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Northern Rivers Community Gateway

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Flourishing Families
Supporting families in the Out-of-School-Hours Care Program



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Flourishing Families

- NRCG pilot program to promote, support and sustain RRR OSHC
- Commenced in Nov 2018
- Purpose of supporting vulnerable children (5-12 years) and families with complex support needs
- Ability to provide early intervention
- Assist families in supportive care of undetected needs and the risk factors contributing to these needs in the child's development.
- Collaborative research



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Aim

To empower vulnerable children and families to gain access to the resources and support they need.



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Approach: three-fold approach in program design

- Supportive Care Framework (Fitch, 2008)
- Trauma Informed Approach (Hopper et al., 2010)
- Wrap-around Service Model

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Supportive Care Framework for integrated service delivery based on health delivery

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    graph TD
      Start[Diagnosis] --> Family[Family doctor health centre]
      Start --> Routine[Routine screening]
      Family --> Tests[Local hospital or cancer centre to undergo tests]
      Routine --> Tests
      Tests --> NoCancer[Cancer not diagnosed]
      Tests --> Diagnosed[Diagnosis of cancer]
      Diagnosed --> Palliative[Palliative care]
      Diagnosed --> Treatments[Treatments]
      Treatments --> EndOfTreatment[End of treatment]
      Treatments --> Continuing[Continuing treatment]
      EndOfTreatment --> LongTerm[Long-term monitoring and follow-up]
      Continuing --> Adjuvant[Adjuvant]
      Continuing --> LongTermSurvival[Long-term survival]
      Adjuvant --> LongTermSurvival
      LongTermSurvival --> Care[Care]
      LongTermSurvival --> LongTermTerminal[Long-term terminal care]
      Care --> LongTermTerminal
      LongTermTerminal --> Terminal[Terminal care]
  
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Key points in the cancer journey: Family doctor health centre, Local hospital or cancer centre to undergo tests, Diagnosis of cancer, End of treatment, Long-term monitoring and follow-up, Care, Long-term terminal care, Terminal care.

Supportive care is provided at all stages of the pathway from pre-diagnosis research.

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Case study – integrated service delivery

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    graph LR
      Sam[Sam attended Rainbow Region Kids Vacation Club service] --> Mental[Mental health issue detected]
      Mental --> FF[Flourishing Families]
      FF --> FirstStep[First Step]
      FF --> ConnectingFamilies[Connecting Families]
      FF --> Trauma[Trauma Counselling]
      FF --> BreakingTheBarriers[Breaking The Barriers]
      FF --> NDIS[NDIS support through FRS]
      FF --> Anglicare[Anglicare Financial Counselling]
      FF --> ConnectingHomes[Connecting Homes]
      FF --> GPMH[GP mental health plan]
      FirstStep --> Chemist[Chemist vouchers]
      FirstStep --> Telephone[Telephone vouchers]
      FirstStep --> Electricity[Electricity vouchers]
      FirstStep --> Food[Food parcels]
      ConnectingFamilies --> Parents[Parents Under Pressure]
  
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Trauma Informed Care & Practice

- Diagnosis informs enrollment, funding & planning
- Behavior manifestations seen as outward expressions of complex trauma
- TIC approach during encounters with children
- TIP applied in art of therapeutic care
- TIC approach in parental interviews & referrals

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Flourishing Families support for RRC

Children's Specialists workers support and train the educators working with the children at the Outside-of-School-Hours Care Program in professional development & promotion towards sustainability.

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NRCG Wrap-around Service Model

- Trauma Counselling
- Connecting Families
- Supported Playgroup
- Financial inclusion
- Emergency Relief
- Volunteer program
- Helping Hands
- Aboriginal Gambling Services
- Nutritional guidance

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Partnerships & Referrals

Flourishing Families works closely in partnership with other local support services:

- Breaking the Barriers, St Vincents
- Brighter Futures, FACS
- Foster parenting, CASPA
- Schools' principals, teachers, special education units & counsellors

Third Party Consultant engagement

- Collaborative Research design - Flourishing Families, Trauma Counselling & Connecting Families
- Three-phase data collection: Phase 1 baseline data July 2019; Jan 2020; July 2020
- Battery of Assessments: Parenting Scale, DASS-21 & Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF)

Thank you for your attendance

