



Roadmap for reforming the Child and Family Support System

2021-2023





"The Aboriginal Cultural Lenses of Practice" Artist Sasha Houthuysen

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal people as the state's first people and recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of lands and waters in South Australia. We acknowledge that the spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices of Aboriginal people come from their traditional lands and waters, and that the cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws are still of importance today. We are committed to ensuring that the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people are incorporated in the design, development, monitoring and evaluation of deliverable actions.

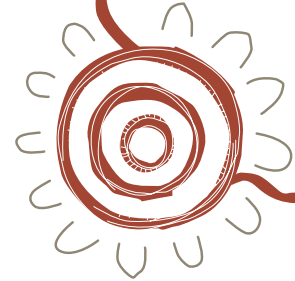
The artwork

The artwork was created as a visual statement piece by Sasha Houthuysen, a Yamatji/Noongar woman. This piece is the representation of Aboriginal voice from a workshop co-facilitated by Dana Shen, a Ngarrindjeri/Chinese woman, DS Consultancy.

The workshop was commissioned by the Department of Human Services to create 'the Aboriginal Cultural Lenses of Practice' for Safer Family Services. The workshop was attended by Safer Family Services Aboriginal staff and allies to give a voice to Aboriginal ways of knowing, being, doing and guidance in supporting a culturally safe workforce.

The artwork is used throughout the department's Child and Family Support System policy and practice resources. It incorporates the symbols representing the cultural lenses journey: allies walking alongside Aboriginal staff, families and communities, and meeting and learning places supporting Aboriginal best practice.

DHS commissioned Pat Caruso, an Eastern Arrernte man and the Founder/Director of We Create Print Deliver to digitise and use these elements of the artwork to depict our healing approach. This ensures that we are always keeping children front and centre and working from a culturally safe lens.



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The whole of government reform

The reform of the child and family support system is an important part of the whole of government reform of South Australia's child protection system – *Safe and well: Supporting families protecting children*.

The strategy recognises that child protection is a whole of government system, requiring collective responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. It outlines extensive efforts across government to implement system level reform, with a focus on the three areas of focus. All of these areas are to be supported by a strong system where all agencies working with vulnerable families are trauma-informed.

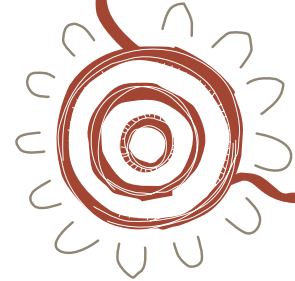
Supporting families with multiple, complex needs by providing earlier, intensive, targeted support for families to reduce the incidents of child abuse and neglect and prevent children entering the child protection system in the first place.

Protecting children from harm, including when they come into care, and delivering trauma-responsive, development-focused services for children and young people in care that are designed to meet their individual needs, with an emphasis on family based care, reunification and permanency.

Investing in children and young people in care, and their transition from care to help break intergenerational contact with the child protection system.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for leading reforms and earlier intervention services within the **Supporting** focus area.





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Refer to *Safe and well: Supporting families protecting children* for the full diagram.

The case for change

Currently, one in three children born in South Australia are reported to the Department for Child Protection (DCP) by age 10. We know these relate to matters of genuine concern.

Many of these families have multiple and complex needs that can impact on parenting, including: domestic and family violence, parental alcohol and other drug abuse, unaddressed or poorly managed mental health needs, homelessness, as well as financial stress and long-term unemployment.

When children are removed from their families and placed in care, this is a traumatic experience that can continue to impact health and wellbeing throughout their lives and across generations. For Aboriginal families, this is made worse by the intergenerational trauma from children being forcefully taken from their communities and culture.

The continuing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care demands major changes to the governance, design, practice, and workforce of early intervention services. We need to work together to address the impacts of intergenerational trauma from experiences of colonisation, the Stolen Generations, and other past discriminatory government policies.

Our reform provides an opportunity to create a better alignment between the needs of children and families and the services that aim to support them. We will do this by developing a more sophisticated understanding of what these children and families need through epidemiology and better measurement of outcomes.

What is an epidemiological approach?

- 1.** Monitoring patterns in the population to understand the size and type of service demand, and emerging trends in relation to child abuse and neglect.
- 2.** Capturing a broad range of social ecological risk and protective factors for high risk populations.
- 3.** Ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies.

Adopting this approach will improve our visibility of cumulative harm, an important recommendation made by the Nyland Royal Commission, and support our capacity to monitor equity in access to services.

By building new data systems and implementing new tools to measure family complexity and service impact, we will be able to reach new levels of understanding to inform system-wide planning.

Through our contribution to the implementation of the Safe and well strategy, child and family support services will be strengthened to work with higher levels of complexity and risk, providing the right service intensity over the right duration, according to the level of complexity faced by families.

We know that positive outcomes for families will be assisted by delivering an interconnected system dedicated to child and family support, working alongside families, DCP and other key agencies including health and education.



The new Child and Family Support System

Many services and programs are playing a role in supporting families to keep children safe and well at home and reduce the need for children to be removed from their families to ensure their safety.

