbeing Team will have discussed wellbeing needs for a student/family with the school before a family is contacted by a team member.

Sometimes however the discussion with the school will be enough, and no contact will need to be made with the family, especially if supports are already in place.

Other times, either the school or Child Wellbeing Team will offer the family the service by contacting them.

What might happen?

As stated above, often information and support will be given to the school without a family being contacted. On those occasions when a family is contacted though, and are happy to move forward, the following might be offered:

- Your concerns/views will be listened to not judged.
- Information and advice will be offered to you either over the phone or in person.
- Your consent will be sought to speak to other people/services about your situation.
- Options for long term/specialised support will be suggested to you, and if you are in agreement, referrals to those services will be made.
- The school your child attends will be kept informed and part of the plan where appropriate.

Contact

The Child Wellbeing-Team takes referrals from the various schools that each Child Wellbeing Practitioner works with. Therefore schools remain your first point of contact should you have concerns that relate to the wellbeing of your child/family. School staff work closely with the Child Wellbeing Program and will involve the program where it is appropriate.

