



Fathering for the Future

2020/2021
ANNUAL REPORT

Transforming lives, improving futures.



“

The Fathering Project is the most powerful force in Australia to change the future of our kids’

The Hon. John Anderson, former Deputy Prime Minister and Patron of The Fathering Project

“

We know the statistics – that children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime; nine times more likely to drop out of schools, and twenty times more likely to end up in prison. They are more likely to have behavioural problems, run away from home, or become teenage parents themselves.’

44th US President Barack Obama

The Fathering Project acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country, their connection to land, water and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures and customs and to Elders past present and emerging.

The Fathering Project is an accredited charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission. We are a harm prevention charity.

The Fathering Project is a national organisation that works to promote positive and healthy relationships between fathers and children.

The research is clear that fathers and father figures play a critical role in the health and wellbeing of children and families.



Our mission is to educate, connect and empower fathers and father figures across Australia to prevent long term social, emotional and cognitive difficulties and create the conditions for children to thrive.

We do this by -

Improving public awareness of the influence of fathering

Building the evidence-base through world class research

Supporting vulnerable communities through regional outreach services

Delivering universal and targeted prevention and intervention programs through schools, workplaces and communities.



Put simply,
improving and
supporting
more effective
fathers and father
figures now
means happier,
healthier futures
for generations to
come.



Message from our Founder

Professor Bruce Robinson AM

When I founded The Fathering Project back in 2013, my primary focus was to help men understand just how important their role as Dad was. This drive came from my experience as a clinician caring for seriously ill men, where nearly every single one expressed their regret at spending too much time at work and not enough time with their children.

When I reviewed the stats on the relationship between poor/absent fathering and the risks that kids face, such as drugs, depression, crime and other issues, we realised that The Fathering Project could have a major impact on Australian kids if we could get to dads and father figures and help them.

Despite less than a decade passing, the world feels like it has changed dramatically with even more challenges facing us, including excessive screen time, cyberbullying and a host of social and cultural issues. We're seeing even more fathers and father figures struggling, often alone, to fulfil the joys, challenges and responsibilities of parenthood.

The Fathering Project has also changed, adapting our unique programs to address this growing community need and reflect the globally expanding evidence base and interest in fathering issues.

But whilst our footprint and programs have grown in scope and diversity, and have been enormously successful, our primary focus has not changed and it never will. Whether it's through our school, workplace or community programs, we still strive every day to create better futures for our children by helping Dads understand the importance of engaging with their kids and support them to be the best father or father figure they can be.

We aim to help all fathers and father figures leave a positive legacy on their families and communities. Because improving fathers' engagement with their kids and building positive family relationships will improve lives today, but importantly, it will also transform the lives of future generations.

Message from our Chair

Martin Black

The last 12 months has been one of the most challenging periods in world history and has put a very sharp focus on the critical importance of resilience within families.

The Fathering Project has grown and evolved significantly during this period - supporting not only the desire of fathers and father figures to play a greater practical and emotional role in the family structure, but also to address their own compounded mental health challenges.

What has been clearly demonstrated is that the vast majority of fathers and father figures are desperate to engage, learn, grow and become better in their most important role - being a dad.

The massive demand for our services and resources continues to drive The Fathering Project forward and we are fortunate to witness the incredible value it brings to dads, kids and families each and every day.

We acknowledge the passion, commitment and support of our many sponsors, benefactors, government funding agencies, ambassadors and our incredible and dedicated employees and volunteers.



I would like to give thanks to my fellow Board members, whose passion and dedication have helped to successfully drive The Fathering Project into new communities and populations where fathering support is desperately needed.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge and extend a very special thanks to all The Fathering Project staff and volunteers. You have all gone above and beyond this year to ensure we are delivering on our mission of supporting Dads and families everywhere. Congratulations to you all.

The world beyond COVID is starting to take shape and the family structure will emerge stronger and more important than ever ... and with our help, fathers will have the resources and confidence to continue to build on their vitally important role.

Message from our CEO

Káti Gapillard



What a year it has been! Whilst the world has rapidly changed around us, I'm proud to say that the Fathering Project team – our staff, volunteers and supporters- have absolutely risen to the challenge.

Over the past year, we've seen more demand for our services than ever before reaching well over 340,000 fathers and father figures across the country. Almost 750 schools and early learning centres have participated in our evidence-based programs with extensive plans in place to expand and refine these to target specific priority populations.

