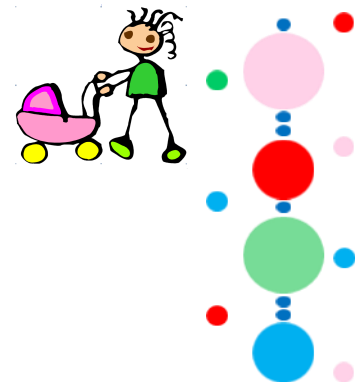




PARENT HANDBOOK

Young Parents Program

Balga Senior High School



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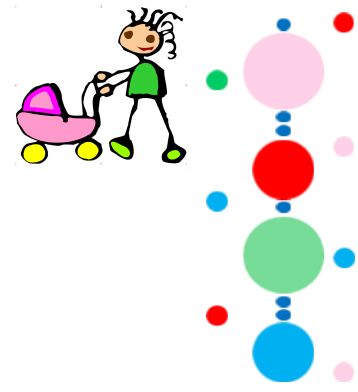
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WELCOME

Welcome to the Young Parents Program for Young Parents who are enrolled in secondary education. This program has been in operation since February 2002 and is governed by an incorporated body; managed by a committee. This program is in operation thanks to funding provided by FACSIA and DEEWR. Over the last few years the program has evolved and expanded to cater for the individual needs of young parents and their families. The purpose of this program is to encourage teen parents to complete their secondary education and to develop holistic skills required in their parenting. This program is available to all young parents in Western Australia.





OBJECTIVES

- Improve parenting skills
- Encourage positive parent child relationship
- Improve parent health and wellbeing
- Improve child health and wellbeing
- Improve independent living skills
- Reduce social isolation
- Reduce welfare dependency

STAFF

CEO – Carol Lyons

Director – Laura Covill

Assistant Director – Rachael Elliott

Toddler Room Leader – Keely

Baby Room Leader - Sharon

Qualified Caregiver – Annalise

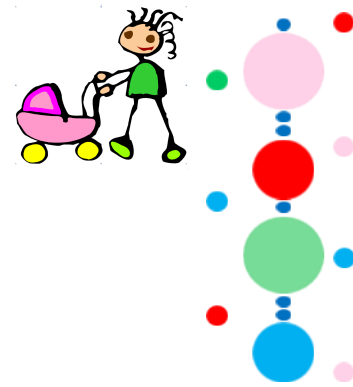
Qualified Caregiver - Makalah

Assistant Caregiver – Anny

Cook – Lauren

Parent Support Worker – Sammie

Educational Leader - Mel



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Young Parent Program is designed to support teen parents during their pregnancies and parenting journey. The Teen Family Centre has a Childcare on the grounds of Balga Senior High School which allows for the young parents to attend classes while their children are being cared for within the Childcare Centre.

The Young Parent Program is delivered to:

- Support Young Parents to engage in High School and achieve their West Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)
- Plan and Deliver parenting workshops for Young Parents
- Coordinate life skills workshops
- Promote Parent Child Bonding

The Program enlists Parent Support Workers to support the young parents.

PARENT SUPPORT WORKERS

The Parent Support Workers are available to all young parents enrolled in the program, and are accessible Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm.

Parent Support Workers can support young parents with:

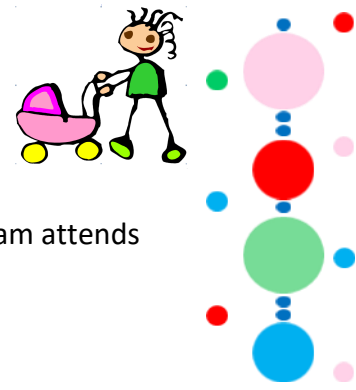
- Support to access Centrelink, Support Services, Housing help, Transport and access to pregnancy and parenting information.
- To advocate on behalf of parents during their meetings and appointments
- Help engaging in High School or other education pathways
- Access to Child Health services such as nurses, health professionals and hospitals
- Providing referrals and seeking information as requested by Young Parents
- Someone they can talk to about any matters

The Parent Support Worker's office is next to the childcare centre at the school or you can phone the office on

9247 0291 or 0432 502 426



EDUCATION SUPPORT TEACHER



The Education Support Teacher (Or YPP Teacher) for the Young Parents Program attends every Thursday.

Their role in the Young Parents Program is to:

- Assist parents with their schooling
- Liaise with teachers to help parents prioritise their subjects and assessments
- Coordinate directive study session on Thursdays
- Help young parents catch up on work
- Support Young Parents during NAPLAN and OLNA Testing

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

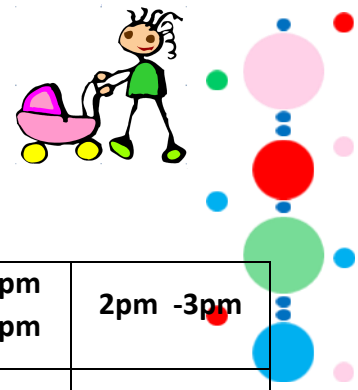
The Deputy Principal Hayley McGill is our Program Manager for Department of Education and oversees the operational of the Young Parents Program. If young parents require to change their classes or modify their timetable, they are encouraged to see Miss McGill.

