

## **Our Values and Principles**

Gunnedah Family Support Inc is a family service that has, underlying all the work we do and service we provide, the 10 key principles of family service work.

The 10 principles of family services work are:

1. In family services projects, staff and families work together in relationships based on trust and respect.
2. Family services projects enhance families' capacity to support the growth and development of all family members; adults, young people and children.
3. Family services projects affirm and strengthen families' social, cultural, racial and linguistic identities and enhance their ability to function in a pluralist society.
4. Family services projects are embedded in their communities and contribute to the community-building process
5. Family services projects are flexible and continually responsive to emerging family and community issues.
6. The principles of family service are modelled in all aspects of a project, including planning, service delivery, management and administration.
7. All members of a family should be safe from violence.
8. Children should be provided with safe, quality alternatives if it is deemed they can never live with their birth family.
9. There is a recognition that families have multiple forms, not necessarily biologically based.
10. The priority at the heart of all our work with families is the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people. A focus on working alongside families acknowledges that family wellbeing is the essential foundation for child safety and wellbeing.

All family service organisations share a set of values. They aim to:

- Acknowledge that all families need support, and that while some get it through their own informal networks, others need to access services for it
- Affirm and strengthen families' social, cultural, racial and linguistic identities
- Work together with families in relationships based on respect and trust
- Provide a confidential and professional service
- Help families take control of factors that will enhance their independence and self-reliance
- Be flexible and responsive to emerging family and community issues
- Be part of the local community and contribute to community-building.