

FAQ'S

HOW DOES YOUTH JUSTICE FAMILY LED DECISION MAKING (YJ FLDM) WORK?

YJ FLDM works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and their families who have had contact with police, court or the Youth Justice system. This may include young people that:

- have been cautioned by police
- are attending diversionary restorative justice processes
- have early signs of offending behaviours or have siblings of known offenders
- are living in custody or transitioning from custody

The program is delivered by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATSICHS) Brisbane, a not-for-profit community controlled organisation.

We help young people (primarily aged 10-14 yrs) and their families to find solutions to overcome challenges, particularly those related to coming into contact with police or taking risky offending behaviours.

We work to get the entire family around the table when Youth Justice meets with the young person. The intent is to create a support plan based on the young person and family's concerns and aspirations by using an established framework called the Family Led Decision Making (FLDM) process.

WHAT IS FLDM?

FLDM is a process where authority is given to young people, parents and their wider family to work together to solve challenges and lead decisions that affect their lives. The intent is to place more empowerment and responsibility back to young people and families in a culturally safe manner.

ATSICHS Brisbane works with the young person, their family and kin in an outreach capacity to understand what those challenges are and convene the Family Led Decision Making meetings with Youth Justice.

FLDM meetings are independently convened by ATSICHS Brisbane workers, known as Family Led Decision Making Practitioners.

FLDM Practitioners work to understand the concerns of Youth Justice, the family and the young person. Together, the family and young person then create a support plan—often looking at creative ways to reduce offending and engaging back into family life and creating purposeful direction in life.

FLDM Practitioners will coordinate all the supports. Many of those supports can be found at ATSICHS Brisbane, including mental health, youth programs and case management, family support, health care, crisis accommodation, cultural support and family reconnection. ATSICHS Brisbane also works with other providers to ensure the needs of the young person and their family is fully met.

IS THE FLDM APPROACH NEW?

The FLDM framework is new to Youth Justice in Queensland. Although many Youth Justice workers may already do some components of the model, ATSICHS Brisbane are here to formalise the approach and use the advantages of being an Aboriginal community controlled organisation to engage the family and extended kin to support the young person in achieving their goals and gain the best outcomes for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

FLDM may be new in Youth Justice but ATSICHS Brisbane already delivers a similar program in the Child Protection system. And it's not only in Queensland, other states in Australia like Victoria already deliver FLDM which has shown great success in reducing reoffending and empowering families.

HOW DO I REFER A YOUNG PERSON OR FAMILY?

It's easy to refer. There are two different options:

1. Email

You can email a referral to YJFLDM@atsichsbrisbane.org.au. When we receive your email, the FLDM Manager will contact you and begin discussions around the best path forward, including what your concerns are for the young person and how might the program help.

2. Weekly Case Referral Consult

The FLDM Manager has a weekly rostered case referral consult at each Service Centre in Brisbane South, Logan and the Redlands. Contact your Team Leader for the day and time to come along and discuss a young person you think could benefit from the program.

HOW DO WE LET THE YOUNG PERSON AND THEIR FAMILY KNOW ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?

It's easy. We have designated information packs to help explain the service, along with how to get in touch. But realistically—the best way is to attend the weekly case referral consult at your service centre and we will organise for an ATSICHS FLDM Practitioner to complete some outreach visits to the family and young person. We will talk to the young person and their family about the program and how it could help, including the supports we can deliver.

For more information call **3240 8900**
or email YJFLDM@atsichsbrisbane.org.au