Terms of Reference
Better Chances Forum

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Bundjalung, Yaegl, Gumbaynggirr Country throughout the Northern Rivers, their continuing connection to land, water, sea and community. We pay respects to Australia's First Peoples, to their unique and diverse cultures and to Elders past, present and future.

Better Chances Forum commit to working with Elders and community to consider how we acknowledge Aboriginal people and Country, in our Terms of Reference and in our practice, in a way that reflects the work we need to do together.

Purpose

The Better Chances Forum (BCF) is a collaboration supporting better chances for children, young people, their families and communities to lead safe, healthy and happy lives. We focus on early intervention and prevention to keep families together. We bring together people from organisations and groups across the Bundjalung, Yaegl, Gumbaynggirr Country (Northern Rivers of NSW) to:

- connect, reflect and build our practice
- share information and build relationships
- act to work more supportively alongside children, young people, their families and communities.
- create space for storytelling to explore what's working and not working in our service systems — to understand challenges, gaps and opportunities— and communicate these stories to decision-makers.

BCF currently has more than 250 members from over 75 community, government and private-sector organisations.

How we work together

BCF membership is open to any organisation, group, service or individual who supports the purpose of BCF. Members can participate in meetings, training, workshops and working groups. Activities are outlined in the *BCF Overview*, which is updated annually or as required.

Members are responsible for contributing to and working within the *BCF Working Together Agreement* as well as contributing to information sharing and being responsive to collaboration opportunities.

Sharing, walking & working together
Digital artwork by Naomi Moran | Bundjalung/Dunghutti

BCF is committed to involving children, young people, their families and communities in our work and decisions.

Some BCF projects and activities are led by working groups or committees. Membership is open to all BCF members. Decisions can be made in these groups on behalf of the wider BCF membership.

BCF Practice Leadership Group

The BCF Practice Leadership Group consists of BCF members who are responsible for driving the strategic direction of BCF. This group:
- oversees BCF governance and decision-making
- connects and shares the work of BCF with relevant stakeholders in the region, NSW and beyond, drawing on group members' professional and community networks
- supports BCF projects to connect with each other and with communities
- undertakes analysis of issues and opportunities, and contributes to submissions
- supports evaluation of BCF activities and projects to understand how they contribute to system and population-level change
- supports strengthening of cultural capability among BCF members in collaboration with community and stakeholders.
- supports development of a BCF Shared Practice Framework to guide BCF.

We encourage nominations for this group from BCF members on behalf of any organisation, group or service. Group members commit to contribute by participating in meetings, activities, collaborations, and conversations.

Accessibility
Accessibility requirements can be communicated to the convenor prior to engagement to ensure members can fully participate.

Convenor and secretariat

Some BCF projects are supported through the Department of Communities and Justice, Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) Program. A focus of BCF is supporting and building TEI provider capabilities, including connection with BCF members and activities.

BCF is convened by Social Futures. Contact Social Futures via, email betterchances@socialfutures.org.au phone: 0438 005 798
Website: www.socialfutures.org.au/development/better-chances-forum/

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