



Results and analysis of
Champion Dads' Group (CDG) – Leaders Survey 2016

Final Report – June 2017

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Abstract

The fathering Project has supported the development of an extensive network of fathering groups at primary schools across Australia – known as Champion Dads' Groups. This report provides details of feedback from leaders or representatives of these groups for activity over the year 2016. These details include: the level of father engagement in the program, the number and type of activities delivered, the attendance at the activities, planned activity for 2017, topics of importance, how well key objectives are being met, and identifying any needs for their group.

Highlights

- Engagement and Activities
 - 51 groups reported on 182 activities undertaken during 2016.
 - Over 4,600 men were associated with these groups as at mid-2017.
 - During 2016, the activities were attended by a total of over 11,100 fathers (a total of approximately 23,000 people).
 - The most common activities were social events, sporting activities and camping.
 - The majority of events were intended to support father and child relationships.
 - Most of the events were held at the school, although many were at clubs, function centres, or public facilities such as parks.
- Awareness and support for the groups
 - About three quarters of leaders reported many or almost all families at the school are aware of the group
 - And almost three quarters also report support from the school leadership
- Meeting the objectives for the group members
 - From the four objectives listed, success was strongest for engagement with the child's school community (40% strongly agree and 56% agree).
 - Least success was reported for improved parenting in partnership with their child's other carers – although over 70% agreed that there was some success in this area.
- Topics of interest
 - The most popular topics of interest were as follows
 - Dads & Daughters
 - Dads & Sons
 - Positive Role Models & Father Figures
 - Work/Life Balance

- Resilience
- Cyber Bullying
- Feedback from leaders
 - One third of leaders reported wanting resources for activity ideas and planning
 - Four groups reported needing urgent help for their group
 - Over 30 secondary schools were identified as future schools where current leaders could potentially establish groups.

Method

- The survey was developed in consultation with 4 staff members of The Fathering Project and the two research staff.
- The survey was then trialed on Survey Monkey with five CDG leaders (sent 20.3.2017).
- From the leader feedback, changes were made and the survey sent out to 103 CDG leaders (sent 26.4.2017, reminders sent 6.5.2017 & 22.5.2017).
- From these invites to the survey, 51 leaders provided data for their groups. And the following data and analysis is based on these responses.
- A further 9 provided partial responses – mostly indicating an inactive group or a change or leadership.
- 43 gave no response. These leaders were followed up by phone interviews to explore reasons for not responding.

Engagement

1. How many men were engaged in the groups?

- From 51 groups, a total of 4628 men are engaged (associated with the group e.g. on a contact list).
- Average of 91 per group.
- Median size of 50.
- Ranging from 6-800.

2. How many men were engaged in activities during 2016?

- Over 2016, the groups recorded 11,125 fathers attending activities.
- Over 2016, a total of 22,967 people attended activities.

	N	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation
How many fathers attended the activity?	131	11125	84.92	483.886
Total (including fathers and family, children, friends, etc.)	140	22967	164.05	965.995
Duration of the activity in hours	131	1202	9.17	52.054

Activity

3. How many activities had been conducted over 2016?

- From 51 groups, a total of 182 activities were reported for 2016.
- An average of 3.6 per group.

4. How many Dads & Kids or Dads Only Activities were conducted over 2016?

- Over 2016, half of the activities were with fathers and their children.
- One third (33%) of the activities were father only events.

Who Attended Activity		Frequency	Percent
Valid		2	1.4
	Fathers and their children	74	50.3
	Fathers and their family	15	10.2
	Fathers only	48	32.7
	Other (please specify, e.g. open to public, staff)	8	5.4
	Total	147	100.0

5. How many activities are planned for 2017?

- From 44 groups, a total of 182 activities are planned for 2017.
- The following types of activities have been planned

	Frequency
Social activity	30
Sporting activity	28
Camping	26
Meal e.g. BBQ, restaurant, picnic...	13
Others (please specify)	12
Guest speaker	8
Excursion	8
Kindy or Pre-Primary Introduction / Orientation	5
Discussion group	4
Date night	2

