Family Inclusion Network Queensland (Townsville) Inc.

Supporting Families – Stronger Futures

Creating hope – re-creating families: ensuring the Safety and Wellbeing of Children and Young People in the Queensland Child Protection System
What is Family Inclusion Network Qld Townsville Inc.?

FIN is a service users' organisation which operates with active involvement from other people, including professionals, who are supportive of the Objectives. It is not an organisation run only or mainly by professionals; rather it is “parents’ action by parents, for parents, with the help of supportive others”.

FIN firmly asserts that children in care need knowledge and understanding of, and contact with their parents’ as real people with strengths as well as weaknesses, and with the capacity to change. Thus, FIN aims to support ALL parents in their interactions now and in the future with Child Safety. FIN is an inclusive organisation and does not judge parents as “deserving” or “undeserving”. Regardless, FIN upholds and respects the human dignity and worth of all parents, even though FIN recognises that for some their involvement in their children’s lives will be appropriately constrained.

FIN provides safe space for the “voice” of parents who, as stakeholders, are invariably silenced, to be expressed and heard by those who are willing to listen without judgement. This safe space is an essential part of the healing process from trauma and loss, leading to hope, growth, personal change and, in time, collective action. Activism is both a means for achieving social change and also, in itself, an additional “… powerful therapeutic tool”, which can strengthen healing through the experience of dignity and a positive identity.

Is this what you are looking for?
Can you do this?

FIN Queensland (Townsville) Inc. is a place where certain VALUES are important:

- All members are worthy & valuable
- Inclusion is acceptable
- Exclusion is not acceptable
- Loss is acknowledged, understood and supported
- Stories are shared
- Labelling others is not acceptable
- Respect is demonstrated and copied
- Social justice is upheld
- Human rights are maintained
- Strengths are used in projects
- Privacy is respected
- Working with each other is important
- Clarifying misunderstandings is recommended
- There are no right or wrong answers
- Conflicts of interest are self monitored
- Barriers are prohibited
- Social capital resource is generated [values agreed at FIN committee]

And what about this?

FIN Queensland (Townsville) Inc. Group/Members GUIDELINES:

- All are to RESPECT each other’s opinions
- ACCEPT each other’s situation, i.e. Religion/culture, life-style, behaviour
- FIN meetings and emails are a SAFE PLACE for all - grandparents, parents and significant others - to tell their stories/situation.
- Members are to GIVE each other the benefit of the doubt in relation to past personal matters
- People and their personal issues are to remain CONFIDENTIAL to those attending meetings/receiving emails
- ONE person only speaking at any one time
- NO ONE person to dominate the discussion/meeting
- MOBILE Phones: SILENT or OFF

If YES, welcome to the FIN Family
FIN Queensland (Townsville) Inc.

Objectives:

1. To advance, preserve and protect the best interest of children in the context of family intervention.
2. To promote compliance with the principles found in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and sections 5 and 74 and Schedule 1 of the Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld) in the context of Family intervention.
3. To provide support and assistance to individuals who are involved in the Child Safety System, who are experiencing poverty, sickness, distress, helplessness or disability as a direct or indirect cause or result of Family intervention.
4. To provide information and referral services that assist, support and empower individuals who are involved in the Child Safety system by, informing them of their rights and responsibilities and assist those in need by informing them of the services available to them.
5. To systemically advocate for improvement and reform of Family intervention for the benefit of children and individuals who are involved in the Child Safety system.
6. To provide advice, guidance, training, information, advocacy and support to individuals who are involved in the Child Safety System with respect to the administrative and legal processes associated with Family intervention when they are providing statements, submissions or otherwise dealing with: Child Safety Officers from Child Safety Services; Children’s Court; Foster Carers; the Children’s Services Tribunal; and other government and non-government agencies, but not to the extent of providing legal advice, legal services or representation in a Court or Tribunal.
7. To assist individuals who are involved in the Child Safety system to ensure the wellbeing and safety of the child and their connection to their family, culture and community.
8. To educate the community about the emotional, financial, physical and other effects on individuals who are involved in the Child Safety system where there is Family intervention, and how individuals may ameliorate or avoid the detrimental effects of Family intervention.
9. To research and report on the emotional, financial, physical and other effects on individuals who are involved in the Child Safety system when there is Family intervention.
10. To encourage individuals who are involved in the Child Safety system to assist with the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of events and programs organised by the Family Inclusion Network Queensland (Townsville) Inc. To raise money to fund the advancement of the objects of the Family Inclusion Network Queensland (Townsville) Inc.
11. To raise money to fund the advancement of the objects of the Family Inclusion Network Queensland (Townsville) Inc.
FIN values children, families, community and culture

FIN assists parents, grandparents and significant others involved in the Child Safety System

**FIN MISSION STATEMENT**

To ensure parents, grandparents and significant others have access to the information, support and advocacy they require to actively and equitably participate in the Child Protection process

**FIN SUPPORT & INFORMATION**

- Drop In morning teas from 10.30am – 12.00 every first & third Tuesday of each month at NQDVRS, 4th Floor, North Town Flinders Street, Townsville Centre or look out for change of venue advice
- Women’s Group meeting – 4th Thursday of each month from 10.30am – 12.00 held at Women’s Centre, 50 Patrick Street, Aitkenvale
- Ayr monthly drop-in group at Flexi Hangout, 52 Chippendale Street, Ayr. Dates to be confirmed
- **Email:** finqldtsv@gmail.com
- **Phone:** FIN Qld Townsville Hotline 0402254984
- **Internet:** www.fin-qldtsv.org.au
- Court support every Wednesday at Townsville Children’s Court
- For individual appointments phone the FIN hotline, leave name and number and someone will return your call
- Social advocacy – letter writing, support in drop-in groups, referrals
- Fundraising initiatives
- Project work eg DVD creation