

## Summary of Responses: Survey into Men's Experiences of Child and Family Centres

Men's Resources Tasmania was invited to write a submission to the Tasmanian Legislative Council Inquiry into Child Family Centres. The invitation was received with little time left to enter a submission, but Men's Resources Tasmania created a survey to gather information. The aim of the survey was to gain insight into the experiences of men, and workers supporting men accessing Child and Family Centres.

The survey was distributed through the MRT list of members (106 community sector workers, and members of the public), via our social media page, and directly to the CFC staff, with a request to pass onto their clients.

The survey was put together very quickly and with little input. Some results are problematic, however there are some useful comments.

A problem with the survey is that we didn't separate CFC workers from other community sector workers (CSW). So its possible all CSW were from CFC's. It also would have been good if we had asked if men if they had preferences for male staff.

### Demographics

17 responses

11 from Community Sector Workers (CSW)

6 from male parents

5 –New Norfolk

2 – Beaconsfield Burnie and George Town

1 – Chigwell, East Devonport, Burnie, Ravenswood, Queenstown, Geevston

1 ATSI

2 CALD

14 English speaking background

### Question 4

Tell us about your experience of Child and Family Centres during the last two years. 1 is low or unsatisfied 5 is high or very satisfied. (please provide a response whether it was you personally who used the centre, your partner or client)

	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Weighted Average
I used the centre once (1) - through to used it five or more times (5).	0.00% 0	7.69% 1	0.00% 0	7.69% 1	84.62% 11	13	4.69
The information and resources were useful for me as a man/father/male carer.	0.00% 0	23.08% 3	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	61.54% 8	13	4.08
I felt welcomed by staff and volunteers at the centre	7.69% 1	15.38% 2	0.00% 0	7.69% 1	69.23% 9	13	4.15
Programs and services were inclusive of me or my male partner.	7.69% 1	0.00% 0	15.38% 2	15.38% 2	61.54% 8	13	4.23

## Some comments/suggestions for improvement:

I would appreciate things like Kinder Gym. (a male parent)

One respondent, a Community Sector Worker, gave a rating of 2,2,2 and 3 in terms of their experience in answer to Q4

*reception area very poor at this centre. staff are behind a large enclosed panel. Suggest revamping area to provide more friendly welcoming experience and encourage staff and clients to interact with each other.*

*Some events were held for dads at the CFC. I do think that more attempts could be made to promote male attendance at the CFC. ( a male parent)*

*Was told "Boys play is too rough for the Centre."  
Not open at any really useful time.*

## Some positive comments

The centre offers some father focussed programs which appear to bring in fathers. My client has reported to me how good it was to be able to share what he was going through with other men who access the centre. Having 'male focused' programs is good to be able to advertise to my male clients. (Another CSW who appeared to support men using the centre)

*Sometimes (male staff) but mostly female staff. They are excellent though (a male parent)*

One respondent spoke of having accessed a centre with two children with varying issues, who stated that he felt the centre was *largely responsible for both children becoming socially adjusted and up to early learning standards. Thank you very much!*

*A very high level of service and support is provided by the CFC team. They are always happy to involve our daughter in specific programmes, and to spend extra time and effort helping her to learn. Centre is also very inclusive - we've always been made to feel welcome.*

First class quality of service and support. We have learned lots about how to communicate with our kids and parent more effectively. More men should make use of this great resource.