

Making a Referral to Intensive Family Services

All IFS services are for families with at least one child 12 years of age or younger living at home or being considered for reunification, and who live in the Perth metropolitan area.

Only Department for Child Protection & Family Support staff can make referrals to the following programs.

Building Strengths

IFS staff work with families where there are serious concerns for the safety and wellbeing of the children living at home with the aim to support parents to safely care for their children, preventing future harm and the need for an out of home placement. All families referred must remain an open case with DCPFS with an active case manager assigned to the family for the 12-16 week duration of IFS work.

Family Connections

The reunification program aims to achieve the best possible level of reconnection between children who have been placed in out of home care and their families, with a focus on safety. All families referred must remain an open case with DCPFS with an active case manager assigned to the family for the 12-16 week duration of IFS work.

How to Refer a Family to IFS:

1. Find the appropriate referral form at www.unitingcarewest.org.au
Or call IFS in your nearest location to request a referral form.
2. Complete the referral form. This can be done with the family where possible.
3. The family reads the completed referral form and signs the consent section.
4. Check all documentation requested on the form is attached.
5. Email the completed form & documents to IFS.referrals@unitingcarewest.org.au
6. All referrals received are reviewed by the duty officer before being allocated.
7. The family is placed on a waitlist; the referrer and the family are informed when this has been done. DCPFS and IFS Specialist Team Leader remain in regular contact while the family are on the waitlist regarding family updates and anticipated waitlist length.
8. When IFS are ready to allocate the family to workers, the IFS Specialist Team Leader will arrange a planning meeting with the family, DCPFS, IFS and any other relevant people to discuss the referral and plan for IFS work.

Did you know... IFS staff can visit families Monday – Friday during flexible hours (i.e. 7am – 7pm) to meet the needs of the children. IFS staff are based across 4 offices located north (Inglewood and Merriwa), central (East Perth), and south (Fremantle).
For enquiries regarding IFS programs please contact the office nearest to you.