The CFSS is made up of a spectrum of services that are able to respond to different degrees of complexity and safety concerns of children and families. These services span from community capacity building through to intensive case management.

We know that in 2019-20 there were approximately 8,600 families at high risk of continued and escalating contact with the tertiary child protection system. At this stage of the reform, the service system must be strongly focused on these families and be flexible, to enable them to shift between services of varying levels of intensity as their needs change over time.

To support higher levels of complexity and need, we have commissioned new non-government Intensive Family Services and repositioned our government Safer Family Services. Our new approach will ensure our efforts are focused on intervening earlier, and more intensively, to keep children safe in their families and prevent them needing to enter out-of-home care.

Our research has identified four population groups who are likely to experience the most challenges and develop the most complex needs, and therefore require assistance from multiple service systems. As a result, we are focusing our early intervention efforts on these groups and designing services that specifically meet their needs. Prioritising these population groups, particularly at the early stages of parenthood and family formation, is likely to maximise the service impact and disrupt intergenerational vulnerability.

When working effectively with families with multiple and complex needs we must develop and maintain strong connections between the CFSS, DCP, and other key partners in domestic violence, health, education, early childhood and community services. By working together to strengthen families, and by sharing responsibility for vulnerable children and families, we can ensure the best possible outcomes.

The shared vision for the CFSS is that all children are safe and well at home in family, community and culture.





Our priority populations

Infants at risk

Every year, over 1000 families are reported for concerns about unborn children. Of these families, about one third are likely to have one or more children enter care within four years.

Young parents

A large proportion of children in care have a mother who had their firstborn before they were 20 years of age. Often these mothers are at increased risk because of their own child protection history, with about seven in 10 having a subsequent engagement with the system.

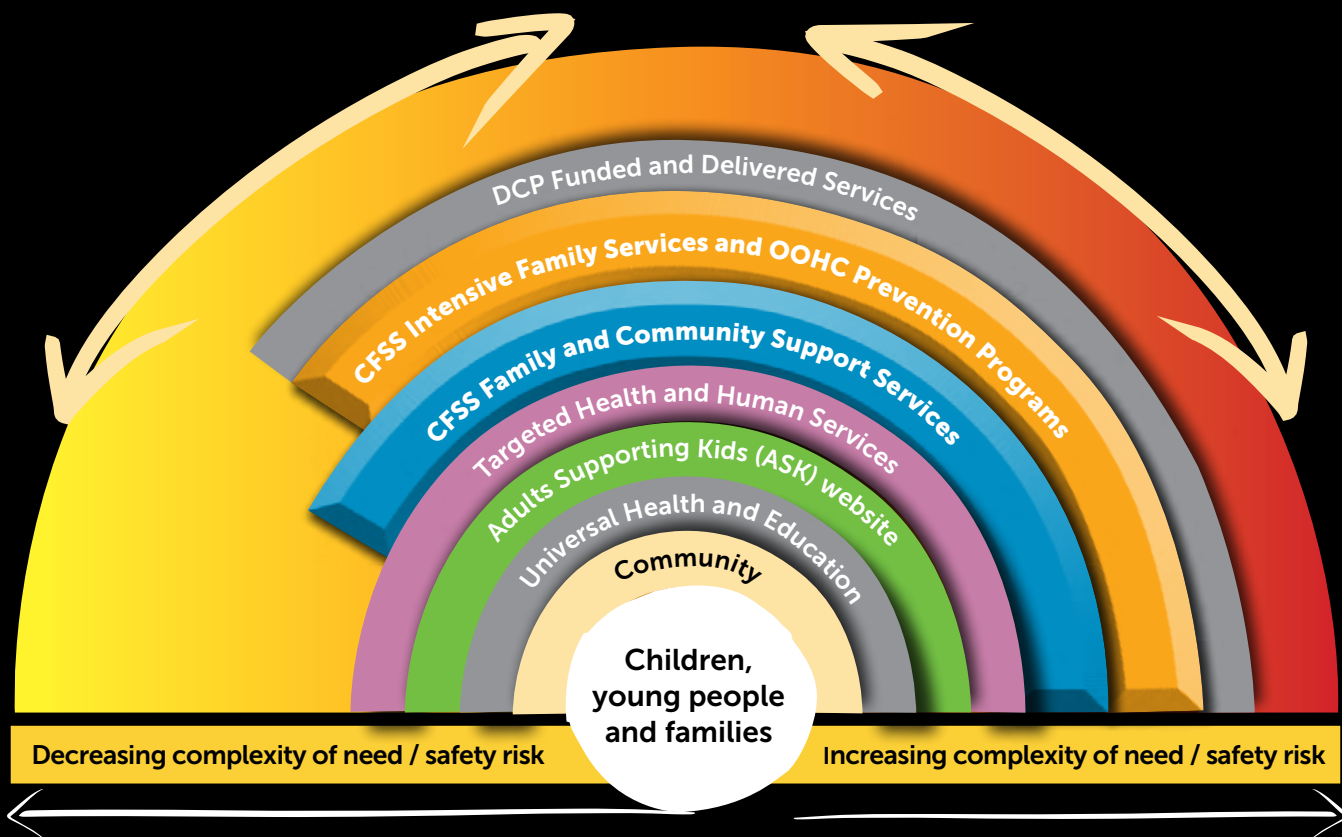
Adolescents with complex trauma

More than half of all child protection reports are about children and young people aged between 8 and 18 years of age.

