

Parenting Orders Program

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Dear Family Law Service Colleague,

The Parenting Orders Program (POP) is a program developed under the Family Law Act. It helps separated parents or carers learn how parental conflict affects children. Separated parents or those contemplating separation, carers and extended family who are not talking, who are unable to communicate without conflict or who need support in managing cooperative parenting arrangements may go to a POP. Parents can attend voluntarily or be mandated by the Federal Circuit Court of Australia or the Family Court.

Under the Family Law Act anything said by a person attending a POP cannot be used as evidence in any court. However, a service must report abuse, or a risk of abuse to the authorities and this may be used as evidence in some circumstances.

POP supports parents to focus on the needs of the children, instead of conflict. POP offers psychoeducation, skills and strategies in managing cooperative parenting arrangements for separated parents, carers and extended family.

Parenting Orders Program offers:

- Individual assessment
- Educational group sessions
- Counselling and Individual support
- Certificate of attendance
- Referrals to other programs and/or other care providers

This program is aimed at both parents individually and is helpful even if only one parent attends. The Intake worker will arrange for parents to attend at separate times so they do not have to meet.

POP is funded by Federal Department of Social Services and provides a free service to Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Bundaberg. An information sheet to share with parents is attached.

For enquiries and referrals please contact our service on 4191 3100 or email:

pscp@uccommunity.org.au

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UnitingCare Community