We have also seen traditional views of masculinity and fatherhood actively shifting with many fathers and father figures understanding their unique impact on their children's lives and finding ways to combine care and career.

We launched Australia's first Community Fathering Hub in NSW, a place where dads and families can visit to access face to face support, education and resources. A second WA-based hub is being launched in late 2021 with more in the pipeline.

We developed programs to support fathers' transition from pregnancy to birth and beyond, to specifically address perinatal anxiety and depression in fathers and to create better bonding and communication for fathers of children 0 – 5 years old, a key period in child and brain development.

Excitingly, we continued to evolve our fantastic new digital information and resource service for Dads called The Fathering Channel. Filled with engaging and entertaining articles, videos and podcasts, this service has been accessed by hundreds of thousands of Australians to date and we're looking forward to expanding it ever further next year.

Finally, I'd like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who worked with or supported us in 2020/21. The word unprecedented has been thrown around a lot during this time, but for us it certainly was the case. Through natural disasters, social change and a global pandemic, the Fathering Project team have worked hard to maintain and grow our programs and outreach services.

What has been reinforced to us during this time is the need for what we do. Australian Dads and families are struggling on many levels, and we will continue to deliver our research-based prevention and early intervention programs and resources to meet this need. We do this because more effective fathers and father figures and more cohesive families means a generation of kids with happier, healthier futures.

Thank you for your continued belief in our work and your ongoing support.



The evidence is indisputable - Fathers and father figures play a critical and distinct role in children's lives across a number of different areas.



Health and development.

Fathers who demonstrate accessibility, engagement and responsibility have children with fewer emotional and behavioural problems, better language development, better life and social skills and fewer problems with peers.

Father engagement and involvement has been associated with increased levels of social responsibility and capacity for empathy, social maturity, self-control and self-esteem.



Education and school engagement.

Consistent parenting from fathers is predictive of increased NAPLAN scores across Year 3, 5 and 7 and results in fewer difficulties adjusting to school and improved academic progress.

Father involvement in school and educational activities is associated with improved cognitive outcomes, few behavioural difficulties and greater school enjoyment.



Mental health and addiction.

Involved and engaged fathers provide significant protective and positive impacts on their children's mental health including prevention of mental illness and more positive attitudes towards help seeking.

Children from father-only or father-absent households are more likely to engage in cigarette, alcohol, and marijuana use.



Behaviour and Delinquency.

Children and adolescents with more involved fathers or father figures are less likely to engage in delinquent and anti-social behaviours such as crime, cheating at school or participating in gang fights - particularly for boys.

The odds of increased sexual risk behaviours or teenage pregnancy are lowest when fathers or father figures are present throughout childhood, and their support has been associated with increased protective sexual behaviours.

What does the Fathering Project do?

The Fathering Project delivers resources, programs, and events specific to the engagement style and needs of dads and father figures. We are the only national organisation in Australia supporting and encouraging fathers to be actively involved, aiming to build self-efficacy and self-regulation in their parenting role, as well as growing parenting knowledge and skills more broadly.

Guided by the research evidence and the needs of the community, we encourage and support fathers and father figures to put fathering first, for the sake of their kids. We do this through -

Research

investigating the impact of fathers on children's lives from the perinatal period to adulthood.

Prevention and Intervention

programs and services aimed at improving father, family and community relationships and connections and reducing rates of suicide, domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and poor mental health.

Public Awareness

programs to increase community understanding around the crucial impact fathers have on their children's lives.

Support

at-risk and vulnerable fathers and communities through face-to-face outreach services.

Educate

and support practitioners to work with fathers, children, and families to prevent long term social and emotional issues and build strong and enduring family relationships.

Advocate

to government and industry to improve recognition of the fathering role within our society and investment into new resources and programs.



Our Impact in 2020/21



736

Schools involved



2160

Dads groups events each year



80

families supported each week



67

volunteers working in the community



3200

Dads receiving intensive one on one support at our at-risk hubs each year

340,000

Dads lives changed

600,000+

children's lives improved

School and Early Learning Programs

The Fathering Project Schools Program aim to give students the best start in life by helping schools and Early Learning Centres develop father-inclusive practices and involve fathers in education.

