

“They won’t listen to a word we say.....”

The Department of Housing and Works has received complaints about the behaviour of children living in one of their houses - swearing and playing loud music until very late at night, damaging the house, fighting and harassing neighbours.

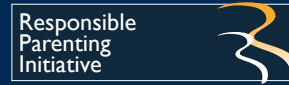
Eight different agencies are working with the family to address a variety of health and social problems – there is no money, food, clothing or a clean place for the children to sleep. There is an increasing level of domestic violence in the home with both parents feeling hopeless and frustrated. They face eviction again if the condition of the home and the behaviour of the children do not improve - and if they do not agree to access *ParentSupport* services.

ParentSupport will help the family re-build by:

- helping the parents to build a picture of the family they would like to be
- helping the parents to identify what has to stop and what has to start for them to make the first steps towards making this picture a reality
- breaking down these outcomes into small steps and achievable goals
- encouraging the family to access help from other agencies involvement and
- celebrating positive changes and small successes

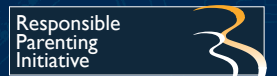
Examples of how *ParentSupport* can help

ParentSupport



www.crimeprevention.wa.gov.au/parentsupport

Part of the State Government's
Responsible Parenting Initiative



“Most of the time I’m just so far away.....”

Ben is a bright and confident 11 year old boy. He gets on well with his teachers and friends, but he rarely goes to school and is falling behind. Recently local police found Ben wandering the streets at night with a group of older kids.

While the school haven’t been able to talk to Ben’s parents, the local police bringing him home at night have talked to Ben’s parents about his behaviour and referred them to *ParentSupport* for help.

Ben’s dad works away and feels powerless because he’s not there to help. His mum isn’t coping and feels so unwell most of the time that she can’t get herself out of bed in the morning, let alone get the kids off to school.

ParentSupport will provide a supportive caseworker to help mum and dad look at:

- the impact of her illness – providing step by step techniques can enable Ben’s mum to be proactive in managing her illness
- dad’s feelings of helplessness and how he can be more involved with the parenting plan; and
- Ben’s need for appropriate expectations, boundaries, rewards and consequences.

“School’s OK, but I need her at home.....”

Jaide is a 7 year old whose mother isn’t allowing her to attend school regularly. When Jaide does go to school she’s tired and withdrawn. Her teacher is very concerned for her general well-being and worries that she is missing out on important early learning opportunities.

The school eventually made contact with Jaide’s mum through her grandparents. Jaide’s grandmother describes her daughter’s parenting skills as chaotic. The school representative explained the seriousness of the situation and the legal obligation under the *School Education Act (1999)* for Jaide to attend school.

School staff worked with Jaide’s mum to develop a school attendance plan but Jaide’s attendance didn’t improve. The Department of Education applied for a *Responsible Parenting Order*, to compel Jaide’s mum to access parenting support services. Jaide’s mum was referred to *ParentSupport*.

ParentSupport will provide a supportive caseworker to help Jaide’s mum to take charge and provide:

- culturally sensitive ways for enhancing her capacity to parent
- ways to keep Jaide in one place during school term time
- strategies to enhance her mother’s confidence as a parent, and/or explore ways in which Jaide can be parented effectively using a collective approach.

“I hope she’s going to grow out of it.....”

Clare is a 13 year old girl who lives in a small country town. For the past year she has been friends with an older group of teenagers who have been in trouble with the police. Following a recent incident, the police referred Claire to a Juvenile Justice Team.

Despite several attempts to engage Clare and her father, both have made it clear that they have little interest in working with the team and the matter was referred to the Children’s Court.

Clare’s mum died a while ago and since then her dad has struggled with his role as a single parent and how to get on with his daughter. His response has been to ignore Clare’s behaviour and hope that she will ‘grow out of it’. Unfortunately, her anti-social behaviours appear to be escalating.

ParentSupport will provide a supportive caseworker who will help Clare’s dad take charge and provide him with a clear outline of the consequences for himself and for Clare if he does not extend his parenting skills. If he does accept help *ParentSupport* would provide:

- a safe space for identifying and resolving the emotional and behavioural factors that are limiting his effectiveness as a parent; and
- the opportunity to develop a parenting plan with practical strategies that address Clare’s behaviour and provide her with a sense that she is safe, well loved, understood and cared for.