PARENTING PROGRAM

Parents attending the Young Parents Program at Balga SHS will attend school every day except Thursday. Each Thursday all the Young Parents at Balga SHS attend the Positive Parenting Program held at the Teen Family Centre. This is **compulsory** for parents to attend.



The Young Parent Program is also offered **only on a Thursday** to those not wishing to re-engage into school education, but wanting extra help to learn life skills and parenting skills with the support of the Parent Support Worker, During this time the Young Parent will understand Thursdays are a commitment and will attend each week.



DATE	9.00am-10.00am	10.00am - 11am	11am-11.30m	11.30pm-1.30pm	1.30pm 2.00pm	2pm -3pm
Thursday	Directive Study with the Young Parent Teacher	Parent /Child Bonding Activities with the Educational Leader Mel	Recess	Parenting/ life skills Workshops supported by Parent Worker	YPP Lunch	Parent Room Activities

This program is endorsed by the Curriculum Council, which means attendance to the program can affect their ability to pass. The Program is based on the following framework.

Learning outcomes:

1. Parents will establish and maintain a positive relationship with their child.
2. Parents will develop parenting skills and knowledge to promote the health and wellbeing of their child.
3. Parents will develop personal skills and knowledge to promote their own health and wellbeing.
4. Parents will explore and develop self-management, asset building skills and a positive self-image.

Essential content:

1. Parents will have scheduled activities to play and bond with their child and develop secure attachment.
2. Parents will learn and develop parenting skills to include; Physical, emotional, social and cognitive child development. safety, nutrition, sleep, childhood illnesses,
3. Physical, emotional, social and cognitive health, sexual health, contraception, nutrition, sleep, drug use, substance abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, smoking
4. Relationship, self-esteem communication, assertiveness, mental health and wellbeing.

ATTENDANCE



The Young Parents Program is to be treated like any other school subject. A grade will be given at the end of the year and is allocated on the basis of:

- Attendance
- Participation and engagement
- Respect
- Evaluations/ Feedback forms
- Uniform
- Punctuality
- Group work
- Behaviour



School uniforms are to be worn at all times, including excursions.

Punctuality is expected unless there is a legitimate reason; however, this must be communicated to your Parent Support Worker.

Many workshops will be delivered by visiting **facilitators** from a variety of community agencies, schools, government departments, etc. They have been carefully chosen by the Parent Support Worker and will keep all information given to them confidential. It is expected that respect will be shown at all times in their presence.

CHILDCARE CENTRE

The Childcare Centre is available to Young Parents when their child turns 8 weeks of age, and has received their 6-8 week immunisations. The following applies to the young parents when accessing the Childcare:

1. Once baby turns 8 weeks, and has had their 8 week immunisations they are able to be enrolled for childcare. This is also the time that the young parents are able to return to school. However, during the first 6 months of baby's life, the parents only need to attend school Monday – Thursday. Once baby is over 6 months of age, the parents will return to school full time.
2. Children under six months of age **must** be visited by parent(s) at recess and lunch each day. This is to promote parent and child bonding as well as ease any separation anxiety that parent and/or child may be feeling. In some cases, these visits may need to be extended but this can be negotiated with your Parent Support Worker.
3. Young Parents will be required to provide items for your child while at childcare. These items include nappies, formula (if bottle feeding) and clothes.
4. If your child is sick and cannot attend childcare, a doctor's certificate is needed to be obtained and given to staff the following day.



5. If you have any questions, problems or queries regarding childcare, you are more than welcome to speak to the staff there about it. If you do not feel comfortable about this process, your Parent Support Worker is more than happy to hear you out.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Each holidays (**except December/January**) a holiday program is developed with various activities and excursions for young parents and their children to attend. Activities may be just for parents, for example going to the movies or activities with their children such as a trip to the Zoo. This Childcare Centre is also available for selected days so that the young parents can utilise Respite. This is coordinated by the Parent Support Worker and Childcare Director.

CENTRELINK



All parents can receive support from Centrelink. This includes the Parent Payments (single or partnered), Family Tax Benefit payments and the Childcare Subsidy.

