



Community Connections

CASEWORK | COUNSELLING | GROUP FACILITATION

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IS A UNIQUE COMMUNITY ORGANISATION PROVIDING CASEWORK, COUNSELLING AND GROUP FACILITATION SERVICES AIMED AT SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF DISENGAGING FROM SCHOOL AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS ALSO WORKS WITH FAMILIES EXPERIENCING CONFLICT



INDIVIDUAL WORK

- | Bullying
- | Independent student

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY WORK

- | School exclusion
- | School refusal

PROJECT WORK

- | Drug and alcohol safety
- | Peer mentoring
- | Culture sharing

GROUP WORK

- | Young Women's Group
- | Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander
- | Student Group
- | Refugee Student Group

WHO ARE WE?

Since 1997 Community Connections has been working with schools in the North East of Brisbane, supporting young people (aged 12 to 18) who have stopped attending school or are at risk of leaving school early. Working in collaboration with schools we deliver a comprehensive solution, which focuses on the individual needs of each young person we work with.

Our trained team of Student Welfare Workers have required qualifications and accreditations and a history of significant outcomes in their work with young people and school communities. (Ask to see our case studies for more detail.) And our Student Welfare Workers are experienced in working with a diverse range of students including indigenous students, students from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and students with a disability. We are well-practiced in the provision of social and emotional support to students.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Using an early intervention and community development framework, Community Connections' work encompasses individual support, group and project work as well as creating links with the school and wider community.

The Community Connections program design, developed through years of practical experience, offers many positives, especially when combined with Community Connections' practice principles (see over for details). The program design offers unparalleled access for young people and families to access support through its integration in schools. Even young people who are not attending school can be provided with the opportunity for support through proactive approaches from the professional staff.

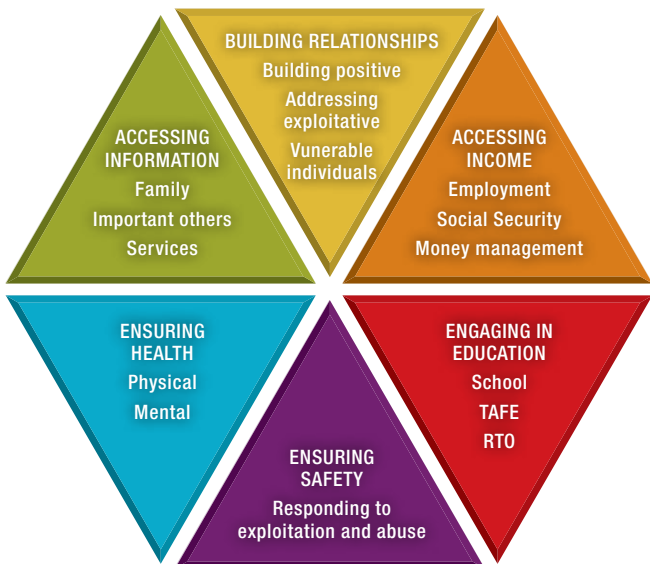
Our solutions are evidence-based and flexible. An individual program can be brief or ongoing, as needed. And while consideration is given to the confidentiality of the young person and their family, we monitor and report on the mix of services and the service delivery models.

“We value your commitment to our young people... Thank you again for the professional support you have provided in so many varied ways for our students. Many have been challenging but all the young people have received a positive influence from their contact with you.

SCHOOL STAFF



HOW DO WE WORK?



The Community Connections service framework is unique and has evolved from the needs of young people. Our six Practice Principles informs all our activities and provides evidence-based direction to our interventions:

- 1 Proactive and flexible outreach to young people - in school, at home and in the community.
- 2 Provide consistent, positive relationships with young people.

- 3 Engage with and involve the significant others of young people (parents, family and peers, etc).
- 4 Focus on reconnection with school, family and community to build on strengths in those relationships, rather than exposing young people to the tertiary service system as a first response (for example, homelessness services).
- 5 Deliver a robust multi-modal response utilising individual, group and developmental project method.
- 6 Place based work which seeks to build a community that is inclusive of everyone.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Community Connections provides a specialised and integrated consultancy service to schools seeking support for young people at risk of disengaging from school. After a referral is made, our Student Welfare Worker works directly with the young person to make an individual assessment. We work with the school professionals to develop a program incorporating liaison with the school, family participation, community involvement and recommendations regarding further specialist services.

“ Honestly, we would like to say that it was one of the best activities we ever participated in as a group. We talked about our problems in school and possible ways to deal with them... We all walked away from the workshop feeling positive ”

YEAR 12 ESL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

WHAT ABOUT FEES?

Community Connections provide consultancy and professional supervision at an hourly rate. Our terms are negotiated between Community Connections and the school and are based on the need of the individual and the school.

We also provide professional development within schools to bolster practical proficiencies and ensure skills are current, designing a program that meets the needs of each specific school.



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YOUNG PEOPLE

We engage with young people at risk to minimize the risks in their lives and increase opportunities to:

- Enhance relationships with their families, friends and significant others.
- Improve access to information and resources on housing, income, education.
- Promote safety, and emotional and physical well being.

SCHOOLS

We work with schools by providing:

- Information on issues affecting or impacting on young people.
- Resources for groups and projects around identified themes.
- Support for young people at risk.

FAMILIES

We work with families by providing:

- Information and referrals to help them stay connected with their young people.
- General support and mediation services to enhance and maintain relationships and facilitate connections in families whether the young people are living at home or out of the home.

COMMUNITIES

We work with the broader community to facilitate:

- A response to system and structural issues that impact on young people; whether it is in families, neighbourhoods, schools, employment, recreational or housing etc.

