

FAMILY DETAILS

Surname: _____

First Name: _____

Address/Postal Address: _____

Suburb or Town: _____

Ph: _____

Email: _____

Ethnicity: _____

Name and age of youngest child: _____
(include surname if different from yours)

Were you a child raised in care? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you ATSI? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have other supports? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a disability? ☐ Yes ☐ No

REFERRAL SOURCE Who is making this referral?

Name: _____

☐ Self Referral ☐ Family or Friend

Where did you hear about us?

☐ Department (e.g. Case Worker or Child Advocate) ☐ Other Government Dept. (e.g. Prison, Centrelink, other)

☐ Health Worker (e.g. hospital, GP, Child Health Nurse, Mental Health) ☐ Community Services or Agency

☐ Other (specify)

Reason for Referral: _____

Referral Date: _____

Department office the case is open to: _____

Case Workers Name: _____

Team Leader: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____



How do I get in touch?

To talk with us or to make a referral for yourself or someone else, you can contact us on **(08) 9328 6434** or email info@finwa.org.au. You can also drop in each Friday between 10:30am - 12:00pm.

We can talk with you over the phone or face to face. Please ring prior to visiting the office as it is often unattended.

Working with Families Involved in the Child Protection System

The Family Inclusion Network of WA is committed to helping families navigate the child protection system so they can participate with more information, knowledge and confidence.



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Who are we?

The Family Inclusion Network of WA (Fin WA) provides professional advocacy, advice, support and information to birth parents and their families who have had children removed from their care and placed in 'out of home' care.

Fin WA also provides these services to parents and families who are at risk of losing care of their children.

'It all feels so hopeless'

When children have been removed from their home, parents and family members are often traumatised and in shock. It is an extremely stressful and despairing time. Parents often don't know what to do, who to talk to or who to trust. Feelings experienced by parents range from;

- > Anger
- > Powerlessness
- > Failure
- > Isolation
- > Shame
- > Shock
- > Guilt
- > Hopelessness

It is not uncommon for parents to feel many of these emotions at the same time.



Can Fin WA help me?

Our ultimate goal is to assist you to gain confidence in your negotiation with the Department. We can help:

- > Provide advocacy and representation (attending Departmental and other meetings, writing letters and speaking with department authorities where you may be unable to)
- > Provide emotional support and guidance; giving you information (i.e. child protection processes, court orders, assessments, agreements, etc) and assisting with problem solving
- > Assist you to obtain legal representation and attend court proceedings with you
- > Refer you to other agencies
- > Invite you to information sessions/workshops and support groups
- > Provide phone support and information to parents, family members and other service workers, metro and statewide

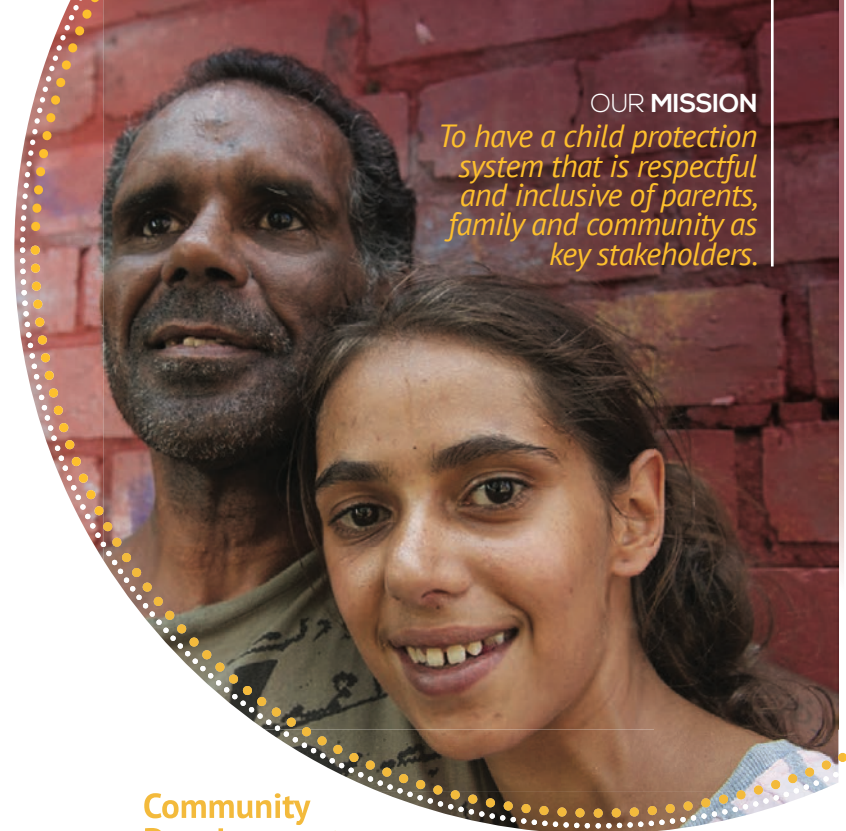
What we hope

We hope our work with parents will:

- > Help communicate more effectively between parents and departmental workers
- > Ensure parents know their rights and responsibilities
- > Assist parents in appeals and complaints
- > Assist parents to understand departmental policies and procedures
- > Identify other services for meaningful referrals
- > Help raise parents' concerns and experiences so workers have more insight and understanding of the parents'/ families experiences
- > Increase parents' confidences to work effectively with the department
- > Uphold department practice that is inclusive and respectful
- > Assist parents to be hopeful, child focussed and maintain meaningful contact with their children

OUR MISSION

To have a child protection system that is respectful and inclusive of parents, family and community as key stakeholders.



Community Development

Fin WA has a community and systems advocacy focus. As part of Fin WA's work in systemic advocacy, we work with parents, families and stakeholder groups to inform decision makers about the need for respectful inclusion for families at all points in the child protection system; from prevention and early intervention to out of home care.

Some of the ways we utilise the lived experience voice to inform and influence system change include:

- > Participation in departmental and cross sector forums and working groups
- > Participation in new and emerging research on the child protection system
- > Seeking funding opportunities to further the lived experience voice in service design e.g. peer support
- > Undertaking consultations or contributing to submissions to departmental, government or other inquiries

If you would like to contribute to Fin WA's work in systemic advocacy please contact us.