

2/11/2022

To the Committee,

As a participant of ParentsNext, I would love the chance to share with you my personal experience with ParentsNext.

I am a mother of two and when I was first contacted by ParentsNext I was suffering from postpartum depression and anxiety, I was anxious as I didn't know what it was and what to expect. My first meeting however left me excited and encouraged, here was someone who was willing to help me achieve the things I wanted to achieve, not just another judgmental job provider who wanted to place me into the first job would take me, despite what I want for the future of my career, such as I've experienced through other job provider companies.

With the help and encouragement of the two ParentsNext workers , I enrolled in the SMYL New Opportunities for Woman course, which I could only afford to go to thanks to ParentsNext funding it. This course helped me gain my confidence back as a person and gave me something in my life to look forward to attending, as well as teaching me valuable skills I can use in the future to find and maintain employment. Because of this course run through ParentsNext I am no longer anxious to leave my house every day, I have a plan for my future job path, knowledge of workplace health and safety, updated computer skills, a personal crisis plan, skills to maintain my mental and physical wellbeing and new friends as well.

This way ParentsNext has not only benefitted me but the other students in my class, for some of us it has encouraged us to enroll for further study, for others it has given us the skills and confidence to get a job after being out of the workplace due to having kids. I myself am excited about attending the next course run through ParentsNext & SMYL , Certificate II in Community Services, as it is the next step along the career path I wish to take. It is something I would not be capable of studying without the support of ParentsNext due to lack of childcare. Furthermore, it is a course that will benefit my local community as the community services jobs sector is large so it will lead to more parents being gainfully and skillfully employed.

All of this is to say, from my personal experience with ParentsNext, it is more than a simple job provider, it is a helping hand and a supportive voice, it is the encouragement to further a career, a chance to learn, and it was a literal life saver for me. I hope you consider my perspective,

Regards, An Australian Citizen.