

ParentsNext Program Overview

Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services
Main Office: 239 Station Road, Melton.
(03) 8746 1000



Djerriwarrh
Community & Education Services

Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services is a leading not for profit organisation delivering high quality learning, community engagement and employment opportunities in the outer western suburbs of Melbourne.



ParentsNext

AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

ParentsNext aims to help parents with young children link up with local services and activities, promote positive family life, learn new skills, undertake education and training, and achieve their career goals.

Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services will use our experience and networks to help eligible parents to plan and prepare for employment by the time their youngest child goes to school.

Services for ParentsNext Participants

Initial Contact

A Pathway Coach will contact you before your first appointment to welcome you to ParentsNext. We will take the time to explain who we are as well as your rights and responsibilities and how ParentsNext will benefit you and your family. Your wellbeing and that of your family is important to us. We will ensure that the appointments we agree to and the locations we meet at are safe, child friendly, convenient for you and your family and by public transport.

First Appointment

At your first appointment you will meet your Pathway Coach who will support you during your ParentsNext journey. Our Pathway Coaches understand their local communities and the challenges of taking care of young children and will work with you to support your individual needs and career aspirations.

Individual Participation Plan

Your Pathway Coach will work with you to develop your short-term and long-term goals and what we can do together to help you reach these goals. We will talk to you about your interests, your skills, education and training, work experience and parenting responsibilities. Together with your Pathway Coach, you will develop your individual Participation Plan. This will contain the steps you will take to achieve your goals and the support that will be provided to you.

Your Participation Plan may include:

- Parenting Support Groups – where you can share your experiences with other parents
- Play Groups and Story Time – learning and fun activities for parents and their children
- Local support services, such as child care, family health, housing, and money management
- Career counselling
- Enrolment in Education or Training
- Referral to Wear for Success & Fitted for Work - personal development workshops & interview clothes
- Work readiness workshops
- Work experience
- Self-employment support schemes (New Enterprise Initiative Scheme)
- Work trials
- Paid work opportunities

Building strong relationships

Once your individual Participation Plan is established, your Pathway Coach will meet with you on a regular basis (at least every 3 months) to review and/or update the plan with you. In between these appointments, we will communicate with you at least once a month by phone, email or text to ensure we are providing regular support and that you are on track to achieve your goals.

Improving work readiness

Your Participation Plan and agreed activities are designed to improve your work readiness. We will be using the WorkStar™ assessment tool to check that we are making progress towards your work-readiness goals.

Inclusive and accessible services

Our ParentsNext locations are accessible and welcoming to parents with disabilities, parents from different cultural and religious backgrounds and Indigenous parents.

Our Pathway Coaches have local connections with Indigenous organisations, multicultural agencies and disability support services. Djerrriwarrh will work with these agencies to provide support services that are respectful, inclusive and accessible.

Our team of bi-lingual Pathway Coaches are fluent in 24 languages.



Your feedback is important to us

Participants may provide suggestions and feedback in these ways:

- Completing a feedback form at one of our sites
- Visiting <https://djerrriwarrh.org.au/contact/> and completing the Contact Form
- Through our ParentsNext Reference Groups
- Calling the Employment Services National Customer Service Line on 1800 805 260

Djerrriwarrh Community & Education Services is also convening a ParentsNext Advisory Group to guide our continuous improvement. The advisory group consists of current program participants, local council representatives, Indigenous and multicultural community members, education & training providers and local employers.

Office Locations

Main Office: 239 Station Road, Melton. T: (03) 8746 1000. www.djerrriwarrh.org.au

Melton South, Bacchus Marsh, Hillside, Taylors Lakes, Werribee, Laverton, St Albans, Deer Park, Sunshine & Footscray.

Become a member

If you are interested in becoming a member of our ParentsNext Advisory Group please request an Expression of Interest form from us.