Are you a KidsMatter school or early childhood education and care (ECEC) service wanting to know how to engage with your local health and community services?

It all starts with a conversation

- There is a lot more support in the community than you might think. You can make the effort to build relationships with service providers outside of crisis situations.
- It’s important to put effort into welcoming people if you want them to stay for now and come back later.
- Agencies and allied health professionals find it easier to work with educators that have a clear process to which they can contribute.

How to engage with a health and community service

- Invite agencies and services to your school or ECEC service to share information about their roles and explain your implementation of KidsMatter.
- Ask agencies and services to attend common events (eg sports carnivals, open nights) to provide information and resources to your communities.
- House information and resources in the school or ECEC service for the community to access.
- Ensure your school and agencies maintain the relationship through contact around the time of these events.

What will this achieve for our school or ECEC service?

- Teachers and staff will make earlier and more targeted referrals.
- Teachers and staff will become more aware of services available in the community and feel better supported and more confident that their referrals will lead to better outcomes for children and families.
- Teachers and staff will become more confident in teaching social and emotional learning to students knowing that services are better linked with their school.
- Agencies will benefit from an increase in less intrusive proactive work in a child’s usual setting.

Get in touch with local health and community organisations to learn more about how working in partnership might help promote wellbeing in your school community.