



What services does Brighter Futures provide?

The Brighter Futures program provides a range of supports and services, including:

- Case management to assist families to identify and achieve their goals
- Home visiting support for families to build on their skills in order for increased understanding of children's developmental needs
- Tailored parenting programs
- Access to quality child care including supported playgroups, family day care services and respite care
- Support to help families access services and resources in the community
- Specialised services such as support to families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds or intensive behavioural supports for children.
- Strengthening relationships between family and community

About Samaritans

The Samaritans Foundation was established as the welfare agency of the Anglican diocese in Newcastle in 1984. It is one of the Australia's largest regional welfare organisations working in the Hunter, Central Coast and Manning regions, providing more than 160 services to 60,000 people annually.

About our community partners

Samaritans have a number of community partners who are working with us to deliver Brighter Futures Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. These include Centacare, Mercy Community Services, Northern Settlement Services, Newcastle Family Day Care, Lake Macquarie Family Day Care and Eastlakes Family Support Service.

Our contact details

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Information for professionals and services




**BRIGHTER FUTURES
NEWCASTLE AND
LAKE MACQUARIE**
Child and Family Services





What is Brighter Futures?

The Brighter Futures program provides services and targeted support for children aged 0-8 years and their families to build strength and resilience for optimal long term benefits.

The aims of the program are to:

- Promote, sustain and improve child development in a holistic setting
- Develop, maintain and extend the interactions and relationships between children their families and extended families as part of the wider community.
- Work with families to extend on their specific skills and strength's in order to promote a healthy, safe and secure environment for the family and their children.
- Work in collaboration with the families in order to prevent issues escalating.

The Samaritans Brighter Futures team will work in collaboration with the family focusing on a strength based perspective to identify their own goals. We will then implement supports and services that the family members feel will meet their individual needs and the needs of their children and families. In turn we will support them as they address issues and proactively make the necessary changes that will enhance their lives and the lives of their children.

Who can we assist?

Family participation in the program is voluntary. To be eligible for Brighter Futures Newcastle and Lake Macquarie, families must:

- Live within the Newcastle or Lake Macquarie Local Government Areas; *and*
- Be expecting a baby or have at least one child aged 0-8 years (with priority given to 0-3s); *and*
- Be facing one or more of the following challenges:
 - domestic or family violence
 - aspects of parental mental health issues
 - parental drug or alcohol misuse
 - parental learning difficulties or intellectual disability
 - lack of extended family or social support
 - child behaviour management problems at home or school
 - in need of support to build parenting skills and supervision of their children; *and*
- Be willing to work in partnership with the Brighter Futures team for an extended period of time and in need of at least two Brighter Futures program service (i.e. home visiting, parenting programs and/or access to child care).



Who can't we assist?

Families where children are currently identified as being at high risk of abuse or neglect.



How to make a referral

Families can be referred to Brighter Futures:

- By a community based agency or professional (such as a GP, health professional, welfare worker or child care worker); *or*
- From the NSW Human Services, Community Services Helpline **132 111**
- Families can also self-refer to the program
- Family Referral Services **1300 006 480**

To make a referral, please visit the Samaritans Brighter Futures website for a Referral Form. To discuss the referral process, phone the Project Officer on **02 4014 9300**

Website: www.samaritans.org.au

The NSW Human Services, Community Services *always* determines family eligibility for the Brighter Futures program.