Aboriginal families with multiple and complex needs

Aboriginal children are significantly overrepresented in the child protection system and represent approximately one-third of all children in out-of-home care.

Understanding the system



This diagram depicts where different services sit across a spectrum of complex needs and safety risks experienced by children, young people and families. Some services may provide support to a child in their first five years of life, while others may provide support at many different stages throughout the life course of a child, young person or family. Importantly, a child, young person or family can move across the continuum as their circumstances change and they receive appropriate services and supports to address their needs. CFSS reform is focused on the services depicted in the coloured bands, between universal and tertiary services.

Working with increasing complexity

Many families will only need early help and support to prevent or reduce vulnerability and keep their children safe and well. This type of support is provided by universal health and education services, and efforts to connect families to other services as early as possible.

Some families will have greater needs and will require more support to keep their children safe and well at home. This includes families at relatively early stages of vulnerability and, who with the help of additional services, can be strengthened to prevent the need for more intensive services. Other families with more complex needs and risk will require help from Intensive Family Services and service partners. Wrap around services provided in partnership are required to keep these families together and reduce the need for out-of-home care.

Children and young people in families with the greatest needs are at imminent risk of removal from their family to ensure their safety. This may occur at different stages of their lives, for a range of different reasons and for different periods of time. All have experienced trauma and many have complex and diverse needs. These children, young people and their families may require intensive continuing support from child and family support services.

Universal Health and Education

Universal Health and Education play important roles in supporting all children and families. They include antenatal care, Child and Family Health Services, as well as child care, playgroups, pre-schools and schools. Universal services provide early identification and referral for children and families who may require targeted support. These services are very well placed to support families early to prevent or reduce family vulnerability and risk to children.

Adults Supporting Kids (ASK) website

ASK is a self-service website that provides information for anyone who has concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, young person or family. It is a safe place to find support and will connect children, young people and families with information, free local support services or with someone to talk to.

Targeted Health and Human Services

Targeted Health and Human Services provide support to children and families with additional needs. These services aim to minimise the effect of risk factors for children and families by building protective factors and resilience. Targeted Health and Human Services include drug and alcohol services, mental health services, collaborative case management services and housing support.

CFSS Family and Community Support Services

Family and Community Support Services provide case management and programs for children and families with lower safety concerns. These families may have had successful outcomes from their participation with Intensive Family Services, and now require a lower level of support, or they may be families who are at an early stage of experiencing difficulties and will benefit from help to reduce the likelihood of escalating risk. Family Support Services include Community Development Coordinators, Families Growing Together and Family and Community Support Services provided by non-government organisations.

CFSS Intensive Family Services and OOHC Prevention Programs

Intensive Family Services are specialist services that provide intensive case management to assist families with high level safety concerns to move out of (or away from) the child protection system to prevent the need for their children to be removed from their care. These services provide a very high level of intensive family support, initially to address immediate safety, then to support improved family functioning. DCP refers families who have been notified and assessed to be at very high risk of their child being placed in care.

Prevention programs are also underway to test service models for families at imminent risk of having their children placed in care. These services provide a very high level of intensive family support initially to address immediate safety, then high intensity to support improved family functioning. DCP refers families who have been notified and assessed to be at very high risk of being placed in care.

Out-of-home care (OOHC) prevention programs include:

