



Fathering Reference Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose

To guide and inform the development and implementation of Ngala's services, activities and research in ways that meet the needs children and families – from a father's perspective.

Principles

Respect

- Hearing, acknowledging and respecting the perspectives and experiences of fathers.
- Valuing, respecting and accepting similarities and differences.

Collaboration

- Working together in a two-way learning relationship to bring about positive change.
- Increasing understanding of the important role of fathers in families and communities.

Objectives

- To create and maintain a diverse reference group of fathers and father-figures
- To work together to build Ngala as a father-inclusive organisation
- To grow mutual understanding and knowledge of the needs and experiences of fathers through a process of two-way learning

Roles and responsibilities of all members

- Build, maintain and value genuine relationships with each other;
- Use positive, respectful communication with everyone involved; and
- Correspond or attend meetings, and contribute knowledge, wisdom and relevant experiences to discussions.

Members will work with Ngala to:

- provide guidance and advice that will grow Ngala's understanding of how to engage and work with fathers;
- guide Ngala on issues that may impact Ngala's services and programs in community;
- provide feedback and advice to Ngala on specific issues around father-inclusive practice, i.e. what Ngala needs to do more of and what needs to be done differently;
- provide input and advice on research proposals, projects, program development.

Ngala staff will work with the community members to:

- share knowledge and information about Ngala and Ngala services to assist in discussions and decisions;

- check understanding with community members and develop recommendations;
- track and advise changes within the organisation concerning programs that are targeted for, or will impact, fathers;
- be accountable to the group by providing ongoing feedback and progress reports in regard to decisions or issues that the group has been involved in.

Meetings

Members will be contacted via email as needs arise that require consultation. Face-to-face meetings may be called to meet the organisation's requirements.

Membership

Members will be invited to contribute if their characteristics (e.g. child's age) are relevant to the issue under consideration.

Any father or father-figure of a child is eligible to be a member.

Conflict of Interest/Intellectual property

FRG members must declare any conflict of interest in matters of concern to Ngala and the FRG by verbally declaring any potential conflicts of interest.

In agreeing to serve as a member of the FRG there is a commitment to respecting the intellectual property of Ngala and in some instances confidentiality of the ideas when reviewing information within the group.

Any official Ngala service or project can approach the FRG for consulting on fathering or parenting issues.

All correspondence and findings will be reported to the Ngala Research Advisory Network.

Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually from the date of approval. They may be altered to meet the current needs of all committee members, by agreement of the majority of members.

I have read and agree to these Terms of Reference:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signed: _____