What schools are doing

Each school’s KidsMatter Action Team has the job of coordinating all the steps that need to be taken to get KidsMatter going. These include:

• providing information about the KidsMatter trial to school staff, students and families
• checking what the school already does to support children’s mental health
• working out where the gaps are and what can be done
• planning what to do to provide each KidsMatter component at the school
• working out how to do it and getting it going
• seeing how it works and deciding whether anything further is needed.

Each KidsMatter school will be supported by a person trained in the KidsMatter implementation process who will work with the Action Team to plan and implement the four components of KidsMatter Primary. The KidsMatter Implementation Support Person will also provide KidsMatter education to all school staff so they understand what KidsMatter is about and what they can do to support children’s mental health.

Together they will be working on ways to make the school a more inviting place for children and families as part of the positive schools community component.

The Action Team and school staff will be choosing school programs for teaching social and emotional skills as part of the curriculum.

They will be looking into how the school can support parents and carers by providing them with information and resources about children’s development, children’s mental health and parenting.

They will also be finding out more about children’s mental health and working out how the school can assist children and families to find help when they have concerns about the mental health of students.

Implementation in each State and Territory will be supported by a KidsMatter Primary Project Officer.
What parents and carers can do

Keep informed

- Look for information about the activities your school will be planning for KidsMatter
- Look for regular KidsMatter information sheets like this one with your newsletter, or at school
- Attend information evenings and social activities at the school whenever you can
- Check out the parenting resources available at your school.

Contribute

- Respond to any school requests for ideas or information
- Let the school know what your needs and wants are by talking to your child’s teacher or to members of your school’s KidsMatter Action Team
- Talk to other parents/carers about ways the school could support your needs
- Let the school know what skills or talents you would be happy to share.

Further information on the national KidsMatter initiative is available at [www.kidsmatter.edu.au](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au)