

# SDN Brighter Futures



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## What is the Brighter Futures Program?

Brighter Futures is a voluntary, targeted program designed for families encountering problems that impact on their ability to care for their children. The program provides families with the necessary support and services to help prevent an escalation of the problems they are facing. Brighter Futures recognises that supporting families before problems reach a crisis improves family resilience, promotes healthy child development, and reduces child abuse and neglect.

### The Program has four core goals:

- 1 Promote strong and secure relationships between children and their carers
- 2 Promote healthy development in children
- 3 Promote strong, functional and well-supported families, and
- 4 Reduce and prevent child abuse and neglect in participating families.

A key feature of the program is that families can access the full range of services and support they require through a single entry point. This central coordination promotes efficient and consistent service provision and reduces complexity for families.

### Services available to families include:

- Early Childhood Services
- Home Visiting
- Parenting Programs
- Case Management.

### How will Brighter Futures be delivered?

SDN has been contracted as a lead agency by the NSW Government to deliver Brighter Futures in the South East and Inner West Metro Central, and Southern Batemans Bay Community Services regions and offices have been established in:

- Central Sydney
- Inner West Sydney
- South Sydney
- Moruya

SDN will work in partnership with a diverse range of services in order to provide tailored and effective support to families.

### Eligibility for the Brighter Futures Program

Brighter futures is for families who are expecting a child or have children up to and including eight years of age. Families with children less than three years of age will have priority of access.

Families are eligible for the program if they have at least one vulnerability that, if not addressed, is likely

to escalate and impact adversely on their capacity to parent adequately and/or on the well-being of the child/children.

**Vulnerabilities include:**

- Domestic violence
- Parental drug and alcohol misuse
- Parental mental health issues
- A lack of extended family or social supports
- Parents with significant learning difficulties or intellectual disability
- Child behaviour management problems (eg: parent/child conflict, school problems, parenting difficulties)
- Lack of parenting skills/inadequate supervision.

**Families must also have the following service needs:**

- Universal preventative service is unlikely to provide an intervention sufficient to alleviate current family concerns, and
- The family is likely to require key components of the program — home visiting and/or parenting groups and/or childcare, and
- The family requires case management providing coordinated delivery of a range of support services and is not currently receiving this from another agency.



**Referral to the Program**

Families can enter the program if they are:

- Reported to Community Services via the helpline and streamed to Brighter Futures, or
- Referred to SDN Child and Family Services by a community agency or individual, and are found to be eligible for the program.

Once a family has been referred to Brighter Futures, the family's eligibility for the program is determined by Community Services. If the program is operating at full capacity, eligible families will be placed on a waiting list that is prioritised according to the program's priority of access criteria (need, age).

Community Services is responsible for managing the eligibility list for referrals from the Helpline Pathway. SDN will manage a list for community pathway referrals that have been confirmed eligible by Community Services.

## Contact

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