# Family and Child Connect

Jodie, Mum and Family and Child Connect client:

I did a self-referral to Family and Child Connect. My reasons for that was I was really struggling with my son, with his behaviour. Our relationship with each other was really starting to suffer and I didn't know where to turn. So I did a self-referral and yeah, came in and met Kim.

Kim, Family Response Facilitator, Family and Child Connect:

Jodie and I met and we chatted about options that were going to support herand her family's needs long term.

Jodie: I’d used the services before, and found them extremely supportive. And the other services that they had connected me with were really, really helpful back then, so I thought that was the best place to go.

Through my first experience, I found they were there to help, just purely there to help.

Visual: Jodie and Kim walking through a park.

Kim: So we looked at linking Jodie in with a paediatrician, and then we linked Jodie in with a service to meet her little man's needs. And I actually knew the perfect service for them, but they were just out of catchment for that service. But I applied and sent the referral through.

It got knocked back because they weren’t in catchment and then I appealed to them and said “You are the right service for this family. Please consider taking them.” and then we got an email a week later saying “we're going to accept this family out of catchment.”

Jodie: My son has now been diagnosed with ADHD and autism. He’s also attending counselling and he's been through sessions with Dave out at YFS, the SHINE Program, which was incredibly relevant and helpful to my son. The services definitely gave me a better understanding of what to look for and how to help, and that's continued.

Visual: Jodie and Kim walking through a park.

Jodie: So now that we have our diagnosis as well and we've got a little bit more direction on what kind of help he needs. She's been amazing with pointing me in to different places to research and different ideas and strategies to try with him as well.

Kim: The Jodie I saw who walked into my office and the Jodie I see now has a spark again. She has, you can tell that the love that they have has grown and they have healed together.

And so now when I hear about the way she speaks about her child, and the way she speaks about herself, I can see that they are whole again.

Visual: Jodie and Kim walking over a bridge in a park.

Jodie: So I feel like I have a life back again. We’re both functioning again, because we really weren't for some time there. Our relationship has strengthened again. I feel like I have my little boy back, my loving little boy that yeah, the little kid that I remember growing up.

Text screen: If your family is going through tough times, contact Family and Child Connect for free, unlimited and confidential support.

Final screen on a teal background reads:

Free. Unlimited. Confidential.

Family and Child Connect

13-FAMILY 13-32-64

[www.familychildconnect.org.au](http://www.familychildconnect.org.au)

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