



*"Children and young people have the right to give their opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously."*

UN Rights of the Child - Article 12



## Useful Contacts

### Parentline NSW

Free professional help for parents.

**P: 1300 130 052**

### Kids Helpline

Free counselling service for children and young people aged 5-25 years.

**P: 1800 551 800**

### Child Protection Helpline NSW

Report suspected child abuse or neglect.

**P: 132 111**

*Family Group Conferencing is available throughout ACT and NSW. Please contact Susan via the details below to be referred to an Anglicare case worker in your area.*

### Susan Joyce

Manager, Family Preservation and Restoration Services

**P: (02) 6937 1555**

**M: 0427 268 654**

**E: susan.joyce@anglicare.com.au**



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FAMILY

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- > Integrity
- > Inclusiveness
- > Dignity

## Family Group Conferencing

Anglicare understands that every family is different. Family group conferencing helps to build on people's strengths and support families to keep children and young people safe.



## What is Family Group Conferencing?

Family group conferencing (FGC) is a chance to bring family members together to make a plan that will help keep their children safe.

FGC is facilitated by a person who will help the family to talk about any issues that are affecting the child or young person and make a plan for the future. The facilitator is there to support the family. It is their job to organise the conference and to make sure everyone is able to speak and be heard. They are not involved in making any decisions about the child or family.

Everything that's said in the conference is confidential and cannot be discussed with anyone that wasn't at the conference.

## Who can attend a Family Group Conference?

The facilitator will meet with parents and carers to ask who they would like to attend (eg. extended family, a support person or community elder, and other people who have been working with the family).

Children and young people may also attend depending on their age and maturity. It is important that children and young people have a say about decisions that affect them wherever possible. Even if a child or young person does not want to attend, they can still participate by having their thoughts shared by someone else attending the conference. The facilitator or case worker can talk to the child or young person about this.

## REFERRAL

The case worker will talk to the parents and/or carers about why they feel a FGC would be helpful and make a referral to a trained facilitator.

## PREPERATION

The facilitator meets with each family member to talk about the purpose of the conference, including any issues that need to be resolved. They will ask if you have any thoughts, ideas or worries.

## THE CONFERENCE

**The conference involves three stages:**

**Information sharing** – when everyone talks about the reasons why they are there

**Family time** – when the family meet by themselves to talk about the problems and make a plan for the future

**Agreeing to the plan** – everyone needs to agree on what needs to be done and who will do it.

## REVIEW

The facilitator will ask the family when they would like a review meeting. This is a chance for everyone to talk about how the plan is working and make changes if necessary.