

SunnyKids in Schools (SKIS)

Student Disengagement



Student disengagement from education is a growing issue across the state and in the community. School refusal and disengagement adversely affects the student as well as their immediate and extended family, other students, teachers and the broader community.

When children are disengaging in school, the impacts are significant. Disengagement results in poor literacy and numeracy outcomes, poor employment options, increased mental health issues in adulthood and increased engagement in unhealthy behaviours and criminal activity.

Solutions and initiatives

To mitigate the longer-term risk of school refusal and abandonment of education, early intervention is required with students at risk of disengaging from education. Many students who are at risk of school disengagement are experiencing home lives which include domestic and family violence, mental health issues and/or substance abuse.

SunnyKids works closely with schools who identify children at risk of disengaging from education, who have unstable home lives or who are experiencing hardship. Schools refer the children to our holistic, wraparound services that support the child and their entire extended family.

We work with the child and their family until our support is no longer required. We provide them with case management to meet their desired objectives, employing our evidence-based practice framework which addresses all critical areas of their lives – financial stability, success in education, health and wellbeing, cultural connectedness and safe and nurturing relationships.



1-5% children experience school refusal (Aust)
(ABS)



1 in 7 children suffer a mental health disorder
(AIHW)



40% of students are chronically absent i.e. 20+ days per year
(The Guardian)



An estimated 33.8% of children are concerned about school or study problems
(Mission Aus 2018)



Students with school refusal often have diagnosed anxiety disorders
(Anxiety Based School Refusal)



School refusal impacts emotional development, mental health, further learning and education
(Headspace 2024)

SIGNS OF DISENGAGEMENT

- High absenteeism
- Often arriving late to school
- Disruptive in class and easily distracted
- Non participation in class and negative attitude
- Lack of connectedness with peers
- Unexpected low achievement

DISENGAGEMENT IMPACT

- Leaving school before year 12
- Unemployment
- Lower income prospects
- Engaging in unhealthy behaviours
- Mental health issues
- Engaging in criminal activities
- Reduced emotional development
- Decreased employment opportunities

About SunnyKids

SunnyKids provides essential support services to children and families experiencing domestic and family violence and hardship.

Our integrated support network provides a range of life-saving services to thousands of families in Queensland each year.

We believe it takes a village to raise a child and in doing so, work tirelessly within local communities to help educate and break the cycle of violence and hardship to create a future where this doesn't exist.

To do this we provide a social and emotional safety net for thousands of children and their families through partnerships with health and education service providers. Our unique Virtual Village practice model provides wrap-around support services to children and their families.

VISION

A society in which everyone feels safe, belongs and has the chance to reach their full potential.

MISSION

We work to ensure that every child, family and individual who needs help can get it.

SunnyKids Programs



SunnyKids in Schools



SunnyKids in Early Education



Emergency Accommodation - Save a Life Tonight



Crisis Accommodation



Transitional Housing



Mentoring Through Sports

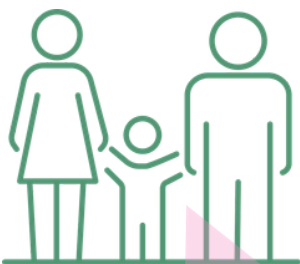


DFV Counselling / Complex Case Management



Business and Community Education

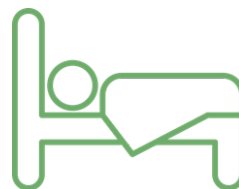
The impact of the SunnyKids village



3,607 individuals helped 2024/25 - 30% increase from 23/24



1,085 children in school based programs in 2024-25



8,262 bed nights in 2024/25



22% Government funded

How to support

Each day there are 500 reported incidents of domestic and family violence in Queensland.

To learn more about the SunnyKids impact, how you can become a part of the SunnyKids Village and support our important work - call or visit us on

Phone 07 5479 0394
SunnyKids.org.au