Our school-based early intervention and preventative programs are supported by a grant from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

We use a peer-to-peer model, bringing Dads together to encourage community connection and facilitate support, education and behaviour change. We support our Dad Group Leaders to initiate activities, recruit new members and coach them on how best to facilitate dad to dad discussions in a peer-to-peer learning environment.

Working in partnership with teachers, administration and parents, the strategies implemented in our programs reinforce and teach behaviours and attitudes that have a lasting and positive effect in improving children's outcomes.

Our Dads Groups and Family Partnership build a community of positively engaged families - for the benefit of the students.



736

School-based Dads groups

420

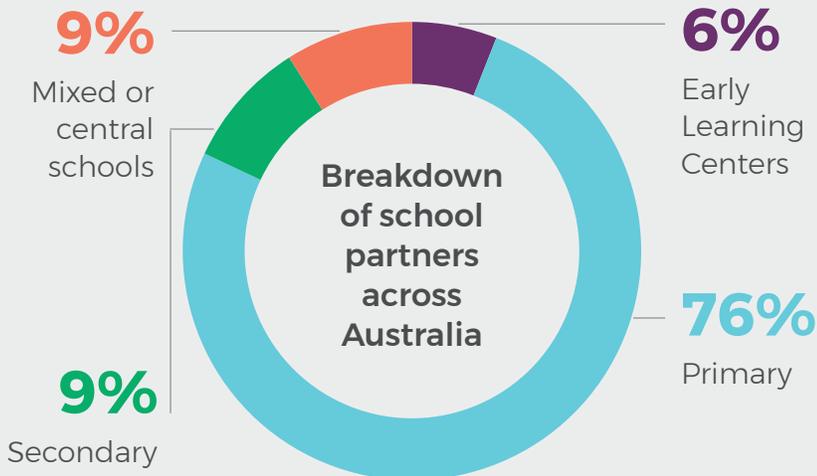
Dads involved per school

2160

Dads group sessions held across the country

310,000

Fathers involved



Achievements in 20/21

In 2020/21, our school program grew exponentially with an 81% increase in school registrations compared to the previous year. We now have a full national footprint and deliver programs and services through schools in metro and regional areas across the country.

COVID lockdowns meant home-based learning for many of our school partners and a rapid transition for our activities from a predominantly face-to-face model to an online model. As schools looked for opportunities to maintain connection, we were able to provide self-facilitated resources and online staff and family-focussed events.

We were also excited to launch a new program for Early Learning and Day Care Centres across Australia. This program has been designed especially for children aged 5 years and younger and aligns with Government early learning frameworks.

All up, our schools team delivered extraordinary achievements in what was an extraordinary year.



Looking to the future

As our school-based fathering community grows in size and diversity, we're developing new programs tailored to specific priority populations. These will be launched in late 2021 and include -

Families with Special Needs – supports families and aims to reduce the higher levels of stress, isolation and marriage breakdown experienced by this group.

Indigenous Fathering – A culturally responsive program supporting Indigenous Fathers and Father figures.

Perinatal/postnatal Fatherhood – Supporting fathers transitioning from pregnancy to birth and beyond.

The Early Learning Years – Improving bonding and communication for fathers of children 0 - 5 years old with resources translated into 6 languages.

Regional and Rural Schools – With specific access to schools impacted by bushfires.

Disadvantaged Schools – Connecting fathers with schools in low socio-economic areas to help develop strong father-child relationships.

Separated Families – Helping separated families and fathers who are away from home for work or personal reasons to maintain relationships and engaged fathering.

Incarcerated Fathers – Preparation program for re-entry for incarcerated fathers.

National Father Survey

Dads and partners from 600 schools participating in The Fathering Project programs were surveyed in early 2021. Results showed -

67%

Experienced positive change in connecting with their children

87%

Experienced positive change in their knowledge of child development and fathering

85%

Experienced positive change in how important they saw their role as a father

94%

Used our resources to impact their child's wellbeing



Community stories

Overcoming cultural barriers to engage Dads

Roxburgh Park Primary School has a proudly diverse school community with families from a range of backgrounds. Whilst Mums had always been strong supporters of school activities, local Dads had traditionally stayed away due to long work hours and cultural barriers.

Knowing that it would take a special approach to overcome this, the school brought in The Fathering Project. Our team developed an initiative for students to write to their Dad, Grandad or father figure and extend a personal invitation to join them at a fun school-based event.