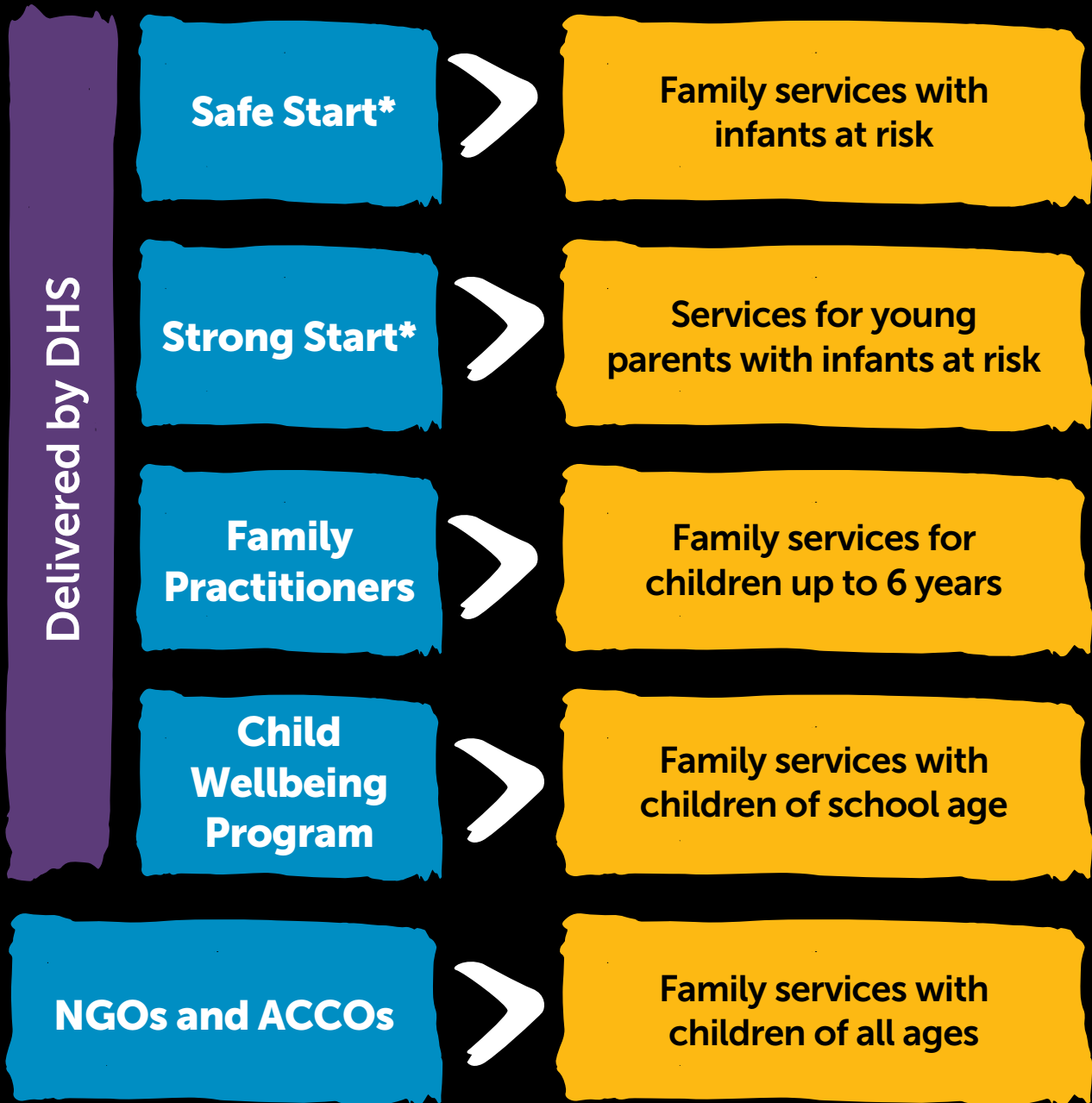
- **Safe Kids Families Together** – provided by Anglicare in northern Adelaide
- **Taikurtirna Tirra-apintheta** – provided by Kornar Winmil Yunti for Aboriginal families in western Adelaide
- **Resilient Families** – provided by the Benevolent Society in Adelaide's southern metropolitan areas through to the Murray Lands.

DCP Funded and Delivered Services

The Department for Child Protection directly funds and delivers a range of services for example:

- Family led decision making through initiatives such as Family Group Conferencing
- Protective intervention services
- Reunification services which provide support to families of children in care so that they can safely return to home
- Out-of-home care services
 - family based care
 - non-family based care
- Case management services
- Transition from care services to support young people to transition to adult life
- Post care services to support young people who are no longer in care.

To address the needs of priority populations, DHS provides and funds a range of home-based Intensive Family Services.



*Safe Start and Strong Start also work with families pre-birth

*Safe Start is delivered by a NGO in the inner north and west regions.

Co-designing a new Child and Family Support System

To create meaningful and sustainable change, we have designed the new CFSS together with the people who need the services and the people who deliver the services. A comprehensive, state-wide co-design process was undertaken in 2019 to inform approaches to and priorities for the reform of the CFSS. Stakeholders across government, the sector and communities have all agreed on how we will work together to better support our state's families. This authority and the environment of collaboration and mutual respect established in the process continues as we implement changes to the CFSS.

Importantly, the commitment to bring together knowledge from diverse sources – data, research, practice and lived experience – will continue to create and sustain a more evidence-informed and culturally responsive system.

The co-design process resulted in agreement on seven shared directions. In this Roadmap we have distilled these directions down to four priority areas each with a set of programs, services and activities.

