

From the beginning, the Men and Family Relationships Initiative supported the development of a diverse range of local initiatives that responded to men's needs (O'Brien & Rich, 2002).

Avoiding the 'one-size fits all' approach to service delivery, a wide range of programs for men emerged throughout 1998 to 2004:

- afternoon/evening programs for fathers and their children held in primary schools that involve activities and a shared meal
- support groups for separated fathers on Sunday evenings after contact with their children finishes, such as those offered by Dads in Distress in various locations across New South Wales
- psychoeducational groups such as the Hey, Dad! series of programs, Fathering after Separation, and domestic violence programs
- specialised programs for Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse men
- the range of programs (one-off workshops or psychoeducational groups) and information booklets that have been developed by the Australian Commonwealth Government's Child Support Agency
- counselling and emotional support groups – where men explore a range of experiences
- individual counselling services provided out of normal working hours
- programs accessed through the workplace
- programs accessed by new fathers before they leave the hospital with their first baby
- task groups and the development of Men's Sheds where a range of activities are provided
- camp/adventure programs for fathers or for men and their children
- music festivals that promote messages of fathering and masculinity
- 'Pitstop' men's health checkup evenings provided in regional Club facilities throughout regional areas of Australia
- family farm gatherings in rural communities where 6-7 families meet to discuss issues affecting drought affected communities
- telephone group counselling sessions
- telephone counselling and support programs for individuals