**School refusal**

Opening screen: A split screen with Family and Child Connect – School refusal displayed in white letters on a teal background on the left and a Family and Child Connect staff member with long dark hair and a short-sleeved black top is speaking on the right.

The video features interviews with Family and Child Connect staff in different locations.

Tayla, Family and Child Connect:

Family and Child Connect can support parents who are struggling with children, who are refusing to go to school by supporting them to link in with the guidance officers or principals at the school to look at possible alternatives and strategies to encourage the child to return. Sometimes that can include adjusted timetables to make it, I guess, a little bit easier to get the child there in the first instance. And then also look at things like youth workers and those sort of supports that might help encourage young people to attend and re-engage with school.

Kim, Family and Child Connect:

We’re getting quite a few referrals in for disengagement from school. Families are struggling to get their teens to school. A large population of kids don’t fit into mainstream school and a very small variety do fit, but the rest of the kids just have to make do and try and fit in. There’s so many different alternatives now to learning, alternate schooling. And the most important thing I think, about school disengagement is mental health and emotional wellbeing. If a child’s emotional and mental health is not well, how are they supposed to sit in a classroom and engage in learning? So it’s more about finding the root cause of why that child isn’t attending school and trying to address those underlying issues.

Brynne, Family and Child Connect:

The Department of Education has a lot of great programs and teams that we’re able to link families in with for support. Alternatively, we try and have direct conversations with children about the reasons behind school refusal or school challenges. If there might be an emotional or mental health issue that’s causing that refusal, we can always link children in with a mental health support, play therapy, things like that, to try and address the underlying need. But we will always try and collaborate with schools and come up with an approach that suits the family and the school.

Final screen on a teal background reads:

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

Free. Unlimited. Confidential.

Family and Child Connect

13-FAMILY 13-32-64

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

Funded by Queensland Government