



Why fathering matters?

Presented by Steven Rushforth - WA State Manager

Let me introduce myself



Steven Rushforth

Not a fathering expert...

Just a 'goodish' dad...



A little bit more about
**The Fathering
Project**



How we started



Professor

Bruce Robinson:

Leading Lung Specialist

2013 West Australian of the Year



The Fathering Project



Why fathering matters...



decreased risk of:

- suicide
- substance abuse
- self-harm
- crime
- domestic violence



greater:

- child development outcomes
- school results
- health outcomes
- school culture of father involvement
- functionality of at-risk families



Our vision



To ensure every child has an involved and effective father or father-figure.

What kids need from their Dads? Discussion



What kids need from their Dads?



- **Focuses on me, shows real interest, communicates and listens.**
- **Takes me to sport and on trips – creates special times, makes memories.**
- **Plays with me, 'rough and tumble'.**
- **Guides, sets boundaries, shows values, and role models.**
- **Reads to me, shows affection and hugs me.**
- **Makes me feel safe!**



What are the challenges? Discussion



Father-figures matter



- **Uncles**
- **Brothers**
- **Grandfathers**
- **Teachers**
- **Coaches**
- **Mentors**
- **Teammates**
- **Family friends**
- **Fathers of other children**



A little bit more about
**Why fathering
matters...**



The thin red line



FUN



CATASTROPHE



The thin red line



FUN

Fathers and father-figures can be that 'voice' in their heads.

'You are capable and special...so make your own mind up'

'You are WORTHWHILE'

CATASTROPHE



The thin red line



How fathers can help stop their kids crossing that 'thin red line' between fun and catastrophe...



K2 Effect



BUS

The K2 effect



The K2 effect



The K2 effect



B.U.S. Practical Tip



B.U.S



Being there

Make sure they know you'll always be there for them and if even they say they don't want it or need it, that you're still offering to be there.

B.U.S



Unconditional love

No matter what they achieve, what happens or how they behave, show them that you will be there for them and your love is unconditional.



B.U.S



Special

Every child is special and unique. Find out and acknowledge positively their individual special qualities; celebrate and enjoy them.

Teamwork

Fathering for the family



Dads Groups



Dads Groups

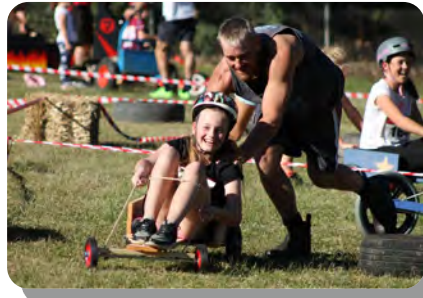


A relaxed environment where dads can gather, share, learn and laugh with each other and their kids.

- **A community**
- **A support network**
- **Happier and healthier kids and dads.**



Dads Groups Activities



Enjoy both dads and kids AND dads only activities

Dads Groups Activities



K
I
S
S

Keep

It

Simple

Stupid

T1



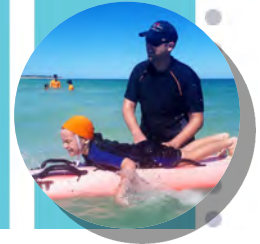
T2



T3



T4



National expansion

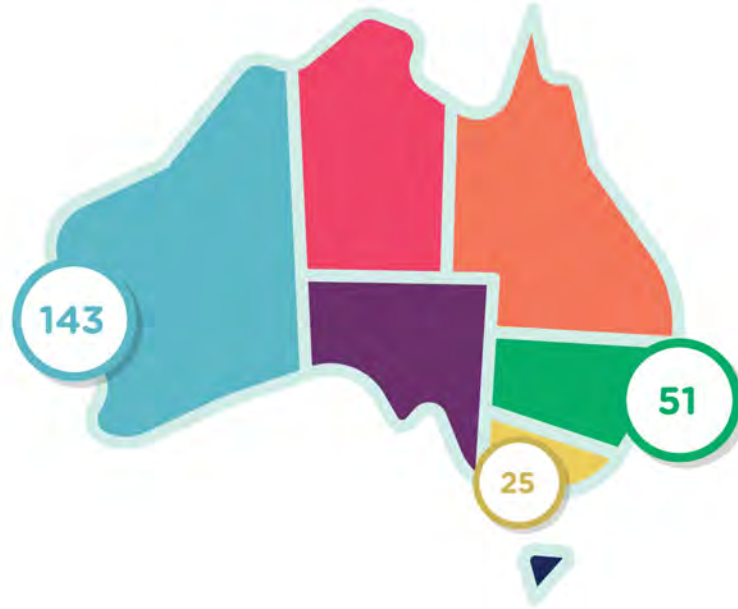


National Expansion



**Nationally:
219**

**Subscribers:
8,459**

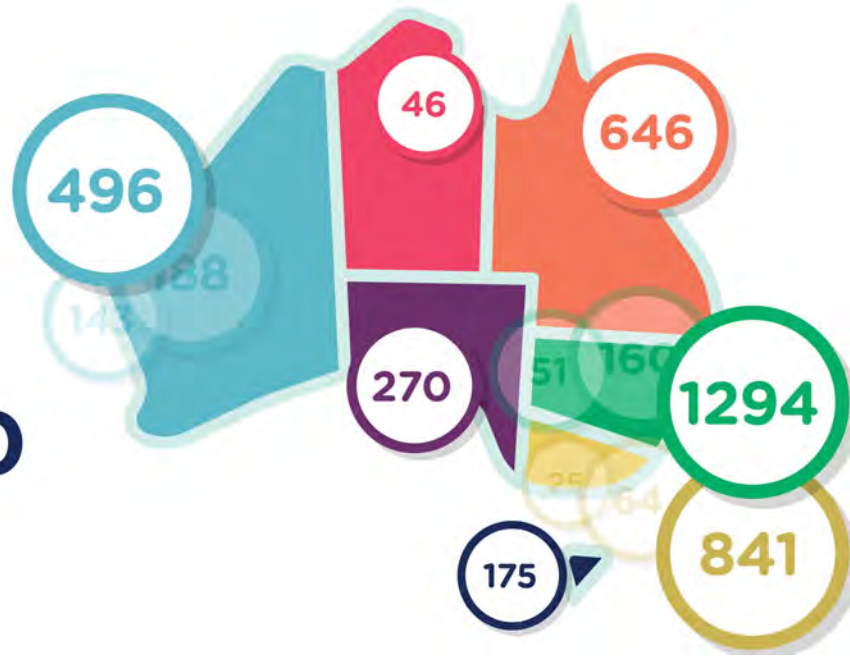


National Expansion



Nationally:
219 → 412 →
3,700

Subscribers:
8,459 →
500,000



Why we do what we do



**We know our Dads Groups can
have a huge impact on kids,
dads and the wider community!!**



Thank you.

Connect with us
on Facebook and Instagram
@thefatheringproject

www.thefatheringproject.org