After receiving only a few responses initially, organisers were overjoyed to fill the room with enthusiastic Dads. Whilst some were nervous initially, all of them were happy and grateful to have the opportunity to spend quality time with their kids.

Interpreters were on hand to break down language barriers and dads worked with their children to build and race paper planes.

The event successfully demonstrated that giving love and attention is the best thing you can do for your kid, no matter what language you speak. After seeing the positive outcomes of this event on children and families, Roxburgh Park PS now has a dedicated group of Dad Champions who are busily planning future events.



Helping kids and families return to school after lockdown

Based in Victoria, Eaglehawk Public School saw their students engage in a long period of home-based learning during 2020.

As lockdown lifted, they decided that it was the perfect opportunity for them to not only re-engage the students but specifically engage the fathers and father figures amongst their school community. They wanted to encourage local dads to come together to benefit a common goal – their children.

The launch of the Eaglehawk PS Dads group was an enormous success, with over 65 Dads and father figures turning up to spend the afternoon with their kids. The kids loved every minute and the dads

not only got to have fun with their children, they connected with other dads from the local community and shared their experiences.

Teaching staff also reported significant benefits. Not only did they have a chance to meet Dads that they had never seen on school grounds before, they found that the positive mind set created by the event meant kids were engaged in the classroom.

As Victorian schools were plunged yet again into lockdown in 2021, the teachers and families at Eaglehawk PS were connected and ready to support each other.

Getting Dads involved early

A huge amount of learning and development takes place in the first five years of life and fathers play a critical role in setting the scene for a lifelong love of learning in their children.

St Mark's Preschool and Long Day Care Centre in Tamworth (in regional NSW) had been thinking about getting fathers more involved for a while, but it took the dedication of local Dad Dale Martin to get the ball rolling. He convinced St Mark's to bring in The Fathering Project as he'd previously come across our work and was aware of the benefits it could deliver.

Dale particularly wanted to connect Dads directly with the Preschool to empower and encourage St Mark's Dads to feel more engaged and actively participate in the learning process.

In partnership with Preschool staff and a group of enthusiastic volunteers, St Mark's held a special evening art class where the children and their dads worked together to create some beautiful art works. They then celebrated with a sausage sizzle which gave the kids time to play and the Dads time to connect with each other.

According to St Mark's teachers, the children had so much fun that they could speak about nothing else in class for a couple of weeks afterwards. The Dads also were incredibly positive, encouraging St Mark's to plan more events for the future.





‘Whether you are a new dad, a teen dad, a single dad, an older dad, a grand-dad, part of a blended family, a father figure, a biological dad with little connection to mum, or don’t have as much access to your family as you’d like, we’ve got your back.’

Community Fathering

The Fathering Project Community Fathering program is a universal multi-layered approach to support fathers living in disadvantaged communities to improve family and child well-being and build stronger communities.

Disadvantage has been shown to have a negative impact upon family functioning and child development, and the chronic stress associated with this disadvantage can impact upon a father’s parenting capacity.

Our approach places fathers and children at the centre, supporting fathers to build their capacity to nurture their children whilst also improving their own wellbeing through community connections.

The program is staffed by qualified facilitators who provide wraparound support as well as access to resources and parenting education. We connect fathers with the required support services to ensure they are able to meet their children’s need for stable housing, food, clothing and education.

Our ultimate aim is to enable children living in at-risk situations around Australia to grow, develop and flourish, whilst breaking cycles of disadvantage and improving opportunities for the future.



Achievements in 20/21

In 2020/21, The Fathering Project launched Australia's first face-to-face Community Fathering Hub in the Illawarra region of NSW with planning well underway for a second hub in Armadale, WA.

Community fathering also engaged with thousands of fathers and families through schools and social services, as well as hosting a number of special father-child events including barbecues, camp outs and sports challenges.

Community Fathering Hub coordinators held weekly onsite events for Dads to take part in, including cooking classes and parenting education sessions. Hub visitors also had access to a free parenting resource library and face-to-face support.

Our in house evaluation showed our community fathering program significantly improved fathering efficacy, awareness and confidence.

Looking to the future

The Fathering Project is preparing to expand the community fathering program in NSW, WA as well as VIC, QLD and SA. These hubs will provide wrap around support in both a face-to-face and peer-based models, and work in close partnership with local community service to enable seamless care.

