

“The Fathering Project is something Australian dads need. And because our kids are literally our country’s future, the country needs it as well.”

Hon John Anderson AO
former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia

THE PROBLEM	POINT OF DIFFERENCE	OUR SOLUTION	THE OUTCOME
The worsening gap between kid’s risks and father’s performance as dads	Stop the problem rather than trying to fix it	Provide inspiration for father figures to act through presentations, resources, education, activities, ideas	Research shows there is a reduction of social, behavioural and mental health issues
FATHERS NEED TO LIFT THEIR GAME	TURN OFF THE TAP, DON’T MOP UP THE WATER	INSPIRE & EQUIP FATHER FIGURES TO ACT	LESS TROUBLED KIDS



The impact of an effective father is profound

Evidence indicates that fathers’ enhanced knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviour and presence are related to childhood outcomes including;

- Enhanced child development
- Improved academic progress
- Reduced school adjustment problems
- Enhanced occupational achievement in adulthood
- Reduced alcohol, tobacco and drug use
- Decreased rates of teen pregnancy
- Increased psychosocial adjustment
- Reduced rates of depression, bipolar, anxiety disorders and phobias in adulthood
- Increased physical activity
- Increased social responsibility, social maturity and life skills
- More positive father child/adolescent relationships



thefatheringproject.org

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schools program

for fathers and father figures



Creating self supporting fathering groups for the benefit of children, dads & schools



Men work hard at their job. Why don't they work hard at the most important thing – family?

The Fathering Project inspires and equips dads to act.



involvement of men in schools

- **Sharing in the enjoyment** in your child's life and having fun with them
- **Build skills** for fathers and father figures
- **Building a Community** of supportive fathers & father figures
- **Create Opportunities** for fathers & father figures which provide them with fathering time with their kids
- **Support the School** in providing a broad and fulfilling educational experience

men in schools

Some children have little exposure to men during their school life. In W.A. men make up 12.2 per cent of teachers in public primary schools and 36.5 per cent in secondary schools (excluding deputy principals and principals).

The male role model is critical in a child's upbringing. Mothers generally take the dominant role of the upbringing of a child, often whilst working themselves. However, fathers and father figures are the most powerful force in Australia today for shaping a child's life.

The Fathering Project seeks to inspire & equip fathers to be engaged with their kids.



- The Fathering Project has received strong support within education including the Director General of Education and President of Primary Principals Association.
- An Education Advisory Group has been created comprising of primary principals and other professionals in the area.
- It is important to start appropriate behaviours at an early stage of a child's development.
- The aim is to establish self supporting fathers groups in schools without an undue impost on the schools.
- The Fathering Project will establish the groups, resource, motivate and reward and recognise the contribution of our champion school dads.
- There will be 3 levels of activity undertaken by the schools fathering group for fathers and father figures.

- **Father and father**

Opening up conversations at social events and discussion groups

- **Father and child**

Undertake a range of activities to enhance the father and child relationship

- **Father and The Fathering Project**

The Fathering Project will facilitate sessions on key topic areas.

Establishing a champion men's team at a school can be likened to establishing a good campfire.

Firstly you need permission to set up a fire on the camping grounds (the school needs to be open for it and supportive of it).

Secondly you need The Fathering Project as fire starter – someone who can motivate & inspire the men to want the fire.

Thirdly you need a small core group of men who agree to keep the fire alight and to invite others to share around the fire (this is a core of dads who are prepared to oversee the program and help organise some activities).

Finally, to keep the fire stoked, The Fathering Project will keep a line of communication with the core team - passing of tips and resources so that the fire stays alight.