Priority 1: Pathways

Right support at the right time

Priority 2: Service integrity

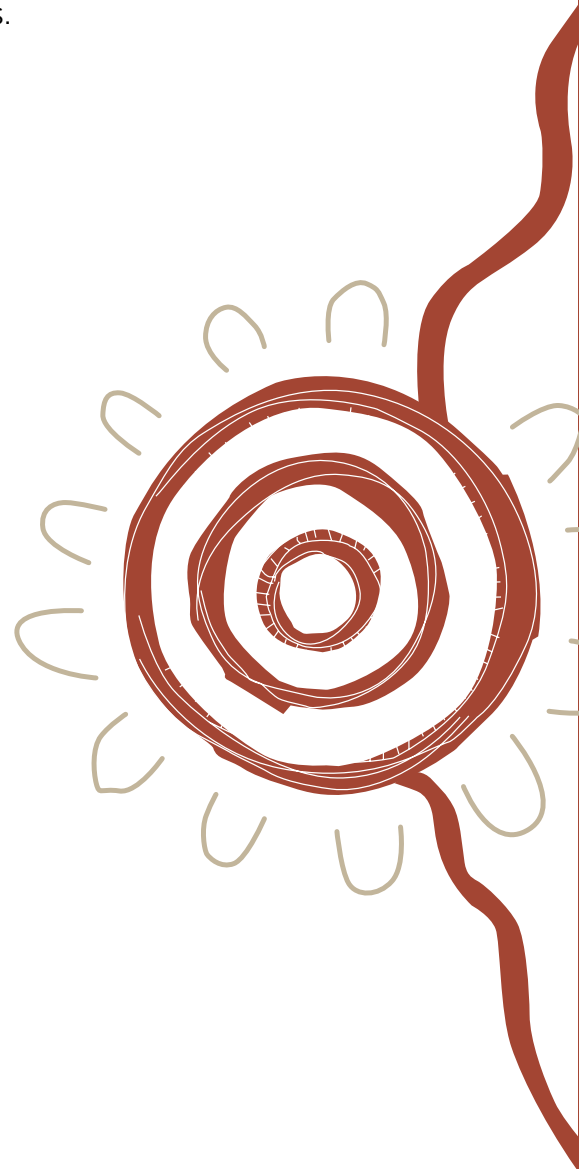
Supporting and strengthening our workforce

Priority 3: Service investments

Commissioning for child safety and wellbeing outcomes

Priority 4: Building evidence

Voices and data for system improvement and service outcomes



Our healing approach

At the heart of the new system is a healing approach, where all those involved (children and families, practitioners, organisations and funders) are intentionally working together to create a system and practices that support healing and avoid further traumatisation.

This means everyone involved in the system works together to get better at responding to trauma, wherever it is present. A healing approach is critical to creating and sustaining the engagement of families with our services. To build a trauma responsive and healing system, we need to make a number of commitments as individuals and organisations.

Firstly, we must deeply listen and give status to the voices of the children and families that are most affected by this system and often have the least control and power in it.

To do this effectively we need to understand our power and privilege in this system and find ways to support self-determination where possible.

We will commit to truth telling about the impacts of colonisation.

We will acknowledge and work with the strengths and the resilience in children, families and cultures. We will understand ourselves, our privilege and the assumptions within which we live and work.

Our healing approach will be guided by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander System Design Criteria and co-design principles developed in the CFSS reform co-design process,¹ and the Trauma Responsive System Framework.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander System Design Criteria for a system:

- where Aboriginal children are front and centre
- that reflects Aboriginal cultural strengths
- that reflects Aboriginal people's right to self determination
- that reflects the truth of our shared histories, the hurts, the strengths and the healing.

Embedding trauma responsiveness to create a healing system

- Trustworthiness
- Safety
- Peer and community support
- Collaboration
- Empowerment and self determination
- Know yourself and learn

The Lived Experience Network will be supported to ensure lived experience insights are in the design of continuous trauma responsive practice.

Our approach to working with culturally and linguistically diverse communities will respect the diverse and unique lived experiences and migratory journeys of individuals and families that may include intergenerational trauma.

We commit to seeing the strengths, hopes and dreams of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and know if we support this vision, it will contribute to building a trauma responsive and healing system for everyone.

¹ See EIRD website for complete versions of [Aboriginal System Design Criteria](#) and co-design principles and the Trauma Responsive System Framework



**Priority 1:
Pathways**
Right support at
the right time

ASK website

CFSS
Pathways
Service

Child and
Family Safety
Networks

Smarter
referral system

**Our
Healing
Approach**

**Building a trauma responsive
and healing system will not
be easy – we know it will be
challenging and hard but we
are up for it.**
- CFSS Trauma Responsive System Framework

**Priority 3:
Service investments**
Commissioning
for child safety and
wellbeing outcomes

Recommissioning
strategy

Research to build
evidence-based
service
improvements

Post-doctoral
fellowship
program

New service
models

ACCO
capability
building



Priority 2: Service integrity

Supporting and strengthening our workforce

Practice framework

Common elements approach

Culturally responsive and trauma responsive workforce training

Trauma Responsive System Framework

Communities of practice

Workforce and sector development plans

"We want to be protected from re-traumatisation, offered healing and self-determination."

- Staff member
Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation

Data linkage, information sharing and reporting

Evaluation

Enhanced data capture

Voices of lived experience, our workforce and leaders

Outcomes, frameworks and tools

We must deeply listen to the children and families that are most affected by this system and often have the least control and power in it.

- CFSS Trauma Responsive System Framework

Priority 4: Building evidence
Voices and data for system improvement and service outcomes

Priority 1: Pathways

Right support at the right time

We are creating a system that encourages people to ask early and ask often, and provides families with access to the right service at the right time. Pathways are being designed to ensure children and families are assisted to reach services that are matched to their needs, ranging from universal services, to targeted and tertiary level services.

ASK Website

A new self-service website has been developed to provide information for anyone who has concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, young person or family. In the next stage of development, a self-assessment tool for families will be included and a portal for professionals will be established to assist them to identify and make referrals for vulnerable families and individuals.

