



# Together Towards Tomorrow



An investment partnership to help  
vulnerable children



**We have one objective:** to improve the welfare of disadvantaged children in the community.

In order to fulfil the vision of Aunties and Uncles Queensland, we are seeking a partnership based on collaboration and a commitment to help socially isolated and disadvantaged children build better futures.

This proposal is suggested to extend the vital work Family Services perform in the community by including the Aunties & Uncles Mentoring Program as a part of the case management to provide ongoing, long term support to children and their families well after agency work is completed.



**No child makes it alone so together, we can work towards a better tomorrow.**



## About Aunties and Uncles Queensland

Aunties and Uncles Queensland is an early intervention and prevention program targeting at-risk and socially isolated children aged 1–11 years, within the greater Brisbane and Gold Coast areas.

A&U aims to create thriving communities by empowering our young children to become resilient, capable and connected. We know the power of having someone neutral to talk to, who really listens and actually hears you, is extraordinary. Mentors can change thinking and save lives.

We work to improve the welfare of these children by providing mentoring relationships which address social isolation and establish a mechanism for children to increase their feelings of confidence & self-worth; build resilience; & develop life skills to enable them to successfully cope with life's challenges breaking cycles of disadvantage.

After undertaking a thorough screening process, our volunteer aunties and/or uncles are linked by our qualified Coordinator with a child. The auntie and/or uncle acts as a 'mentor/s' to the child by spending one-on-one time with them (generally one weekend a month) and being a positive influence and role model in their life.

Mentors have an immense long-lasting impact on these children by helping them to experience stability and the benefits of an extended family.

# Investment Proposal

Aunties and Uncles (Queensland) Limited propose to enter a partnership arrangement recognising the mutual benefits to be gained by working together.

The aim of the proposal is to ensure that we can service the children your organisation refers without having to wait for funding. We recognise the importance of linking children swiftly, before their situation deteriorates and often the only barrier is the lack of funding to complete this vital work.

## Aunties and Uncles QLD will support referrals with the following actions:

- ✓ Specialist staff, resources, programs and systems utilised to achieve better outcomes for vulnerable families, and children who have been abused and neglected or who are at risk of abuse and neglect.
- ✓ Ensure Best Practice is pursued through the methodology of utilising specialist skills and knowledge where and when appropriate to enhance service delivery and to produce improved outcomes.
- ✓ Ensure skill sets, competencies and knowledge of staff can continue to grow and develop, and innovation can be fostered and promoted through joint initiatives and by working in collaboration.

The Aunties and Uncles QLD program will ensure the volunteer is supported to engage and establish a supportive relationship with the child and actively aim to deliver a minimum of one (1) weekend per month contact with each child referred. We will work in partnership with your organisation to achieve case plan goals for the children who are referred to mentors within the Aunties and Uncles QLD program.

Furthermore, we proposed to participate in quarterly meetings to review case plan progress with your organisation and to provide a quarterly report on progress, activity and number of hours spent with children referred that will be informed by the case plan objectives and goals associated with the child.

The service activities listed above are not exhaustive and in no way limit other services, programs, supports from being delivered or offered. When working together, Aunties and Uncles Queensland commit to ensuring the wellbeing of participating children, implementing safe work practices and procedures maintaining appropriate insurances and complying with relevant legislation.

*"I recommend your program to other services in the sector to provide unique relationship-based support to vulnerable and socially isolated children that helps to connect them to their communities."*

**Caterina Schulz, Program Manager of the Brisbane North Intensive Family Support Service said of the partnership with Aunties and Uncles QLD.**

[Play Video](#)

# Measurable impacts



Increased confidence and self-esteem



Development of skills and expanded interests



A broadened identity



Provision of emotional and practical support



Role modeling and development of skills



An expanded social network and family identity



Community connection



The rewards of a genuine, meaningful connection to a child

# Case Study - Act for Kids



Brisbane North Intensive Family Support Service (BNIFS) is a partnership model between Act for Kids and Communitify. They work with families who have multiple and complex issues with the aim to keep those families from entering, re-entering and remaining in the tertiary child protection system.

A pervading issue across all of the client group is social isolation which affects mothers, fathers and children.

In 2016, Act for Kids entered into a partnership with Aunties and Uncles for seven links to be made for children associated with the BNIFS. Act for Kids had funding but were not able to deliver the service that was required to provide the extra support for the specific vulnerabilities of the client cohort. These families were referred to Aunties and Uncles by Act for Kids and a Fee for Service arrangement was entered. In a timely manner, the A&U Program Coordinators connected the children in need with caring adult mentors, matched all seven links and continue to service these links for the duration of the program. As a result, these children have received a unique support experience made only possible by the partnership of the two organisations.

*"My uncle might play a game of pool with me sometimes and he is the one to show me how to resolve problems. They have really helped me a lot and I'm glad I've gone through the aunties and uncles program."*

**Nicholas, 12 year's old**

Ben's dreams came true 2 years ago when he met Uncle Andrew. The two forged a strong bond over a mutual love of the outdoors. Ben's Mum has seen Ben grow and mature since they have been together. Uncle Andrew always has words of wisdom, is very calming and has a positive influence in Ben's life. After their time together he just beams with happiness.



## Our History

The Aunties and Uncles concept was pioneered in 1974 by the founder of the New South Wales Aunties and Uncles Rose White, her vision was to build a better life for children in Western Sydney.

Aunties and Uncles Queensland was founded by Ann Thew in 1992. In the 1990's, the program was funded by way of philanthropic grants and non-recurrent funding from the State Government.

This provided for the employment of a full-time social worker and an executive officer to undertake the administration aspects of the program. The program was expanded to the Gold Coast in 2010 and we opened our office in Paddington in 2011.

The program is now totally self-funded through fundraising efforts and through grants and donations from corporate partner's and individuals.

# Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a unique relationship-based intervention program that offers vulnerable and socially isolated children in Queensland opportunities to shape their future and reach their potential.

Respect | Compassion | Dependability Professionalism



## Our Values

- ✓ We will foster strong, positive relationships and partnerships with the communities we serve.
- ✓ We will nurture our staff, mentors, and participating families, with care and consideration at all times.
- ✓ We will deliver outstanding quality and be recognised for the integrity and longevity of our program.
- ✓ We will strive to be a well-governed, efficient and financially stable business.

We are ready to  
collaborate with you



Robert Gray

CHAIR

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Visit us at  
[www.auntiesandunclesqld.org.au](http://www.auntiesandunclesqld.org.au)

