

Fatherhood Knowhow running sheet

10am Start

5 mins Welcome

- Traditional Owners acknowledgements
- Housekeeping
- A bit about the organisation

2 mins Intro of Facilitator by organisational representative

10 mins Intro of the Knowhow concept and how the day will run – **Facilitator**

- Main idea is that this is a discussion. Start with exploration,
- Guided Q&A however open discussion is welcomed
- Please indicate if it is not OK to include yourself in the recording or photos
- Today will be documented in the form of an information sheet posted after the session

3- 5 mins Intro on Fatherhood and why – **Facilitator to develop**

7-10mins Ice breaker run by Facilitator

10.30am Theme one

Fatherhood is a complex and changing role. Discussion regarding diversity

Prompt: **Richard – from The Family Centre**

- Works directly with fathers in an early parenting setting
- The Centre works with fathers in several ways, can you explain some of the work you do
- What has changed over time for example running services on the weekend?

Prompt: **Bob from Protection Society**

- Bob has several years' experience working with men and fathers in the community. He's recently taken on the Koori Dad Program at the Society.
- Can you tell us a little about the Koori Dad Program
- Can you tell us about the fathers you work with have they talked about how fatherhood has changed for them and what has been their response to the program?

Prompt: What about others... what is your experience in working with fathers? What are the similarities or trends you have seen OR what has surprised you in recent times?

11am approx. Theme 2

Research regarding fatherhood often helps to dispel myths and further inform us about the ever changing role of fathers.

Prompt: **Rita from Kelly Street**

- Rita works as a counsellor at Kelly Street and has some experience working with fathers and some research that Kelly Street has undertaken in early parenting

Prompt: **Peg from Elizabeth Centre**

- Peg is involved in working with fathers through the Playsteps program.
- Can you tell us a little about the Playsteps program and the earlier work EC have done with fathers?
- In your opinion is there such thing as a 'typical' father?
- You work with both voluntary and mandatory clients; do you think there is a difference when working with the two groups?

Prompt: Have others come across stereotypes in their work? Was it in the community or even from fathers themselves? Would anyone like to share what the challenge was and hopefully how it was resolved?

11.30am NOTE: In your packs is...

- Resource Sheet 'Engaging Fathers in child and family services'
- Parenting Research Centre resource: Fathers Matter aimed at teaching and informing dads.
- **Business cards and flyers can be added to the resource table.**

Theme Bank

What do we think are some of the greatest challenges that fathers face today?

- a. Is it work, life family balance?
- b. Spending quality time with children?
- c. Understanding what fatherhood means to them – shaping a new way for Dads?

15 minute Morning Tea (allow for 20 – 25 minutes) NB: Short break as lunch will be at 1pm

11.50am Theme three

In the Sunday Age the article 'The home truth about violence' by Nicole Brady on the March 4, 2012 (NB: Article in packs).

American sociologist Jackson Katz, renowned internationally for his work in preventing men's violence against women, was in Melbourne last month lecturing community leaders including senior police, judicial figures, medicos, sports chiefs and politicians stated...

"Why do we have a problem still in 2012 with domestic and sexual violence of the scope that we have here in Victoria? What are the institutions doing to help shape the norm of masculinity? The religious institutions, what's their role in it? What role does the sports culture play? What role does family structure and the education system play? Everything needs to be under scrutiny."

Discussion...

Prompt: **Rebekah – Care Agency**

- Rebekah previously worked in a Family Violence context supporting predominantly women and now working in Family Services working with both single and partnered fathers.
- Rebekah can you tell us little bit about why you choose to change your work focus and what has changed or stayed the same for you since then.

Prompt: **Jonathan – Men's Case Manager**

- Jonathan works with voluntarily clients in men's case management which dovetails with the Men's Change Behaviour Program.
- He's notice that even the most challenging clients have specific views on Fatherhood.

Prompt: What about others... what are your views or experience shown you about working with fathers in a family violence context? Mainly, what has been effective?

12.15pm **NOTE: Last question (15 minutes incl. 6 min video) before lunch**

NOTE: Introduce language and cultural warning on video before presenting it.
3 mins Video: Gran Torino – Manning Up Tao

Theme 4

Reflecting from video men can communicate and relate to each other very differently than women.

Discussion...

As a sector we need to be conscious that men may not access or feel comfortable in a service like mothers or women are. What are some of the effective targeted work that has been done to specifically meet the needs of fathers?

Ref: **Ben from City Council**

- City Council provides family support services to vast range of families in their municipality including early parenting and complex needs cases.
- Ben is the only male social worker on the team and he works directly with fathers at the council.

- Can you tell us a bit more about the work you do at the council and how the council plans to meet the growing group of fathers by focussing directly on their needs ?

Ref: **Jane from Families Inc**
(if she's not here refer to the flyer in packs and ask for opinions)

- Families Inc runs a parenting course for fathers called Pitstop described as a 'parenting tune up for Dads'
- The marketing used in this program is very specific to fathers, can you tell us a little bit about how the 'branding' of the program was developed?
- What has been the response from fathers having a service which is clearly identified as a 'Dad thing'?

Theme Bank

If there were key priorities that you would highlight for your service when working with fathers, what would they be? CAFCA Sheet also has references.

- a. Understanding and hearing from fathers more?
- b. Engaging fathers in the service, getting them to attend or be part of a service?
- c. Finding a balance between delivering a good service FOR fathers with asking them to DRIVE service development?

12.30pm 30 minute Lunch NB: Prompt return please

1.00pm 45 mins Bringing it together

- Great discussions today. Certainly some key themes have been clear (name 2-3 Facilitator to ad lib)
- We also have the areas that have been 'parked' – can we go back to those (Facilitator to facilitate)
- Facilitator to share his/her experience of the day – hearing from professionals about their experience... and others view on the day

5 mins Thanks to the Facilitator and explains next steps i.e. Information Sheet process