CFSS Pathways Service

A centralised triage line has been established to provide a single point of entry for family service referrals across the system. It is providing an alternative pathway to the Child Abuse Report Line for families who do not require a response from the DCP. Further opportunities will continue to be explored to strengthen linkages with other service systems across the service spectrum, ranging from universal services through to care and protection services.

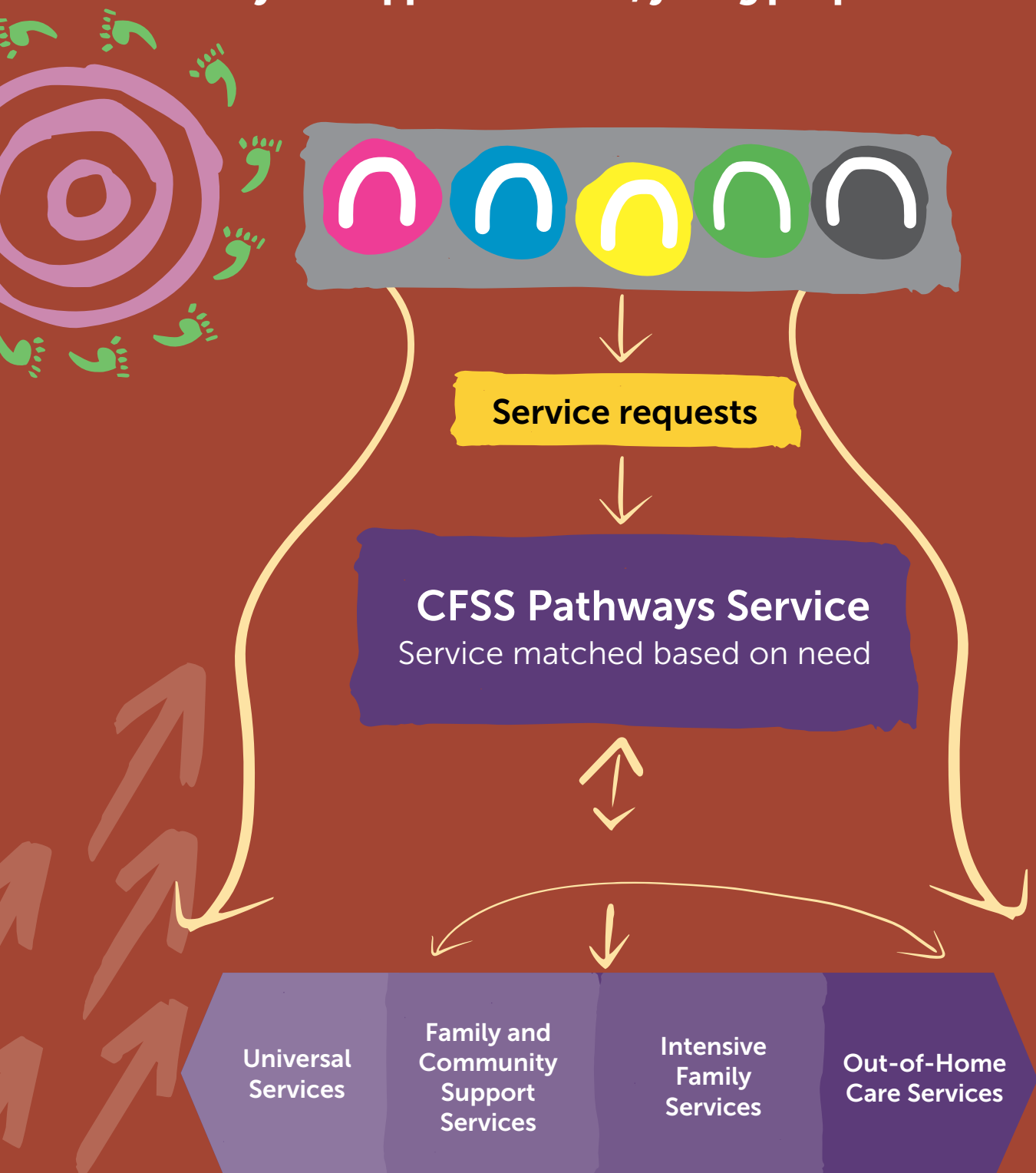
Child and Family Safety Networks (CFSNs)

Pathways and service coordination are supported state-wide through the establishment of local CFSNs. CFSNs will comprise key service partners who are able to assist families facing multiple complex issues that are causing significant concern to the safety of their children.

Smarter referral system

We are establishing smarter referral information systems and designing new processes to efficiently process and track referrals, including equitable allocation, and to better understand system performance and outcomes for families.

Pathways to support children, young people and families



Priority 2: Service integrity

Supporting and strengthening our workforce

To shift the focus of our system to families with multiple and complex needs, we must support our workforce to make this transition. Well-supported, trained, compassionate and motivated workers, able to practice with integrity in difficult situations, are critical in delivering effective service outcomes for children and families. The CFSS workforce must operate 'as one' so all families receive the same healing approach and quality of service, based on a shared foundation of knowledge and practice skills across all services. The system will have a purposeful and unwavering focus on building the Aboriginal workforce and supporting non-Aboriginal staff to work well with Aboriginal communities. This means supporting staff to embed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Placement Principle (identification, prevention, partnership, placement and participation).

