

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



Working together to change children's lives

In the spirit of Reconciliation, The Fathering Project acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country, and their connection to land, water and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures and customs, and to Elders past, present and emerging.

WELCOME

2020 has been a challenging but rewarding year in which The Fathering Project continued to rollout its services and business model nationally and respond quickly and effectively to the impacts of COVID-19.

Fortunately, we had started a significant national recruiting and restructuring of operations in late 2019 and these were both complemented and implemented by the appointment of our new, Sydney-based CEO Káti Gapaillard in January.

Káti has been instrumental in building and leading what is now a truly national organisation capable of pursuing our strategic goals and achieving our purpose - "to improve child development outcomes by inspiring and equipping fathers and father figures to effectively engage with their kids".

Since stepping into the role of Chair in October 2019 I have been delighted with the effectiveness and growth of the organisation, thanks primarily to the commitment of the CEO and staff, the passion and commitment of the Board and the generous and ongoing support of our many Ambassadors, funders, supporters and donors.



Martin Black, Chairman of the Board

"The Fathering Project is the leading social purpose organisation working in over 300 communities across Australia changing children's lives by providing programs and resources, tools and support for fathers, father-figures, schools, community organisations and corporates."

As 2020 comes to a close we welcome our first truly national board members in Geoff Lloyd (NSW) and James Brown (Qld) and bid farewell to three incredible founding directors; Mimi Packer, Kim Grist and John Bond; all of whom have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make The Fathering Project what it is today.

I would especially like to thank former chair John Bond for his support and guidance through the transition and our Founding Father Dr Bruce Robinson who continues to inspire and amaze us all, each and every day.

As we continue to build our national role and profile we have an incredible opportunity to change the lives of fathers and children in Australia, as we help equip and motivate them to be the best they can be in a changing world.

It's a big job, but we are up for the challenge!

MESSAGE FROM CEO

I am delighted to be introducing The Fathering Projects 2020 Annual Report, my first as CEO. Taking on the role at The Fathering Project has been extremely rewarding for me on both a personal and professional level, with the unique challenge of working through a global pandemic.

It became clear to me early this year as COVID-19 emerged that on the one hand there was a need to care for our employees, and our dads and families and make swift decisions and at the same time, it was also critical to think about how we could continue to deliver our much-needed services during the pandemic and continue the evolution of our work after the crisis. The unique challenges of 2020 also brought us opportunities.

Working with a very skilled and committed team with a clear sense of purpose, a passionate group of volunteers and a supportive and engaged board, we are supporting many more schools, fathers, and children than ever before. We are growing faster, bigger and bolder and have reimagined our services and programs to achieve extraordinary results, create more impact and change more lives.

The launch of The Fathering Channel, the new Family Partnerships Program, The Schools Digital Library, and a revamp of our total offerings to schools and dads has focused us on our purpose, engagement, and the impact we can make to children's lives.

Without a doubt The Fathering Project is the most powerful force in Australia to change the future of our kids and I am passionate about changing children's lives by supporting Fathers to be the best they can be and schools and communities to partner with families.

Thank you to the board and especially chair Martin Black and Founder Dr Bruce Robinson for your unwavering support that has allowed me to take The Fathering Project forward with great confidence and purpose. Thank you also to Wayne Bradshaw and Sean Johns who have provided support throughout the year.

The next few years promise to be major years of growth, national expansion and enormous impact on the health and happiness of children across Australia. There is fantastic work happening every day at The Fathering Project and I am proud to be able to share a snapshot of this work here with you.

Thank you for your continued support. We could not do this work without you.



“The Fathering Project is the most powerful force in Australia to change the future of our kids.”



MAKING A DIFFERENCE - WHY FATHERING MATTERS

The need for a father is fundamental for every one of us to develop inner growth and strength. We work with communities to create relationships and connectedness and prevent the effects of father absence which can cause a wide range of problems for children, from crime and delinquency to mental health, behavioural and social issues as well as poor school achievement.

Our purpose is to partner with individuals and communities to change lives for the better.

- ✓ We fund high-impact research to understand how fathers impact their children's lives.
- ✓ We deliver programs and services to improve family relationships and connectedness to change children's lives for the better.
- ✓ We build community awareness about the crucial impact fathers have on their children's lives through delivering awareness campaigns and providing access to research-based information and resources.
- ✓ We develop tools and resources to support fathers, families and communities.
- ✓ We advocate to governments and industry for increased awareness of fathers' roles in society, work and family and for funding and resources.
- ✓ We support professionals to work with fathers, children, and families to prevent long term social and emotional issues and build strong and enduring relationships in families and between fathers and children.

Year In Review Highlights

35k+
Fathers
Supported



66.5k+
Children
Supported



300+
Schools
partnered with



Launched
In ACT, TAS,
SA & NT



Established
Community
Fathering in
NSW, and VIC



Introduced
The Family
Partnership
Planning Tool



Launched
The Fathering
Channel



ABC TV
Fathering Project
Documentary



INNOVATION AND GROWTH IN 2020

The Fathering Project is developing new programs in response to community demand and identified areas of need to create father-inclusive services, interventions, support and equip more fathers and father figures to engage effectively with their children at different stages throughout their lives.