Community fathering will also be launching specialist evidence-based intervention and prevention programs for Dads in the perinatal and postnatal phase, to tackle any growing mental health issues and reduce the risk of neglect and family violence.

Finally, The Fathering Project will also pilot a new program called Fathering Foundations for incarcerated fathers in NSW and WA in 2021/2. Research confirms that the incarceration of a parent has devastating effects on children. Children of inmate parents are considered to be six times more likely to become involved in the adult criminal justice system when compared to other children. Parenting programs like Fathering Foundations aim to drive behaviour change and reduce intergenerational offending.





Contributing to global research

The Fathering Project is the only national organisation in Australia using research-based programs and resources to help Dads and father figures build knowledge, skills and confidence.

Working in partnership with experts from Telethon Kids Institute and various universities, we utilise up-to-date research to guide our activity, evaluate our programs and to disseminate information to fathers and researchers. We are also committed to conducting our own research to advance global understanding and practice in this field.

In late 2021, we're planning to launch the world first whole-of-population randomised control trial in father-focussed prevention and intervention programs. The trial will evaluate our programs and identify relevant characteristics of Australian fathers including their communication access, preferences for information and the main factors that hinder and drive their attendance, behaviours and change adoption of new behaviours.

Community stories



“When I first started, I was in a very bad place mentally. I spent years feeling like absolutely nothing and having a partner tell you ‘you are absolutely useless’ is very difficult. But when you start building your life back up again and have people be supportive, that kind of stuff is really nice... Honestly, I don’t know where I’d be without it.”

John was on the verge of crumbling. After years physical and verbal abuse at home, his self-esteem was at an all-time low.

The father-of-two had friends, but most of them were made through travelling and were scattered around the world. John knew he needed support but didn’t know where to find it.

As John dropped his children off at school one day, another dad approached to invite him to a Fathering Project BBQ. After a bit of trepidation, he attended the event and has never looked back.

Since joining the schools Dads group, John has made lasting friendships. The support the group provided became even more valuable after his partner moved out of the family home, leaving him to bring his children up as a sole parent.

Having a local peer network of dads around him meant he was able to chat through any issues he had as well as sharing his parenting ideas and problems with others.

Bringing school and community together

According to Banksia Road Public School Parent Engagement Officer Manal Mikati, schools are more than just a physical presence, they also represent a place of hope and community for families that live in the local area.

Situated in the Sydney suburb of Greenacre, Banksia Road PS supports children and families from a range of cultural background. A large proportion of the school population are recent immigrants to Australia and looking to establish community ties and friendships.

Recognising this, Banksia Road PS wanted to become a central hub where families could connect and support each other. However, whilst mothers were frequent visitors, Dads tended to stay away.

The school decided to experiment by joining The Fathering Project and inviting fathers to a special Dads only event. They held the event on school grounds and provided a meal so fathers could come straight from work and feel welcome to stay for as long as they liked.

Despite some initial hesitancy, 42 Dads turned up. Encouraged by this, the school immediately planned a second event where Dads could attend with their children and this attracted a crowd of nearly 200 people! Local businesses also got involved, donating their time and showcasing their products to not just build connections, but build capacity within the community.

The Dads loved having the opportunity to get involved and being physically present with their child at school. The school has seen a marked increase in fathers becoming involved with Goal Setting Interviews as well as assisting with home learning during lockdown. They all thoroughly enjoyed meeting and talking with the other Dads. Most importantly, they all gained the confidence to become active partners in their child's school life.



The Fathering Channel

2020 saw us facing the dilemma of providing much needed programs and education during a national COVID lock down. Our response was The Fathering Channel - a virtual community where fathers, father figures and families could stay connected to our resources during what was a time of considerable uncertainty.

Covering relevant topics such as coping with stress, anxiety, isolation, home schooling and financial insecurity, the Channel hosted a range of topic experts and people with real life experience to share tips, advice and expertise.

The Fathering Channel content also provided opportunities for families to use the time together to bond and grow through fun activities such as cooking and craft. Accessible via The Fathering Project website and a variety of digital and social media services, The Fathering Channel is freely accessible to anyone who needs it, at the time that they need it.