Practice framework

Shared tools, resources, policy and practice guidance will be collaboratively developed to assist at all system levels and steps of the service journey.

Culturally responsive and trauma responsive workforce training

This will be a central resource for our practitioners and leaders to strengthen trauma responsiveness at all levels of the system.

Common Elements approach

10 Common Elements of good practice are being implemented to build the capability of our workforce to embed evidence informed practice.

Communities of Practice

Practitioners and leaders from across the sector will participate in shared learning and reflective discussions about practice and the progress of the reform.

Trauma Responsive System Framework

A new training program has been developed by Aboriginal people to build the capacity of the sector's practitioners to work in culturally responsive and trauma responsive ways with Aboriginal people.

Workforce and sector development plans

Annual action plans will be developed to make sure our future CFSS workforce has the right scale, composition and skills to meet the needs of the families we serve.

Priority 3: Service investments

Commissioning for child safety and wellbeing outcomes

When distributing government funds to providers, we will work in the spirit of collaboration with a focus on building the capacity of the non-government sector and keeping the voices of children and families central. All funds previously allocated to family preservation and targeted intervention services have been replaced by recommissioned Intensive Family Services. Family support and early intervention services are next to be recommissioned. This will involve investing in evidence-informed service models for families with lower levels of complexity and safety risks. This includes step down services from intensive services as well as services for families who are at earlier stages of vulnerability and risk. Investing in these services will help reduce the demand for more intensive services.

Recommissioning strategy

We have adopted a new funding approach that fosters collaboration between providers rather than competition, with a stronger focus on evidence-informed service models and outcomes for families with complex needs.

New service models

New service models will be designed for areas where there are service gaps in the system. External evaluations will inform service improvement and future investment decisions.

Research to build evidenced-based service improvements

Research collaborations have been established with universities to help build the evidence base for service responses and service model investments.

ACCO capability building

30 per cent of all funding for Intensive Family Services has been earmarked for ACCOs to deliver services to Aboriginal people. We will support ACCOs to play a larger role in the service provision to Aboriginal children and families, and leadership roles in partnerships with mainstream services.

Post-doctoral fellowship program

We continue to support early career researchers in the areas of prevention of child abuse and neglect to deliver culturally informed research to guide policy and service development.

Priority 4: Building evidence

Voices and data for system improvement and service outcomes

Knowing more about whether our efforts and investments are improving outcomes for the children and families we work with is essential to guide us as we reform our CFSS. To do this, we aim to capture information that supports a system-level and social epidemiological approach to monitoring, as well as build the infrastructure to support data collection, improved data sharing and reporting across the system. This will enable us to routinely capture information to improve referral prioritisation and service matching. It will inform the ongoing evaluation of demand for our services, which programs work for whom and the service outcomes for families over time.

Outcomes hierarchy

This is a shared framework for making collective progress toward the vision that children are safe and well at home in family, community and culture.

Aboriginal outcomes tool

An Aboriginal-led research project has been commissioned to inform the development of a culturally informed practice tool to measure the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and families.

Voices of lived experience

A lived experience network of system advisors provides an ongoing role in shaping the planning, monitoring and review of the CFSS.

Voices of our workforce and leaders

The Communities of Practice model will provide a mechanism for our workforce and leaders to draw on practice experience and innovative approaches and solutions.

Enhanced data capture

Tools are being developed to capture structured data at key points in the service journey. This will help to inform service planning and make sense of outcomes.

Data linkage, information sharing and reporting

Safe data linkage and information sharing across government and the non-government sector will be enhanced to facilitate more efficient case management. This will help guide system level planning and investment and improve our capability to identify families needing support.

Evaluation

Understanding the impact of the reform requires monitoring and evaluation at program and system levels over the short, medium and longer term. Improved baseline risk assessment and outcomes measurement, and new performance indicators are essential to show if we are making the shifts we are aspiring to in this reform.

The road ahead - next stages of our journey

Our immediate efforts will be focused on ensuring our new services are targeted at the most vulnerable and at risk population groups. At the same time the new information we are collecting across the system will enable us to improve our understanding of who the most vulnerable families are, the challenges they face and their needs. We will continue to trial, test and learn from new and innovative service models and pathways to help us build our evidence base of what works to improve outcomes for children and families, and maximise the impact of the system.

Our next focus will be working in close collaboration with our key government partners to build the service responses to evidence-informed family and community support services to ensure the system continues to evolve and strike a balance between providing services for high risk families to keep children safe, and support for vulnerable families earlier.

