

CROSS-COUNCIL FATHER INCLUSION NETWORK

Supporting positive fathering and
challenging gendered parenting stereotypes



WHO ARE WE?

- Established in 2007
- Primary focus on father figures of children aged 0 - 6 years of age
- Uniquely funded by council who recognise and support the critical role fathers and father figures play in children's lives
- Advocate for and empower fathers in their fathering role





WHAT DO WE DO?

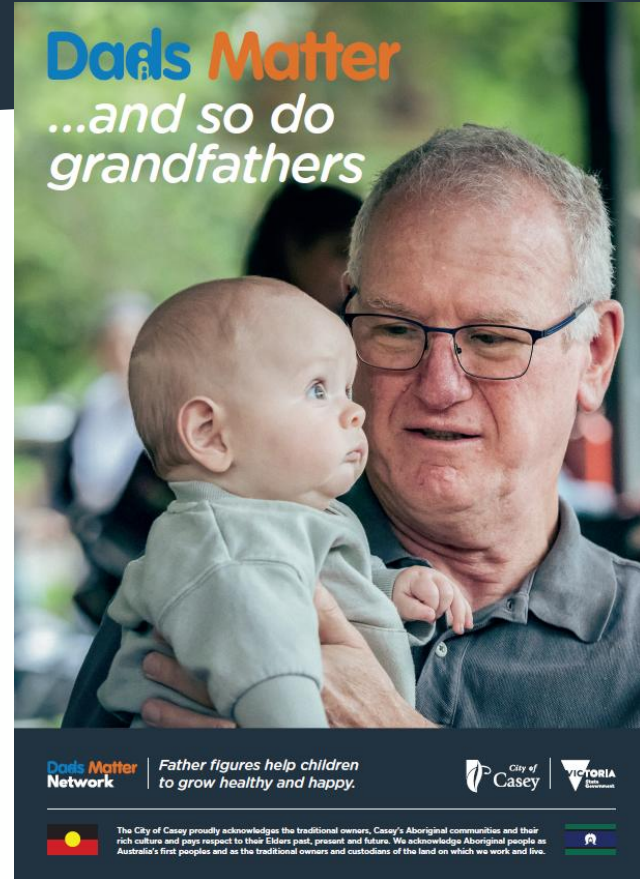
Dads Matter programs aim to:

- Support father figure-child interactions and enhance bond
- Support the male caregiving role
- Connect father figures with their community
- Increase father inclusion across services



WHO IS A FATHER FIGURE?

Father figures are any significant, positive, male-identifying role model in a child's life.



FATHER FIGURES EVERYDAY

Dads Matter
encourages father
figures to be involved
everyday



What is father inclusion?

- Making social change toward positive & involved fathering.
- Identifying and removing barriers.
- Normalising father figures as caregivers.



[Photo by Tatiana Syrikova from Pexels](#)

Why bother?

- Positive child development outcomes.
- Lowering work & mental loads for women.
- Challenging gendered family roles.
- Positive outcomes for men.



ENGAGING FATHER FIGURES

Small adjustments
=
Big change



JOIN THE NEW NETWORK!

For council staff only.

Sharing and collaborating across
Victoria.

Monthly online meeting.

Any role!



[Photo by Nathan Dumiao on Unsplash](#)

JOIN THE NEW NETWORK!

Email David Hawkins:

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