

## Virtual Groups

This resource is a summary of the video titled "Virtual Groups" in this series.

**Providing an opportunity for families and individuals to join a virtual group can have many benefits. Families experiencing difficulties in accessing transport, feeling isolated or with restricted access due to public health orders have the opportunity to learn, connect with your service and connect with their community. With some careful planning and considerations, virtual groups can be very successful - good preparation is key!**

### Virtual group principles

- Consider the applicability of the content - is it safe to share over the virtual platform or is there practical content that cannot be adapted
- Decide on a time when most participants can join and keep time of groups shorter - it can be harder to concentrate for longer periods of time over a virtual platform
- Engage with group members individually to discuss what they can expect, how to deal with technical difficulties and how the facilitator can be contacted

### Deciding the focus and purpose of the group will help you choose the platform:

- Education focus - information sharing
- Social and connection
- A group that involves children
- Therapeutic groups will need a more secure platform

### Use your Group Facilitation skills :

- Setting up well - be clear and explicit
- Cameras on or off
- Gently invite contribution
- Manage the group dynamics
- Address safety concerns
- Consider if your group requires a co-facilitator

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#### PROJECT TEAM



#### INVESTOR GROUP

Association of Children's Welfare Agencies  
Key Assets Australia  
Life Without Barriers  
NSW Department of Communities and Justice  
Social Futures  
The Smith Family  
Uniting

#### SUPPORTER

My Forever Family NSW

#### COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Association of Children's Welfare Agencies  
Barnardos  
Catholic Care Sydney  
Catholic Care Wilcannia Forbes  
FAMS  
KARI  
Key Assets Australia  
Life Without Barriers  
My Forever Family NSW  
NSW Department of Communities and Justice  
Settlement Services International  
Social Futures  
The Benevolent Society  
The Smith Family  
Uniting