

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land where we live and work and 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.

Inclusion is about the actions we take every day. We welcome, support, and celebrate diversity.

Purpose

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 Northern Rivers region 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.

Activities

BCF activities include:

- monthly connection meetings—facilitated online or face-to-face workshops focusing on connection and strengthening our practice (Third Wednesday of the month)
- healing and strengthening activities for First Nations workers
- BCF regional engagement conference
- BCF systemic change/leadership group – driving strategic direction, planning and practice leadership in BCF
- regular electronic news via community-hub.socialfutures.org.au.

Get involved

e: betterchances@socialfutures.org.au

w: socialfutures.org.au/sector-support/

lan: 0438 005 798

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How we work together in Better Chances Forum

BCF participants work together to set up supportive spaces for challenging conversations. We:

- acknowledge each other’s knowledge and respect each other’s contribution
- listen deeply – not to respond, to understand
- help create a space that is safe for people to ask questions
- be clear about what is confidential and mindful of privacy for our clients and colleagues
- offer support in the group to debrief with colleagues
- remember it is ok to step out if you need to – let us know if you would like to check in
- encourage you to share your story and experience being heard
- acknowledge that language matters because strengths-based, respectful language will support us and people we work with.

BCF is convened by Social Futures as part of the Early Intervention Connect program, which is funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice under the Targeted Earlier Intervention program.

The artwork in this flyer and its elements represent respectful conversations supporting the need to focus on strengthening genuine partnerships and relationships with Bundjalung, Yaegl and Gumbaynggirr people, on Country, in community, within the workplace and throughout service delivery.

The rivers that surround the many regions that once connected our traditional Countries, today connect our communities near and far.

The connections between the larger towns, to the small and remote villages in between throughout these many rivers and land areas belonging to our ancestors, are now our communities that make up some of our most vulnerable and in-need individuals and families.

The details in the circular elements acknowledge the ways in which our people gathered and communicated. We gathered as equals. We acknowledged the practice of sharing through the handing down of knowledge and cultural practice first, before we could lead.

Today we reflect on how these original teachings play a vital role in supporting how Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander people work within organisations, and with our people and communities.

We acknowledge the importance of gathering together in spaces that provide a sense of equality and understanding. We are committed to making time and space for respectful sharing and conversation.

We acknowledge through that sharing process, Indigenous staff and workers are the knowledge holders on how to best work with Indigenous people and communities, and by allowing this be at the forefront of their roles, they can feel empowered and confident in their leadership for their organisation and for their community.

We acknowledge that strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership supports stronger connections to our people and communities for supported access to services when in need, in the most culturally safe way.

