



What happens at the family group meeting?

At the family group meeting, the convenor will introduce everyone and say why the meeting is being held and what will happen. If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person will assist the convenor to run the family group meeting.

The Child Safety Officer will talk about the reasons the department is involved and the assessment of your strengths and needs, and the strengths and needs of your family. The convenor or another officer will invite other people to give information and may give information from other people who are unable to attend.

Your family may be given the opportunity during the meeting to spend time alone to discuss the information that has been provided.

After you have had the opportunity to fully discuss the information, a case plan will be written about:

- your protection and care needs
- the needs of your family
- what will be done to help you
- what will be done to help your family
- who will be helping you
- when you and your family will receive this help.

Family group meetings are an opportunity for you and your family to meet and discuss the things that need to happen for you to be safe, and to make decisions about how this will happen.

What happens after the meeting?

Your Child Safety Officer will give you a written copy of the case plan and talk with you about it. Other people who came to the family group meeting or who are involved with the case plan will also receive a copy.

The case plan will guide the way your Child Safety Officer and other people involved work with you and your family.

The case plan will be reviewed within six months. Your Child Safety Officer will talk with you and other people involved about the review.

Family group meetings

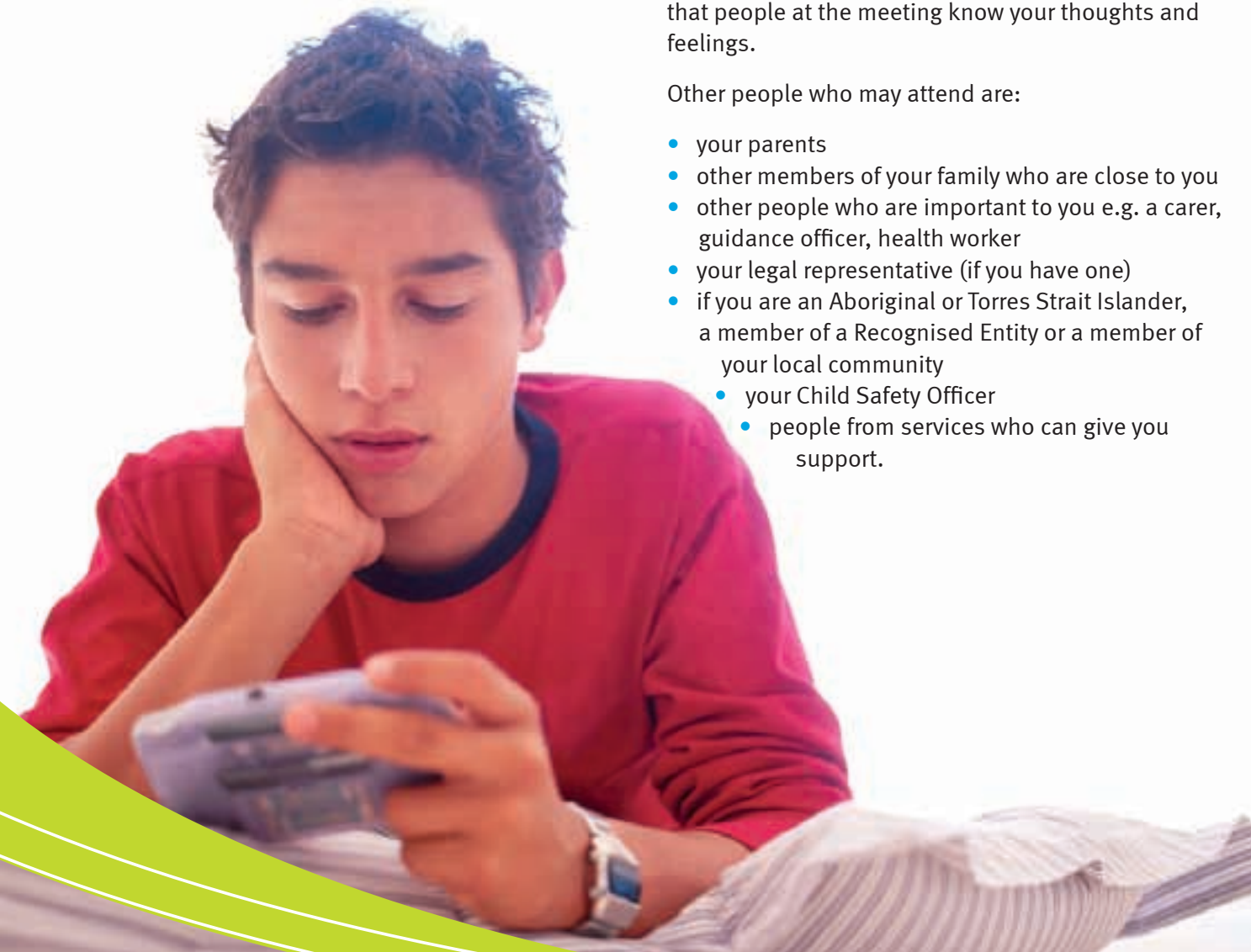
*Information for children
and young people*



What is a family group meeting?

A family group meeting is a gathering of people who are important in your life. These people are invited by the Department of Child Safety to meet and help you develop your case plan.

The family group meeting is run by a person from the Department of Child Safety called a convenor. The convenor of the family group meeting will not be your Child Safety Officer.



What is a case plan?

The case plan is an agreement between you, your family and the Department of Child Safety about the best way to help you stay safe and well.

Who will be at the family group meeting?

The convenor or another officer will talk to you about who will attend the family group meeting. It is important that you attend the family group meeting or that people at the meeting know your thoughts and feelings.

Other people who may attend are:

- your parents
- other members of your family who are close to you
- other people who are important to you e.g. a carer, guidance officer, health worker
- your legal representative (if you have one)
- if you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, a member of a Recognised Entity or a member of your local community
 - your Child Safety Officer
 - people from services who can give you support.



How will you find out about the meeting?

The convenor or another officer will talk to you about:

- why the meeting is being held
- what will be discussed
- where and when the meeting will be held.

The convenor or another officer will also talk to you about what you might want to say at the meeting and what other people attending might talk about. You might want to make some notes to take to the meeting.

The convenor or your Child Safety Officer will ask you whether you want a support person at the meeting.

The support person may be your parents, a family friend or a carer.

You may want to attend all of the family group meeting or only part of it. Talk to the convenor or another officer about this decision. If you decide not to attend the meeting, the convenor or another officer can talk for you at the family group meeting. You can write down what you want to say at the family group meeting and the convenor or your Child Safety Officer can read it for you.