**About Us**

At CatholicCare we have been supporting parents in the ParentsNext program since 2016. We have established community connections and work collaboratively with parents to identify the necessary steps to take to work towards study and employment goals, whilst they are looking after their children. You will receive a flexible and family friendly ParentsNext service at CatholicCare.

**Our Services**

Our staff are parent-centred and will look at your needs and help you find your pathway to work or study. We will consider your personal situation and help you to address any difficulties you may have in reaching your goals.

We will look at what services we can provide to you or connect you with other helpful services in the community. We will provide you with support to address barriers like access to childcare, homelessness support, family safety and financial matters, which all may impact reaching your goals.

Our community links will help you gain support, information, and education.

**How we can help you**

Some of the ways we can help you meet your goals may be:

* connecting you with other organisations who can help with housing and welfare needs
* helping you in practical ways to support your parenting responsibilities through parenting programs
* financially assist with payment towards your study and work goals and pay for things like work equipment, course fees, childcare, and relocation.
* providing childcare for parents attending our services (in some circumstances)
* mentoring with 1:1 help for resume writing, job applications, goal setting and job interview presentation
* helping you to access the internet and improve your computer skills
* deliver the ParentsNext program in a flexible and family friendly way
* connecting you with study options to help you find work and/or access study. You can complete these modules at home to best suit your family needs
* deliver the ParentsNext program in a culturally sensitive way
* access to interpreters as needed through the Telephone Interpreter Services and provide referrals to English language, literacy and numeracy programs
* helping you develop your skills through activities such as Jobs Club and well-being courses

**Our Community Links**

We will use our community connections to meet your personal needs. We provide services to parents with diverse needs, such as refugee parents, by doing one-on-one meetings, so that you feel part of the program and connected to your Participation Plan. We will look at suitable ways for you to develop study and work goals that meet your cultural or personal needs. For Indigenous parents, we work with local Indigenous services to find activities that you will feel connected to. Some of the support services that we link participants with are Housing Pathways, CatholicCare counsellors including Career Counsellors, Local supported playgroups, Kiama Community College, Illawarra Multicultural Services, Australian College of Higher Studies, SACYA, Waminda

**Your outcomes**

Our staff will collaborate with you to make a personalised Participation Plan to meet your study and work goals, while also helping you to address any personal issues that may stop you reaching your goals.

**Our sites**

Our sites are all pram and wheelchair accessible and within walking distance of public transport. We provide age-appropriate and fun activities and toys to keep children happy and busy while you meet with your Case Manager.