

INTEGRATED Family Support Service

The Integrated Family Support Service provides flexible parenting support to families all around Tasmania.

The Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) works with families who identify a need for parenting support. The service works holistically with the family to identify their needs and workers support parents to meet their goals.

Evidence shows that support in the early years can have a positive and long-lasting effect on a child's' life trajectory. IFSS workers support families, build knowledge, skills and capacity around parenting to enable families to give their children the best possible opportunities to ensure their lives start on the right foot.

Participation in IFSS is voluntary, with referrals made from a number of avenues including child safety services, allied health professions, schools, GPs or self-referrals. An initial assessment is done to identify issues and match the family with an Integrated Family Support Worker. The IFSS worker provides weekly visits in the family home, for up to 12 months, supporting them to achieve their parenting goals. This can include parenting education, emotional support, help with connecting to their local community, and referrals to specialised services where necessary.

Save the Children works with families utilising strengths-based, client-centred and solutions-focused approaches. Our Family Support Workers use Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) as our trauma informed approach.

In the last 12 months, IFSS workers at Save the Children have supported 103 families from the South East, South West and North West of Tasmania.

Also over the past 12 months:

- 71% of families showed increased parenting knowledge and skills around the age appropriate development of their children.
- 81% of families reported improvement in community participation and engagement with social networks.
- 91% of families were satisfied with service received.

At a glance:

Established:	2009
Target group:	Families needing parenting support
Donor:	Department of Communities 2017–2021, Baptcare and Mission Australia
Location:	Greater Hobart and North West Tasmania
Referrals:	Advice and Referrals Line: 1800 000 123

Photo: Robert McKechnie/Save the Children

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