These include:

New Fathering Programs

- Development of a new Perinatal Program for Dads
- Establishment of a new program for Incarcerated Fathers
- Development of new Programs for Disabled Dads, and Dads with kids with Disability

Corporate Partnership Programs and services with:

- Rio Tinto
- Electrical Trades Union
- BHP
- Rhino Roof Racks
- Kingsley Enterprises
- P&N Bank
- CBA
- Bunnings
- Inpex
- Westchem
- Sanitarium

Expansion of the Schools Program

- Family Partnership Planning Tool
- Digital Wellbeing Packages
- Dad Groups



FATHERS DAY 2020

This Fathers Day we released an update on our 'Summary of Evidence' on the important role a father plays in a child's life. We also launched a digital campaign titled #bestdadmoments nationally to encourage fathers to share and reflect on their family relationships and for children to tell their heartfelt stories.

- The Prime Minister The Hon. Scott Morrison shared a special family story.
- The Leader of the Opposition The Hon. Anthony Albanese and The Hon. Ken Wyatt Minister for Indigenous Australians, filmed their special family stories and shared these as part of our #bestdadmoments campaign.
- AFL coaches shared their real stories.

Key Influencers

Prime Minister Scott Morrison | The Hon. Ken Wyatt | The Hon. Anthony Albanese



REAL STORIES, REAL IMPACT

The Fathering Project raises awareness about the critical role of fathers in a child's life. It delivers resources, tools, programs which connect and supports fathers and father figures across Australia with a vision to give children the best chance in life. In 2020, we achieved a high level of media coverage through a range of initiatives where we were able to share real fathering stories to start conversations, connect with others and create change. This was made possible thanks to the support of our Patrons John Anderson AO and Ern Edwards as well as our Ambassadors with several promoting our mission and services in television, radio and print interviews. These included Justin Langer AM, Brad Haddin, Duncan Armstrong OAM, Petero Civinoceva, Nick Farr-Jones AM, Prof Donna Cross and Dr Tim Hawkes OAM. Many thanks to everyone for helping us create real impact in the community.

In addition, the Fathering Channel shared interviews, podcasts, webinars and digital content with a number of high profile celebrities including: Hamish Blake, Maggie Dent, Steve Biddulph, Gus Worland, David Teague, Cam Merchant, Michael Crossland, and the AFL Coaches network.

Many thanks to Rodney Eade for connecting us with the AFL network. They supported us during our Father's Day campaign, and inspired many of our dads to share their own #bestdadmoments stories.

We have been able to reach over 13 million Australians in 2020 with positive and inspiring stories about the challenges and joys of Fathering.



COMMUNITY FATHERING

The Fathering Project went to air on ABC TV on Sunday 12th July at 6.30pm

The Fathering Project was a documentary aired on ABC Compass that showcased the critical programs, services and support we deliver for 'At Risk' Fathers in Armadale, WA.

It highlighted the need of a group of dads to connect with one another, with their children and communities and how The Fathering Project was able to provide the tools, resources and programs to assist them in this growth.

Written, Directed and Edited by Josh Lee, it told the personal story about what it means to be a father today and followed a group of men as they worked with our staff to break the cycle of disadvantage fathering and create positive outcomes for their children and families.

It was another example of the important work The Fathering Project does in the community that changes lives.

FINANCIALS

2020 was a year of major expansion for The Fathering Project. A federal government grant was provided for the expansion of the schools and digital program over the period 2019-2021. As part of the expansion process the head office was relocated to NSW, with the school's program growth occurring in all States and Territories.

The additional federal funding enabled an increase in the development of learning content for men, in addition to an increased digital presence including the expansion of the dads group portal and creation of Family Partnerships Planning Tool for schools.

We also receive funds and grants from Foundations, Philanthropic Trusts, Major and Regular Givers.

Detailed financial information can be found in our 2020 Financial Statement.

The Fathering Project, in building a sustainability model, is focused on ensuring the federal government grant requirements are met, whilst developing ongoing revenue streams.

Thank You

We are grateful to individuals, organisations and businesses who share our vision of a brighter and healthier future for our children through engaged and effective fathering and thank them for their support. Everything we do is made possible by the generosity of our supporters.

The support we receive from our donors, fundraisers, volunteers, corporate partners, as well as government and non-government partners, allows us to deliver on our vision and mission.

Volunteers

Delivering our programs and events would not be possible without the contribution of our wonderful volunteers, especially our Dad Group Leaders and Mentors. We thank our volunteers who have given their time, skills and energy in helping us throughout the year.



A special thank you to our Founder, Dr Bruce Robinson for his tireless and influential support, weekly contributions to film Bruce Mondays, interview experts and celebrities on webinars and attend many events for The Fathering Project. We could not do this without you Bruce, you are an inspiration to us all.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



PARTNER WITH US

As a not-for-profit organisation, a lot of what we can achieve relies on the generous support of the Australian community, individuals, large corporate companies, or small businesses. Your partnership is critical in helping us change children's lives.

There are many ways your organisation can get involved:

- Volunteer with us.
- If you're a school - check out the range of services and programs we have for schools.
- As a corporate, let us design a tailored program for your employees.
- Host a fundraiser or awareness-raising activity at your organisation or club.
- Event sponsorships and partnerships.
- Become a key brand partner on The Fathering Channel programs.
- Host a lunch workshop and invite us to speak at your next event about the critical role of fathers in child development.
- Choose us as your organisation's preferred charity by encouraging volunteering or workplace giving from your employees.

Offices in Sydney, Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane.

With your generous support, we will continue to work with dads and father-figures to change children's lives.



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