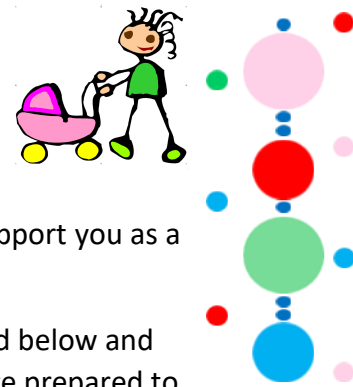
The Childcare Subsidy can cover up to 95% of childcare fees. Prior to accessing childcare, parents will need to set this up with Centrelink. It can take up to 6 weeks to process.

Sometimes Centrelink can be tricky to understand and it can be a little overwhelming when they send letters or make you wait for hours in their office. It is important that if receive a letter from Centrelink, **do not ignore it- you may end up with a debt!** If you don't understand it, bring it in to your Parent Support Worker and they will help you out.

Centrelink is now accessed through the My Gov App or website. Ensure you have the app downloaded on your phone, and Centrelink linked to your My Gov Account. My Gov can also be linked to other services such as Medicare and Child Support.

STUDENT AGREEMENT

As an enrolled student in the Balga Senior High School Young Parents Program you will participate in the Positive Parenting Program. During your enrolment the Parent Support



Worker will assist you in any way possible to complete your education and support you as a parent.

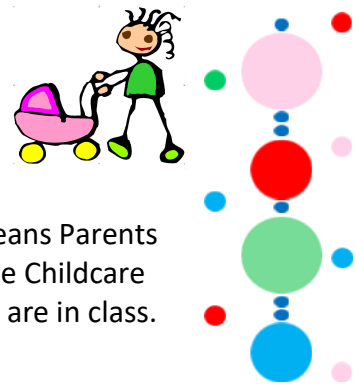
This is a student agreement, please read the conditions of enrolment as stated below and sign as acknowledgement that you have understood the itemised rules and are prepared to adhere to them.

Students are expected to adhere to the Balga Senior High School Guidelines.

Students are expected to adhere to Child Care Centre Regulations and Policies.

The BSHS guidelines and Child Care Regulations and Policies are available from the School and Child Care Centre. Of particular note are the following rules:

1. Students will attend school on all timetabled days. Non-attendance must be approved by the support team or verified by a doctor's certificate. Students are expected to inform a member of the support team if they will not be attending.
2. Participation in the Thursday Positive Parenting Program is **compulsory** as it is a timetabled school day. Students are expected to attend unless otherwise excused by the support team.
3. If pregnant, students require a doctor's certificate prior to commencing maternity leave, if applicable. Maternity Leave can be discussed with your Parent Support Worker
4. Students are not to swear at or abuse members of the Teen Family Centre. Swearing is not permitted within the Childcare Centre.
5. **NO** mobile phones inside the Childcare Centre, unless permission requested from Parent Support Worker or Childcare Coordinator. Mobile phones are also not to be used during the Thursday parenting program. Use of mobiles can result in mobiles being confiscated for the day.
6. Shoes to remain on at all times in the Childcare Centre and in Workshop Rooms AND no lying on the couches.
7. Students to clean the YPP Room before leaving at the end of the day.
8. Students to show respect to all people involved in the Teen Family Centre.



9. STUDENTS ARE TO BE RESPONSIBLE OF THEIR OWN CHILDREN. This means Parents are required to feed and change their children while they are within the Childcare Centre or YPP room. Only exception to this rule is when Young Parents are in class.
10. No students to be in the YPP Room without a reason or speaking to the Parent Support Worker first.
11. Students are not to leave their children in the YPP Room.
12. **NO** food from home, deli's, takeaway, shops are allowed in the Childcare Centre, only food supplied by Teen Family Centre are to be consumed in the Childcare Centre.
13. Food taken into the YPP Room is to remain there. Any food left in the fridge at the end of the week is thrown out. Under no circumstances is **Shellfish or Nuts** allowed on the premises due to allergies of children and staff.

Failure to adhere to the above mentioned conditions could ultimately result in the following

- Exclusion from privileges and activities.
- Warnings via the warning system.

1st warning – A verbal warning.

2nd warning – A written warning and parent review meeting with Parent Support Worker

3rd warning – Discontinued enrolment in program.

STUDENT AGREEMENT

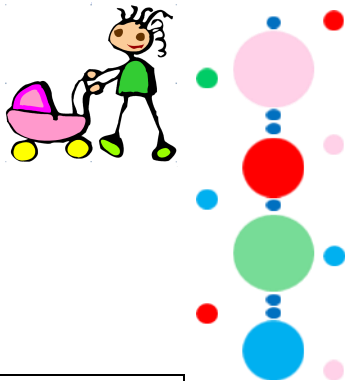
I _____ have received a copy of the handbook and have read the above mentioned conditions of Enrolment and agree to abide by the terms as outlined.

I understand that Failure to adhere to the above mentioned conditions could ultimately result in being terminated from the Young Parents Program and Access to the Child Care Centre.

Parent Name:

Signature:

Date:



Parent Support Worker	
Signature:	
Date:	