

Stride

Strategic Innovation Design and Evaluation



Stride is the strategic, innovation, design and evaluation team within Life Without Barriers. The goal of Stride is to improve the experiences and outcomes for children, young people and families.

Stride supports practitioners to apply evidence to their practice every day.

Stride team members are experienced in practice, strategy, research, evaluation, policy, service design and the implementation and ongoing support of evidence-based programs.



Acknowledgement

In the spirit of Reconciliation, Life Without Barriers acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country, and their connection to land, water and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures and customs, and to Elders past, present and emerging.



What we bring

- Collaboration and curiosity
- A willingness to innovate and create
- Expertise from practice and research
- National and International networks and partnerships
- Market intelligence and commercial knowledge.
- Contemporary information and data to inform decision making and planning
- Expertise in designing, establishing and growing new and existing services
- Winning strategies and proposals that retain and expand key services, and secure new opportunities
- Skills to facilitate innovative thinking and strategic decision making.

What we do

- Scan and review emerging best practice, new thinking and evidence based programs.
- Co-design new services and enable innovation
- Support implementation and evaluation of new service designs and evidence based programs
- Collaborate with external agencies to implement evidence-informed models, providing ongoing fidelity and program support
- Design and conduct research to build the evidence base in child, youth and family practice
- Provide tools and advice that enable ideation, strategic planning, and program expansion
- Stakeholder engagement planning, strategy and support
- End-to-end tender and bid management

Who we reach

- Children, young people and families
- Child youth and family practitioners and leaders.
- Foster and kinship carers
- Other agencies seeking support to implement evidence-informed programs and practices
- National and international peak bodies and advocacy groups
- Government and policy makers
- Researchers, evaluators and program designers





Evidence-informed Models & Programs

Stride is committed to bringing the best available evidence to support work with children and families.

Life Without Barriers implements the following models internally, and holds the licences to replicate these models with other agencies.



CARE

CARE is a trauma-informed, principle-based model designed to create the conditions for change in organisations providing services to children and families.

Backed by extensive research, there are six evidence informed principles that form the foundation of CARE. Implementing CARE enables an organisation to organise and deliver quality services according to these principles.



MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™

MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ is an innovative way to structure the support and supervision provided to Foster and Kinship Carers to create caring homes, inclusive of family, culture and community.

The approach has been designed to improve connections and social and emotional well-being of children and their Carers. The community network created by MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™, focuses on the individual needs of its children and ensures Carers are skilled, supported and confident in providing the best care for children.





Multisystemic Therapy (MST)

Multisystemic Therapy is a community-based, family driven treatment for young people exhibiting challenging antisocial behaviour that addresses the core causes of such conduct. The MST “client” is the entire ecology of the young person - family, peers, school and community.

MST strengthens natural systems, and works through and empowers caregivers to be long-term change agents, creating more sustainable effects than treatment methods focused solely on the individual.

It is a service that involves a highly structured clinical supervision process and a comprehensive quality assurance process, to ensure that adherence to the MST model is maximised to deliver consistent, highest quality results.



Youth Advocate Program (YAP)

The Youth Advocate Program (YAP) is a relationship focused transitional program, delivered through Advocates (mentors) who provide intensive support to young people with complex needs, and their families.

The program incorporates practice principles, strategies and interventions from the fields of wraparound, mentoring and positive youth development. This has evolved into YAPWrap, a unique and multi-faceted holistic services model, grounded in evidence and designed to achieve positive outcomes for young people with the highest needs.

YAPWrap provides young people and families with a voice and access to, and ownership of, their own highly individualised service plans. Each plan engages a team of formal stakeholders and informal community supports to help the young person meet their needs and build on their assets and interests in a post-care environment.



Child safe organisation

All children, regardless of their age, gender, ability, race or sexual orientation, have the right to be safe and feel safe. Stride works to design, promote and implement child safeguarding activities in Life Without Barriers and across the broader child, youth and family sector.

Design and innovation

Stride works with Life Without Barriers teams, research partners, carers, children, young people and families to design, implement and evaluate services to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

Business development team

The child, youth and family (CYF) business development team sits within the overarching Stride team. Business development supports Life Without Barriers to create, identify, pursue and retain strategic funding opportunities (\$160k+) in the child, youth & family sectors.

Working with all aspects of the business, the team brings together theory, practice, innovation, and commercial considerations to craft competitive tenders, bids, and submissions for existing and new service opportunities.





We Put Children First

Every day, Life Without Barriers offers support and care to children. We want each and every one of those children to feel as safe and respected as they should.

We all have a responsibility to make sure their safety comes first – and that they're well cared for and protected from abuse and given the respect they deserve.

Life Without Barriers Strategy 2025

The Stride team, as part of Life Without Barriers, shares an ongoing commitment to partnering with people to change lives for the better. Everything we do is about making an impact for some of the most vulnerable children, young people and families in Australia and New Zealand.

By bringing together the best research, best practice and lived experience expertise, Stride builds better practice and solutions to real life problems and supports Life Without Barriers teams to make the biggest impact across society.

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) - Our commitment

There can be no more significant a project nationally than the need to address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the out-of-home care system and investing in a range of participation mechanisms that support effective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak body, service, family and child participation.

Life Without Barriers will partner with SNAICC, the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children – the primary agreement maker with the Commonwealth government, and the lead of Family Matters – to achieve our commitment to broad and sustainable changes. We will work with SNAICC to develop the first National Partnership Agreement between SNAICC and a non-government organisation that outlines the roadmap for reform with the Coalition of Peaks, non-government agencies and government departments across states and territories.

For further information

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