



Respect · Empower · Achieve

## About YCSS

YCSS is a licensed, fee-for-service organisation providing specialist wrap-around support to children, young people, and families. At YCSS, we believe every child, young person, and family can thrive with the right environment, opportunity, and support. We support children, young people, and families through our therapeutic programs - Youth Konnections, Keeping Kids at Home (KKAT) and Quality Connection Counselling (QCC). Youth Konnections is a residential care program that supports children and young people in out-of-home care. The KKAT program is an intensive in-home support service that works with families to ensure children and young people can live safely at home. We have recently expanded KKAT to include specialist services that assist carer agencies in supporting foster and kinship carers. In the QCC program, counsellors work creatively to build connections and provide specialist support to our participants. YCSS exists to respect and empower children, young people, and families to achieve their unique goals.

## Support Services for Foster and Kinship Carers

### The KKAT (Keeping Kids at Home) program

At YCSS, we recognise the need to support carers of children and young people in foster and kinship care. We have also identified that traditional supportive carer agencies aren't always in a position to provide intensive and specialist support. In response to this need, we have extended our KKAT program to include a service that offers intensive and specialist support to foster and kinship carers. Family Placement Support (FPS) is designed to complement carer agencies' work with foster and kinship carers for family-based placements. This pioneering service promotes consistent care to children, young people and families while acknowledging the crucial role that foster and kinship carers play in our communities.

FPS holds a structured approach designed for lasting change. Our team begins with intense scaffolding that supports learning through role modelling, prompting and hurdle help. Using a step-down process throughout the intervention, from entry to exit, this method assists with embedding new family norms and behaviours. We can offer practical in-home support to carers between 3 - 60 hours per week. The KKAT team prides itself in working with families to empower them for lasting change and successful family futures.

In addition to Family Placement Support, the KKAT program now includes Supervised Family Contact Support (SFCS). This service offers parenting strategies, attachment-building activities and structure during family contact to prompt a safe, meaningful experience. It aims to develop a lasting connection for children and young people with their immediate and extended families.

KKAT has reimagined the way supervised family contact is conducted. The KKAT team provides debriefing for young people and children during transport. They also support the carers in understanding the importance of family contact and providing behaviour management strategies for identified post-contact behaviours. This important work will create a safer, stronger support network for a child or young person after transitioning from care through reunification or at age 18.

### **The Quality Connection Counselling program**

Our Quality Connection Counselling (QCC) team understands that the quality of the therapeutic relationships among the counsellor, child and carer is the foundation for repairing trauma and building attachment. Our belief in 'connection before correction' supports the recovery process and encourages children and parents to do the hard work of repairing attachment and dealing with the impact of traumatic exposure. Our professional counsellors offer an empathetic and nurturing approach to all participants.

We can offer our counselling service in rooms at our offices or in family homes. Our creative counselling team can also be flexible by providing counselling in any space that allows for privacy and where the participant and counsellor feel safe. We have conducted counselling sessions at education campuses, day care centres, parks, libraries, and even in the back seat of a car during a participant's lunch break at work!