Leading and driving KidsMatter

The role of leadership

As with any major school initiative, KidsMatter needs to be driven by people from within the school who are determined to see it work. This group of people needs the active support of the principal. KidsMatter refers to this group as the Action Team.

The role of school leadership is to advocate for KidsMatter and enable the establishment and ongoing functioning of the Action Team. This will include:
• Provision of the equivalent total of 12 hours of professional learning over a 2-3 year period – three hours for each of the four framework component areas.
• Integration of KidsMatter into the school’s strategic plan.

The role of the Action Team

The role of the Action Team is to drive and manage KidsMatter. The Team works within the KidsMatter framework to implement a coherent and whole school approach that is tailored to the individual needs of the school. To be most influential, the membership needs to be representative of the school community, and include the principal or their representative, teachers, and parents. The school may also wish to include the student voice.

The Action Team will need resources. It will need time to meet at least twice a term to do its work. It will also need to have credibility within the school. The group will need to develop Terms of Reference, and have opportunities to communicate with the staff and the school community both formally and informally.

It is highly recommended that the Action Team:
• Is supported by a ‘critical friend’ who can bring an external perspective. External friends often include regional education sector staff or community agency staff.
• Works in partnership with people experienced in parenting support and mental health through the implementation process.

What KidsMatter provides

KidsMatter provides Action Teams with the information, resources and support they need to have the best chance of being effective. These resources are free to schools implementing KidsMatter.

It is highly recommended that schools begin by sending Action Team members to the half day KidsMatter Overview. Once the team is established they will need to participate, as a team, in the one-day Getting Started: Professional Learning for Action Teams workshop.

Once a school is underway KidsMatter provides an ongoing series of implementation support and network meetings where they can share and learn with other Action Teams, and build their capacity to lead KidsMatter.