

Who can use Together 4 Kids?

Homelessness and domestic violence services can refer a child to Together 4 Kids after completing an initial client assessment. To be eligible for referral, children will be:

- Aged 0-12 years
- Accompanying a parent who is homeless
- Identified as in high need of support to process complex life experiences, significant loss or distress. Families may need support for children who:
 - have complex needs requiring multiple service responses
 - have experienced significant disadvantage such as chronic homelessness
 - have developmental difficulties
 - have had exposure to violence, abuse, or other trauma.

Referral forms are available to download from our website. Alternatively, call to speak to a team member.



“Most of my toys and my stuff that I like and my whole life was packed in this storage unit...”

Boy, aged 6. Family Matters, No. 78, 2008

About Relationships Australia (SA)

Relationships Australia (SA) is a leading provider of family relationship support services. Our aim is to support all Australians to achieve positive and respectful relationships.

With over 50 years experience, Relationships Australia (SA) provides counselling, education, training and coaching for families, individuals, couples and communities.

Locations

Together 4 Kids is a metropolitan-wide service. It primarily provides services from homelessness and/or domestic violence and existing child oriented community venues. Children's therapeutic services are provided from Relationships Australia (SA) sites where possible.

Contact us

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Visit our online bookshop at:
www.rabooks.com.au

The Child Focused Support Service (Together 4 Kids) is provided by Relationships Australia South Australia Health Promotion Services and funded by the Government of South Australia, Department for Families and Communities through the National Affordable Housing Agreement and National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.



Supporting homeless children through difficult life experiences

Information for Service Providers



Relationships Australia

SOUTH AUSTRALIA™

What is Together 4 Kids?

Together 4 Kids is an integrated service providing training and therapy aimed at helping children process the uncertainty and distress of homelessness.

Our service is child focussed. Our programs are customised to support children's mental health and development, help them to manage transitions and make sense of their experiences.

We work directly with children and in collaboration with homelessness and domestic violence service providers and parents. We view parents as allies in our work; supporting them to learn more about their child's experiences and strengthen positive bonds with their children.

Why does Together 4 Kids exist?

Together 4 Kids exists because children who are or have been homeless will often be feeling insecure, or even traumatised. Their routines and their relationships are likely to have been disrupted and they may have experienced multiple losses and stresses. Their parents are going through tough times, and at this time, are often not able to provide the emotional support they would like to.

These children can be assisted by caring, skilled staff to make sense of their sometimes complex experiences, understand and manage their feelings, develop friendships and feel safe.

What does Together 4 Kids do?

We have three key roles

Role 1:
Professional development and training for the homelessness and domestic violence sector, and advice regarding engagement with children and children's services.

To assist services to respond to children's needs, Together 4 Kids offers professional development opportunities to workers in the homelessness and domestic violence sectors.

The focus will be on developing skills in child focussed work with children whose lives and relationships have been disrupted by their experiences.

Programs will be responsive to needs expressed by the sector. **See our website for professional development opportunities, or call us to discuss your needs.**

Role 2:
Assist services to deliver group responses to children.

Together 4 Kids groups will be offered according to age range and emotional and developmental needs. Coping with change and dealing with traumatic events are central themes of our work with older children. With young children and babies, we work with parents through a collaboration that focuses on the child. Using safe, therapeutic play, infant-parent relating is supported, and parents are assisted to ease their young children's distress.

Groups may also be used as a transition opportunity into mainstream playgroup, pre-school and other children's services.

Role 3:

Provide individual therapy and case management for children with complex needs.

Together 4 Kids provides child-centred, flexible and collaborative services.

Our therapeutic work focuses on:

- Validating the experiences of children
- Assisting them to understand and make meaning of their complex experiences so that they feel psychologically safe
- Supporting their emotional literacy and expression
- Ensuring a strong relationship exists for children through which they can process future life events.

Our outreach case management will facilitate:

- Meeting the child's mental health needs
- Responding to health, education, social and developmental needs
- Putting safety plans in place
- Family connections to social, economic, housing, spiritual and recreational opportunities.

Meetings with parents will provide feedback on their child's progress, assist parents to attune to and play a role in responding to their child's relational and mental health needs and discuss community and specialist links.

