



Fathering together for a stronger school community

See the difference a
Dads Group can make
at your school



engaging dads and kids to build your school community



By endorsing a Dads Group at your school you can help build a more connected school community and create a more positive environment for both kids, parents and staff.

But first, a little bit about us.

We're a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving children's lives and futures by inspiring and equipping men to be more engaged and effective fathers and father-figures.

We know that if we can help dads become more aware, more effective and more focussed fathers, it's not just their lives that will improve, but also their families, schools and communities benefit too.

So how do we do this?

- **Research, evaluation and sharing the most effective fathering practices.**
- **Preventing negative outcomes for kids through early intervention.**
- **Inspiring effective fathering with the facilitation of Dads Groups and the provision of resources, practical tips, online support and events. Dads Groups are run by dads, for dads, in collaboration with schools.**

The importance of Dads Groups

A key focus of The Fathering project is building communities of dads within school environments. The Groups provide a space fathers and father-figures can gather, share their experiences and learn how to be the best they can be.

The Dads Groups provide dads with a valuable support network and will help them up-skill. After all, even the best dads don't stop learning.

Endorsing a Dads Group supports the five key elements as detailed in The Australian Student Wellbeing Framework:*

- **Leadership** – Actively building a positive environment where the whole school community feels included connected, safe and respected.
- **Inclusion** – Encouraging active participation in building a culture that values, diversity, and fosters positive, respectful relationships.
- **Student Voice** – Encouraging students to be active participants in their own learning and wellbeing.
- **Partnerships** – Collaborating with families and communities to support student learning, safety and wellbeing.
- **Support** – Cultivating an understanding of wellbeing and support for positive behaviour between school staff, students and families.

You'll also be helping to promote:

- **Improved wellbeing amongst children.**
- **Increased engagement from fathers in the school community.**
- **Building a community of engaged men in the school.**
- **Improved attitudes towards education.**

* Department of Education Australian Student Wellbeing Framework: education.gov.au/national-safe-schools-framework-0



how can
a dads
group
help your
school?

The results speak for themselves

We've heard from dads in Dads Groups across Australia, as well as the principals of schools who've implemented them, and the results are clearcut.

Not only are the kids more likely to open up and come to their dads for support and play, but there is a clear correlation between Dads Groups and dads' involvement with education and the wider school community.

98%

of dads reported feeling more connected to other dads[#]

75%

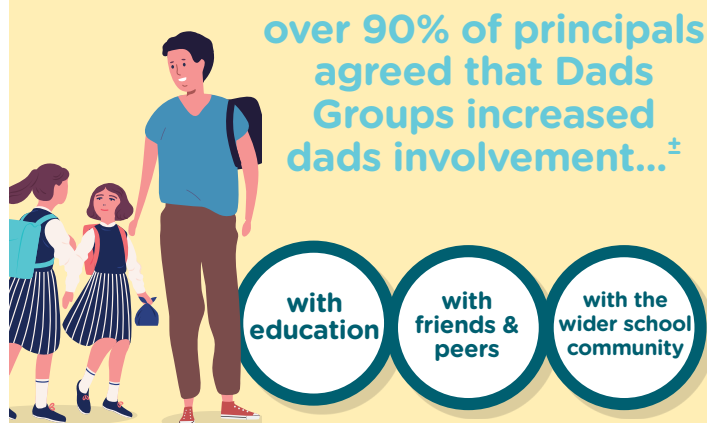
of dads became more engaged in conversation with their children[#]

82%

of dads had more awareness of their impact on their child[#]

68%

of dads reported spending more time with their child as a result[#]



[±] The Fathering Project: Principals Survey, October 2018

[#] The Fathering Project: Research Evaluation Outcomes, 2017

how to get your school involved



Starting a Dads Group is simple.

Our team can support you through this process, any step of the way. [Contact Us.](#)

FIRST. Visit thefatheringproject.org/find-a-group
Confirm your school doesn't already have a group.

STEP 1. Seek endorsement

New groups need to be formally endorsed by the associated school. Meet with an authorised representative (typically the school principal), explain the program and complete the [Letter of Endorsement](#).

STEP 2. Submit registration

Fill out the [group registration form](#). Our team will process your registration, invoicing your school.

STEP 3. Recruit dads and leaders

Once registration is processed, dads can begin [joining the group online](#). Group leaders identified at this stage, or later on, gain access to our group coordination tools online.

STEP 4. Hold your launch event

Our team will organise the group launch event where dads are welcomed to a Fathering Project facilitated session to learn more and get involved.

Ongoing support

Dads Groups are run by dads, for dads - in partnership with schools.

We provide ongoing support, helping to build value for your unique community. Dads Groups host two "Dads and Kids" and two "Dads Only" events each year. To help Dads Groups achieve positive outcomes for schools, leaders, and members we provide a range of services delivered both in person and through our online group management portal.

Annual fee contribution

To cover the cost of our services, schools are asked to contribute \$1,100 annually.*

Read more: www.fathering.org/fees-and-services

*For schools starting the program in second semester, this fee is reduced to \$750 for the first year.



we're
fathers
first

As fathers and father-figures, it's so easy to get lost in our other roles and forget what our first job is. Yet it's the most important job we'll ever do.

Because what we do, or don't do as dads, has an enormous impact on the happiness and health of the kids we love.

We can help build resilience, self-respect and emotional intelligence.

And we can give our kids a sense of self-worth, just by showing up and being there.

Yes, it's a big job. But you don't have to go it alone.

The Fathering Project is here to help you put your fathering first.

We're here for you so you can be there for them.

Because **we're fathers first** too.

Register your school's interest

For more information visit
thefatheringproject.org and
find out how we can make a
difference for your dads, kids,
families and community.

