



About Us

Cafs (Child & Family Services Ballarat Inc.) is a proudly independent community service organisation with no religious affiliation. We are governed by the community we support. For over 156 years, the heart of our service has been the wellbeing of children, young people and their families. Today, that commitment stands strong, and we extend our inclusive and accessible programs to include everyone who needs assistance. We service the Victorian Central Highlands region, including the Ballarat, Hepburn, Ararat, Moorabool, Golden Plains and Pyrenees local government areas.

Cafs is a child safe organisation committed to providing an environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. We are leaders in the use of Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) as our trauma-informed model of care and work to build trust with clients through the principles of empowerment and connection.

Particular attention is paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTIQ+ young people, as well as the safety of children with a disability. We value cultural and linguistic diversity, provide a culturally safe environment and are White Ribbon and Rainbow Tick accredited. We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are the First Nations Peoples of Australia and are committed to reconciliation.

Learn more about Cafs and the work we do at cafs.org.au



Cafs Ballarat
115 Lydiard Street Nth, Ballarat 3350

Cafs Ararat
4 Banfield Street, Ararat 3377

Cafs Moorabool
52 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh 3340

Cafs Daylesford
8 Park Lane, Daylesford 3460

1800 MyCafs
1800 692 237
welcome@cafs.org.au



cafs.org.au



Our Programs and Services

Wellbeing, respect and safety for everyone



We are here to help all members of our community with a focus on the wellbeing of children, young people and their families. Our diverse programs and services are available to anyone who needs support.

Community

Financial Counselling

Financial and paralegal support for people who find themselves in financial difficulty through unresolved debt.

Gambler's Help

Therapeutic and practical supports for people impacted by gambling and the gambling of people they care about. Gambling harm prevention sessions for students, teachers, parents and gaming venue staff.

Homelessness Assistance and Support

Services for people in private, public and community housing to help them maintain or access housing, as well as navigate tenancy issues.

QHub

Delivered in partnership with Drummond St Services and Wellways, QHub offers support services and social connection for LGBTIQ+ young people and their families or carers.

Thread Together

Cafs' Thread Together clothing hub provides brand-new clothing allowing referred customers the ability to shop (for free) for a new outfit.

To find out more or to access our programs and services contact the Cafs Client Engagement Team on:

1800 692 237 or welcome@cafs.org.au

Support for Families

Access to Early Learning

Supporting the engagement of vulnerable three-year-old children and their families in kindergarten.

Children's Contact Service

A safe and nurturing environment for children to maintain contact with a parent who is no longer living with them.

Children with a Disability

Help for children with complex disability support needs; Specialist Disability Practitioner. Providing case management support to children and parents/carers who have a disability.

Dad's Tool Kit

A parenting group program for dads who want to improve their relationship with their children and work on being the best parent they can be.

Early Help

Early Intervention support provided on location at selected primary schools and kindergartens.

Early Help Parenting Groups

A suite of parenting programs to support parents and carers. Includes Circle of Security, Solihull Parenting Approach, Tuning into Teens and Growing Together.

Family Services – Child and Family Support

A comprehensive range of services for vulnerable children (from pre-birth up to 17 years old) and their families to promote children's safety, stability and healthy development.

Family Relationship Counselling

A relationship counselling service for individuals, couples and families.

Keeping Families Together

A placement prevention or reunification intervention for families involved with Child Protection.

Parenting Assessment and Skill Development Service

An assessment and skill development service for families (with infants) involved with Child Protection.

Post-Separation Cooperative Parenting Program

An education program for parents who have separated.

Family Violence Interventions

Family Safety Contact

For families of men who are linked to one of the specialist family violence programs. We provide a risk assessment and safety planning for women, children and impacted family members.

Men's Behaviour Change

A program for men who use violence against their current and former partners and other family members, including children.

Men's Case Management

Individual support for men who are using violence and controlling behaviour against their current and former partners, children and other family members.

Strengthening Connections

Adolescent family violence service providing a therapeutic and case management model of support for young people within the context of their family.

Two referral options:

- Primary Connections – for young people 11 and under
- Strengthening Connections – for young people 12-17

Out of Home Care

Permanent Care and Adoption

A program that offers permanent family options for infants and children who are unable to live with their biological families.

Better Futures

Supporting young people who have experienced long-term out-of-home care to transition into independent living.

Foster Care

Foster Carers provide homes for children and young people from birth to 18 years, when the children's own parents are struggling to manage their care and wellbeing.

Kinship Care

Support and case management for Kinship Care families caring for extended family members or friends when children are not able to live with their biological parents.

Pregnancy Options Counselling

Unbiased information about your options and the services available without encouraging one option over another.

Youth Care

Local places of care for young people in a home-like setting with support.