Our vision

Children are safe and well at home in family, community and culture

Our priorities

Priority 1: Pathways
Priority 2: Service integrity
Priority 3: Service investments
Priority 4: Building evidence

What is needed

Centering the voices of Aboriginal people and those with lived experience
Service collaboration
Data sharing and evidence
Supporting and strengthening workforce

PATHWAYS: Right support, right time

Next steps		Future steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a portal in ASK to assist services and schools to identify and refer to support services. • Build a self-assessment tool in ASK for families to complete to identify service options to suit their needs and a portal to assist professional to identify and refer to services. • Complete establishment of CFSS Pathways Service (centralised referral triaging and service matching for Intensive Family Services and coordinated local service networks). • Build capacity of CFSS Pathways Service to provide 'hold support' to services already engaged with families needing extra support to keep children safe. • Continue to grow Child and Family Safety Networks state-wide to maximise use of local support pathways and service coordination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish referral data collection systems in the CFSS Pathways Service. • Establish smarter referral information systems to efficiently and effectively process and track service referrals. • Work with key service partners to explore opportunities for integrating multi-agency advice into CFSS Pathways Service. • Review data from CFSS Pathways Service to inform referral system improvements. • Through established Safe and well governance contribute to the strategic alignment of DHS, DCP, Health and Education in providing clear service pathways for vulnerable population groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the scope of the CFSS Pathways Service to incorporate referrals to less intensive support services. • Expand the range of stakeholders able to use the CFSS Pathways Service to make referrals to respond to family vulnerability earlier. • Work with stakeholders for joint approaches to strategic alignment.

SERVICE INTEGRITY: Supporting and strengthening our workforce

Next steps		Future steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch CFSS Trauma Responsive System Framework and associated online training and practice resources. Implement online tool for organisations to build trauma responsive capacity. • Support ACCOs to deliver Yaitya Mingkamingka Purrutipinhi (Indigenous Trauma Healing) training to all Intensive Family Services. • Support staff across the CFSS to embed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle into their practice. • Co-design practice guides and tools to support working with families with complex needs to address high safety risks to children (phased approach). • Develop annual workforce and sector development plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial 10 Common Elements of good practice with Safer Families Services, Intensive Family Services and ACCOs. • Roll out Common Elements across Intensive Family Services combined with implementation support. • Establish and support Champions of good practice. • Establish and sustain cross sector Communities of Practice to embed evidence-informed practice, support collaborative learning and reflective discussions about practice and CFSS reform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review CFSS policy and practice guidance and tools for less intensive family and community support services. • Support ACCOs to extend provision of Yaitya Mingkamingka Purrutipinhi (Indigenous Trauma Healing) to all family services. • Evaluate implementation and impact of Trauma Framework and Common Elements to inform enhancements.

SERVICE INVESTMENTS: Commissioning for child safety and wellbeing outcomes

Next steps		Future steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide continued support to ACCOs to expand and play a larger role in service provision to Aboriginal children and families, and an increasing leadership role in partnerships with mainstream services. • Undertake external evaluations to understand the suitability, effectiveness and outcomes of service pilots. • Fund researchers, including early career researchers in the fields of child and family safety and wellbeing prevention and Aboriginal-led research to inform service development and investments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop evidence-informed family support service models in collaboration with partners (Health, Education and ACCOs) to respond to vulnerable families earlier. • Review evaluations of Intensive Family Services OOHc prevention pilots to inform adjustments to service models for families at imminent risk of children being placed in care, and to seek further investment. • Evaluate programs for breaking the cycle of intergenerational involvement in the tertiary child protection system (Breathing Space and My Place), to inform service model adjustments and seek further investment. • Invest in the development and implementation of peer support programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommission family and community support services to reduce family vulnerability, informed by service model evidence, stakeholder partners and population data. • Explore opportunities for joint investment by key government partners to support joined up approaches to working with shared vulnerable populations.

BUILDING EVIDENCE: Voices and data for system improvement

Next steps		Future steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish mechanisms to enable people with lived experience to be involved in shaping the design, implementation and evaluation of a broader range of programs and social change initiatives being led by DHS. Improve data capture at point of referral to support appropriate service matching, service prioritisation and monitor service equity. Implement the "Family Snapshot" – a common assessment tool (to capture risk and protective factors) at the point of engagement, and at points thereafter to measure complexity of need and service impact. Develop and implement a culturally informed practice tool to measure the safety and wellbeing for Aboriginal children and families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish regular data reporting. Develop new, more sophisticated performance indicators to show whether we are making the shifts we are aspiring to in this system-wide reform. Establish a data infrastructure at DHS for foundational capability to monitor population level patterns to understand the service demand, emerging trends and system outcomes. Connect new CFSS system data (via ODA) to the EIRD policy dataset for measurement of CFSS service impact on cross system outcomes including Child Protection. Trial KIDS Dashboard in CFSS Pathways Service to enable live access to data in other systems to improve visibility of cumulative harm. Maintain and extend our collaboration with research academics, supporting work investigating the demand and supply of critical adult services (e.g. drug and alcohol, DV and mental health services). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance safe data linkage and information sharing across government and the non-government sector to facilitate more efficient and holistic case management. Work with key partners toward across systems data capability to support joined up understanding of the needs and responses to vulnerable populations. Undertake evaluation of CFSS reform. Continuous system monitoring to inform ongoing service planning and design.



More information

To supplement the reforms outlined in this document, more detailed information about the new Child and Family Support System is available on the Department of Human Services website:

www.dhs.sa.gov.au/cfss