Since its launch, The Fathering Channel has gone from strength to strength, becoming a valued source of credible and engaging information for fathers and families both locally and internationally. We're looking forward to connecting our community even more inspiring content in 2022 so watch this space!



Mondays with Bruce

Weekly top tips from The Fathering Project's Founder Dr Bruce Robinson, providing fathers, father figures and families with tips and advice relating to being a dad, raising children, family bonding and mental health.

Fathering First Podcast

Figuring it out together

Hosted by the CEO Káti Gapaillard, we speak with experts in their fields to discuss a range of topics relating to fathers and raising children.

Who's at the table?

Hosted by the CEO Káti Gapaillard, we speak with public figures, celebrities and community influencers to discuss being a dad and their parenting journey.



Cooking with Cameron

Weekly episodes feature TAS-based Fathering Project Supporter Cameron, who shows dads and kids how to make quick and easy meals together. The episodes bring fathers and children together by engaging in activities to strengthen their bond.



The Fathering Project in the media

We were featured in stories across a variety of traditional and digital media channels both locally and nationally including Channel Nine, Channel Seven, SBS radio, Canberra Weekly, ABC The Conversation hour, HOPE FM and Canberra FM. All up, we reached an average of 450,000 Australians per month via media engagement.



Charles Conder Primary School principal Jason Wainmally, Fathering Project volunteer Jonathan Engel, and Charles Conder family & community engagement coordinator Cate Robson will all help launch The Fathering Project in the ACT in early 2021. Photo: Karrie Brewes

The Fathering Project to launch in Canberra next year

Denholm Samaras • October 16, 2020



National charity The Fathering Project is in the process of recruiting volunteers as they prepare to roll out their services in the ACT early next year.

The Fathering Project works by establishing dads' groups in school communities and delivering resources, programs and events specific to the engagement style and needs of dads and father-figures.



THELEADER.COM.AU

Photos | Kids connect with dads at Como event

The aim was to encourage the involvement of father figures in ...

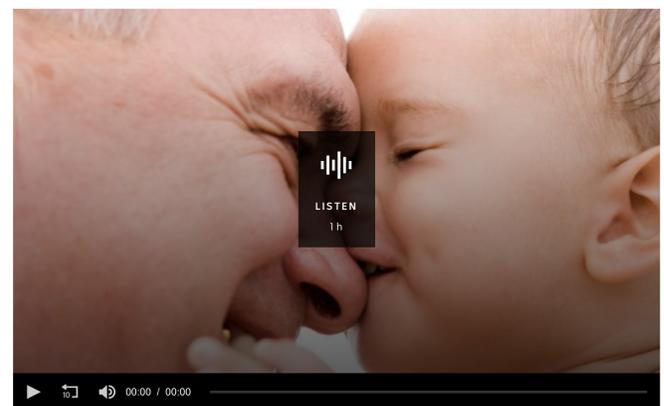


Toowoomba Dads band together for 'The Fathering Project'

The Conversation Hour

with Richelle Hunt and Jonathon Kendall

Overview Episodes



00:00 / 00:00

Dads Riding 325kms to Raise Awareness of How Important Fathers are to Families

Today, 32 riders from The Fathering Project have set out on three-day charity bike ride, hoping to highlight the importance of fatherhood.



DR BRUCE ROBINSON
THE FATHERING PROJECT FOUNDER





Connecting across the country

In 2020/1 we reached over 4.3m Australians with vital information about fathering with a monthly audience reach of 833,000 across traditional and digital media. The Fathering Channel regularly shares helpful information, tips and updates via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn and the past year saw engagement increase exponentially.



4.3m

Australians reached

833,000

monthly reached





Fathers Day 2020

On Fathers Day 2020, we commemorated the occasion with a national campaign encouraging Dads everywhere to share their #bestdadmoments. With messages from high profiles Dads such as Hamish Blake, AFL Coach Brett Ratten, The Hon Anthony Albanese, The Hon Ken Wyatt and even the Prime Minister Scott Morrison, the #bestdadmoments campaign resulted in hundreds of heartfelt stories being shared across social media.

Our school partners also got involved, encouraging students to draw their favourite Best Dad Moment and write a special message to give to their dad or father figure on Father's Day.

Acknowledging that there is still much work to be done, our researchers released a white paper containing a summary of current evidence demonstrating the importance of fathers.

