ABOUT CONNECTIONS

Connections UnitingCare is a community organisation supporting over 2000 people every week.

We work on family strengthening and early intervention services for people in need.

We make a practical difference in people’s everyday lives giving them a better chance in life now and in the future.

We understand that people’s need for support can vary depending on their unique situation. For this reason we offer a range of services across a continuum of care from early childhood services through to counselling and in-home support. We understand that there are times when things are difficult and we have developed particular skill and capacity to help at these times.

We are committed to working in partnership.

Our values underpin our work and shape the character of our unique relationship with the people we support and other stakeholders and our response to social injustice.

For more information, office contact details and programs delivered by site go to connections.org.au

Connections aims to reduce our impact on the environment. This Connections publication is printed by a carbon neutral printer on recycled paper using vegetable based inks. Published by Connections in February 2013.
WHAT IS NEWPIN?

The New Parent and Infant Network (Newpin) is a centre-based, intensive, therapeutic approach to breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect.

Newpin works with families with children aged 0-5 who are under stress to break the cycle of destructive family behaviour and enhance parent-child relationships.

The program seeks to achieve this by:
- assisting in the prevention of child abuse and neglect
- supporting parents and children accessing the program to raise their self-esteem and confidence
- working to improve the mental health of members who are experiencing depression and loss of identity
- providing structured opportunities to enable parents to develop their skills and confidence in their role as parents or primary carers
- breaking the intergenerational cycle of child abuse and neglect.

The work of Newpin is underpinned by attachment theory and trauma informed practice and concentrates on the social and emotional development of its members. This is achieved through individual and group work programs that support members to not only understand but live the core values of Newpin and assist them in transition to become mentors to newer members.

What does the program offer?

Newpin offers an opportunity for change through the provision of intensive supports aimed at assisting members to develop a better sense of their own self worth as a person, as a parent and as a member of the community.

Newpin offers weekly group therapy, parenting information, child development information, structured play opportunities as well as the ability for members to develop social networks.

How long is the program?

Members can attend Newpin for up to two years depending on their needs.

Members attend a minimum of twice weekly with their child/ren to participate in the program but can choose to attend more frequently.

During school term breaks, a modified program is offered to include any school-aged children in the family.

Accessing Newpin

If required, staff can pick up members and their children from Doveton, Dandenong, Eumemmerring, and Endeavour Hills and bring them to the centre and return them home on the days they are attending.

Eligibility

Mothers or long term carers:
- who have a child/ren 0-5 years in their care
- who are experiencing difficulties such as isolation, family violence, mental illness, social disadvantage and low self-esteem
- who are at risk of physically or emotionally abusing their children.

Referrals

Anyone can refer to Newpin – professionals, family or self-referrers. Newpin is a voluntary program and all potential referrals should be discussed with the mother/carer prior. Referrers should contact the Newpin Coordinator to discuss the appropriateness of potential referrals before completing the referral form.

What happens when a referral is made?

The Newpin Coordinator will contact the referrer to discuss the referral. Once a referral is accepted the Newpin coordinator and the family worker will visit the family home to discuss the referral and to invite the mother/carer to attend the centre.

Newpin staff will participate in Care Team meetings and work alongside other services to support members to meet their goals.

CONTACT

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