6. What are the most common activities being conducted?

- The following types of activities were undertaken during 2016

	Frequency	Percent
Not reported	7	4.8
Camping	17	11.6
Craft e.g. kite making, art, model making	5	3.4
Date night	1	.7
Discussion group	3	2.0
Excursion	3	2.0
Games e.g. board games, cards	4	2.7
Guest speaker	10	6.8
Kindy or Pre-Primary Introduction / Orientation	3	2.0
Meal e.g. BBQ, restaurant, picnic...	8	5.4
Other (please specify)	19	12.9
Social event	37	25.2
Sport e.g. ball games, fishing,	30	20.4
Total	147	100.0

7. What was the purpose or intend of the activities

Purpose or Intent of Activity	Frequency	Percent
Not reported	9	6.1
Other	14	9.5
To generally promote the Dads' Group or The Fathering Project	39	26.5
To recruit more dads to the group	8	5.4
To support family relationships, including parenting partnership	9	6.1
To support father and child relationships	51	34.7
To support or inspire dads and father figures	17	11.6
Total	147	100.0

8. What was the location of the activity?

Location of Activity	Frequency	Percent
Not reported	3	2.0
At a club or function centre	40	27.2
At a private home	1	.7
At public facilities such as a park or beach	26	17.7
At the school	67	45.6
Other	10	6.8
Total	147	100.0

9. Other comments about activities

e.g. anything that worked really well, important aspects of the activity that we haven't asked about, things you would do differently next time.

(not included in this online report)

Awareness of and support for the groups

10. How many families are aware of the group?

In your opinion, how many of your school's families are aware of your Dads' Group?

	Frequency	Percent
Only a few	2	3.9
Some	12	23.5
Many	25	49.0
Almost all	12	23.5
Total	51	100.0

11. How supportive of the Dads' Group are these families?

Of these families who are aware of the group, how many would you say are supportive of the Dad's Group?

	Frequency	Percent
Only a few	5	10.0
Some	9	18.0
Many	18	36.0
Almost all	18	36.0
Total	50	100.0

12. How supportive of the Dad's Group is the school leadership?

**Do you agree with the following statement?
Your school's leadership is supportive of your Dads' Group.**

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	1	2.0
Agree	13	26.0
Strongly Agree	36	72.0
Total	50	100.0

Meeting the objectives for the group members

13. Are the groups meeting key objectives?

- Leaders rated the success of the group meeting the following key objectives for members of the group:

Better understanding the importance of the father-child relationship and its impact on social, emotional and academic development of children

	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	3	5.9
Agree	35	68.6
Strongly Agree	13	25.5
Total	51	100.0

Greater confidence in engaging positively with their child(ren)

	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	2	3.9
Agree	38	74.5
Strongly Agree	11	21.6
Total	51	100.0

Improved parenting in partnership with their child's other carers

	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	9	17.6
Agree	37	72.5
Strongly Agree	5	9.8
Total	51	100.0

More engagement with their child's school community

	Frequency	Percent
Disagree	2	4.0
Agree	28	56.0
Strongly Agree	20	40.0
Total	50	100.0

Topics of interest

14. Which Topics do leaders think the dads want more information on?

	Frequency	Percent
Dads & Daughters	46	63.0
Dads & Sons	42	57.5
Positive Role Models & Father Figures	39	53.4
Work/Life balance	36	49.3
Resilience	30	41.1
Cyber Bullying	28	38.4
Bullying	26	35.6
Child Mental Health	23	31.5
Preteen issues	17	23.3
Separation co-parenting	17	23.3
Education (e.g. homework & academic performance)	16	21.9
FIFO & parenting	15	20.5
Single Parenting	12	16.4
Couple/marriage relationship	9	12.3
Alcohol	7	9.6
Drug Use	6	8.2
Dating and Sex	5	6.8
Violence	2	2.7

Feedback from Leaders

15. How can TFP help leaders build their group and program?

In what way can The Fathering Project support your school's Dads' Group?

	Frequency	Percent
Other (please specify)	6	11.8
No additional help needed thank you. Just the usual check in	24	47.1
Please provide resources for activity ideas and planning	17	33.3
Our group is struggling and needing help urgently	4	7.8
Total	51	100.0

Other Comments...

Templates and suggestions are helpful

Please provide speakers that can help Dads engage with the group.

16. What did the CDG leaders think of the survey?

- (not included in this online report)

17. Future Schools

- High Schools that current leaders children are moving to in the next few years (See Excel file "Leaders Co-Leaders and Future Schools")

(not included in this online report)