



CENTRAL HIGHLANDS CHILD & FAMILY PLATFORM

TERMS OF REFERENCE JUNE 2007

BACKGROUND:

In October 2005 the Central Highlands Primary Care Partnership (CHPCP) Full Alliance moved to further investigate the restructure of the PCP into life stage platforms to provide greater opportunities to engage with agencies. Discussions and planning continued to occur in 2006/7 with two planning forums to discuss the establishment of the Child & Family Platform.

PURPOSE

The Child & Family Platform will facilitate and support key stakeholders to collaborate and cooperate to support children and families in the Central Highlands region through:

- **Planning** - broad focus – Social Model of Health focus; analysis and picking up of systemic issues / gaps and structural issues; a Clearing House - resource; mapping networks / projects; cross fertilisation; keeping tabs on what is going on and information sharing
- **Advocacy** – for broader community re needs
- **Action** – collective project work for common issues such as (affordable housing; children leaving education etc;) – these projects will be identified through the planning process

GOALS

1. Planning:

- o To collaborate with key stakeholders across a range of sectors in the Central Highlands catchment.
- o To provide strategic planning to improve equity and access to child and family services.
- o Reduce duplication of effort, and develop effective planning processes within the Central Highlands region.
- o To act as a conduit between key stakeholders and relevant government departments.
- o The Child & Family Platform will provide a clearing house for information, shared resources in the child and family service area.

2. Advocacy:

- o To provide advocacy for the broader community on child and family issues.

3. Action:

- o To provide a forum for the development of collective project work for identified areas of need.
- o To provide a forum for the development and support of new initiatives, projects and programs.
- o To pursue funding opportunities to support the goals of the child & family platform.

MEMBERSHIP

The Central Highlands Child and Family Platform members need to be able to affect change and have the ability to implement change within their own agency; therefore membership of the "core" of the CHPCP Child and Family Platform need to be senior managers.

The CHPCP Child & Family Platform "Core" group may form working groups from time to time to progress the collective project work and areas that need further analysis and action. The membership of these working groups would be co-opted on a needs basis and membership of these working groups is therefore fluid.

Membership should include the following key service areas:

- Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)
- Children's Services
- Dept of Human Services
- Domestic Violence
- Disability
- Early Childhood Services
- Education
- Family Services
- Health
- Indigenous Services
- Juvenile Justice
- Local Government
- Maternal & Child Health
- Neighbourhood Renewal
- Preschool
- Sporting Bodies
- Welfare

STRUCTURE

The Child & Family Platform will be one of four life stage platforms of Central Highlands Primary Care Partnership and will provide a forum for planning and action in the child and family services area. The platforms are part of the CHPCP Full Alliance Committee and will report to the Full Alliance Committee.

A Chairperson will be elected from among the Child and Family Platform members for a term of twelve months. CHPCP staff will provide secretariat support to the Child & Family Platform, ensuring that all key stakeholders are included in discussions and decisions made by the platform. Agendas and minutes will be circulated in advance of scheduled meetings.

The Chairperson will report on activities of the Child & Family Platform at CHPCP Full Alliance meetings.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held bi-monthly, as determined by the group.