Derived through a global evidence review, the paper outlined the significant impact that fathers have on the social, cognitive, emotional and physical wellbeing of children from infancy to adolescence and with lasting influences into their adult life.

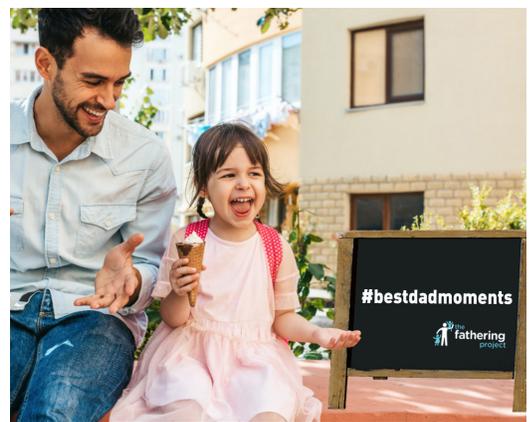
Fathers Day is one of the biggest days on the calendar at The Fathering Project. It's a day for us to recognise and celebrate all the fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, father figures and male role models that make our lives better.



Happy Father's Day!
Check out our best dad moments gallery at www.thefatheringproject.org/fathers-day



Share your best dad moments. Upload your video to social media using #bestdadmoments
Check out our best dad moments gallery at www.thefatheringproject.org



Share your best dad moments. Upload your video to social media using the hashtag #bestdadmoments
Check out our best dad moments gallery at www.thefatheringproject.org/best-dad-moments



Fundraising and engagement

The Fathering Project relies on the support of individuals, community groups, businesses and service groups. The generous supporters listed on this page have enabled us to deliver our vital services to fathers, families and communities across the country.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every person who has supported our work this year.



Many of our donors prefer to remain anonymous, so their names have not been included. We thank them for their generosity as we could not do our work without their support.

Our Supporters

Australian Government
 Alex Bertram (on behalf of BHP)
 Alfred Thomas Bellord Charitable Trust
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 Tradies Gymea
 Tradies Helensburgh
 Tradies-Caringbah RSL Sub-Branch
 Tony and Michelle Grist
 Trinity Family Foundation
 Western Australian Police Force
 Will and Mimi Packer

Community stories



The Big Push Event

The Fathering Project's Big Push annual charity bike ride was nothing short of a success. Riders flew in from across the country where they started their journey from Sydney and rode 325kms to Canberra.

Total funds raised far exceeded the initial projection, and it is with thanks to the riders, sponsors, generous donors, volunteers and the community who allowed us to raise \$168,000. Funds raised went towards our critical work with our at-risk programs, relating to fathers with children with a disability, and community fathering; supporting fathers who are in a place of need.

The community spirit was strong; with schools along the way hosting the group for refreshments and a well-deserved rest. The host schools included Bundanoon Public

School and Margaret Hendry School in Canberra.

The event also received significant local media coverage, amplifying the reach to further support the event's purpose, a message from Australian Comedian Hamish Blake and ex Wallaby Player and rider participant James Holbeck, who shared his heart-warming and touching story of his journey as a father figure.

Riders concluded at Parliament house and were met by the Hon Senator Zed Seselja who presented the riders with their medals and gave a speech on his role as a dad.

A weekend full of community spirit, teamwork and most importantly, celebrating a father's most important role; being a dad.



Supporting FIFO Dads to be the best they can be

Alex Bertram is a proud father of two, and a leader at BHP in Western Australia. Working together with his team and world leading technologists and frontline operations experts, Alex co-developed a new safety technology called Dash Tools.

This innovative new technology involves placement of sensors on heavy mobile equipment to enable maintenance technicians to remotely diagnose problems. When working across enormous geographic areas, the Dash Tools solution significantly reduced the risk faced every day by the women and men who work on the frontline of BHP's operations, helping them to work safely and get home to their families at the end of the shift.



Recognising the impact of this new technology, BHP awarded Alex and his team the prestigious Global HSE Safety Excellence Award in 2020. Associated with this award was a significant financial prize which they decided to directly donate to The Fathering Project to support development of a specialist fathering program for Fly In Fly Out (FIFO) workers, not just for BHP but for the industry as a whole.

Why is this program so important? Because in WA alone, there are 60,000 FIFO workers who

want to be engaged and effective parents but are just not able to spend daily face to face time with their children. FIFO Dads often feel like they are missing out and need support and information to help them both connect with their kids and be the best parent they can be when they're home from the job site.

With thanks to the generosity of Alex and his team at BHP, the FIFO Dads program is now in development by the Fathering Project and will be delivered to eager FIFO workers in WA from 2022.



Our People

The Fathering Project is guided by a national team of passionate people, all deeply committed to helping fathers and children reach their full potential.

Our Board, staff and volunteers bring years of expertise and broad networks in corporate governance, management, fundraising, education, and research. Our Ambassadors dedicate time, experience and expertise to spreading the word on effective fathering and our work.

We're immensely grateful to everyone in The Fathering Project community, whose support this year has formed the basis of our achievements.

Patrons

Ern Edwards

Ern is a father, grandfather and valued patron of The Fathering Project. A self-made businessman, Ern has been committed to improving youth outcomes throughout his adult life. Ern's heart for fathers and his ongoing support for our mission make him a highly-valued member of The Fathering Project team.

John Anderson AO

John Anderson AO had a distinguished political career that spanned nearly two decades. He served as a Member of Parliament (Gwydir) from 1989 to 2007 and as the 11th Deputy Prime Minister from 1999 to 2005. He also held the position of the 10th Leader of the National Party of Australia during his time as Deputy PM. John was honoured in 2011 as the recipient of Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service during his political career and his contribution to the rural communities in Australia, as well as his support for transportation development and water management.

Board Members

Professor Bruce Robinson AM

Founder

Doctor, lecturer, speaker, scientist, and best-selling author. Bruce has published over 200 professional papers and received numerous awards.

Martin Black

Chair

Martin joined the board The Fathering Project because he is passionate about the importance and value of positive and confident parenting, particularly from dads

James Brown

James is a registered Clinical Psychologist and has been working with families for over 15 years.

Tim Hammond

Former Federal Labor MP Tim Hammond was welcomed onto the Fathering Project Board after stepping away from politics in May 2018 to be more connected with his young family.

Craig Heatley

Craig is a Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and is experienced in external and internal audit services, accounting and broader business advice across a broad spectrum of industries covering engineering, resources, construction and services.

Board Members (cont.)

Geoff Lloyd

Geoff Lloyd has over 20 years' experience in the financial services industry, with an extensive understanding of the sector and demonstrated leadership skills. He has a proven track record in transforming and sustainably growing businesses.

Ian Macliver

Ian's experience covers all areas of corporate activity including capital raisings, acquisitions, takeovers, business and strategic planning, debt and equity reconstructions, operating projects and financial reviews and valuations.

Caro Stewart

Caro grew up in Western Australia but has spent 11 years living in Canada and England. Her background is teaching and has spent time teaching in country Western Australia and the metropolitan area, her proudest achievement is being a mother of four.

Anton Gaudry

Anton is a chartered accountant with over 30 years' experience. He has specialised in servicing the not for profit sector. Married with two children, Anton has always prided himself most on his role in the home.



Ambassadors

Duncan Armstrong OAM

Elijah Boul OAM

Petero Civinoceva

Dennis Commeti

Rev Tim Costello AO

Professor Donna Cross

David Flanagan AO

Professor Ian Frazer AC

Nick Farr Jones AM

Brad Haddin

Dr Tim Hawkes OAM

Geoff Hutchison

Justin Langer

Dennis Lillee AM MBE

James McMahon DSC DSM

Andrew Scipione AO APM

Professor Fiona Wood AM





Join us!

As a not-for-profit organisation, we rely on the generosity of our supporters. Your partnership is critical in helping us transform the lives of children, fathers and families. There are many different ways you can get involved -

- Host a fundraiser or awareness-raising activity at your company, organisation or club
- Form a Dad's group through your school, early learning centre or community centre
- Sign up for our weekly tips
- Talk to us about a tailored program for your business or workplace
- Chat with us about possible partnership, we love working with our colleagues in the sector
- Choose us as your preferred charity for tax deductible donations
- Volunteer your time or expertise

Contact us for more information.



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

The Fathering Project is supported
by the Australian Government.



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The Fathering Project



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The Fathering Project would like to gratefully
acknowledge the following people who
assisted with the compilation of this report -

Rhys Barri

Alex Bertram

John Gilfellon

Dale Martin

Nadia McComb

Manal Mikati