



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Perspectives and Challenges

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Introduction

- Benefits from collaboration under the National Framework
- The Commonwealth's role in keeping kids safe
- New funding for the Third Action Plan

Perspectives

- We all have the same goal – child safety and wellbeing
- We want all Australia children to reach their potential and live a peaceful harmonious life
- However, our intentions are not yet flowing to improved outcomes

Challenges

- Challenges will always persist
- Our key challenge is to find workable solutions



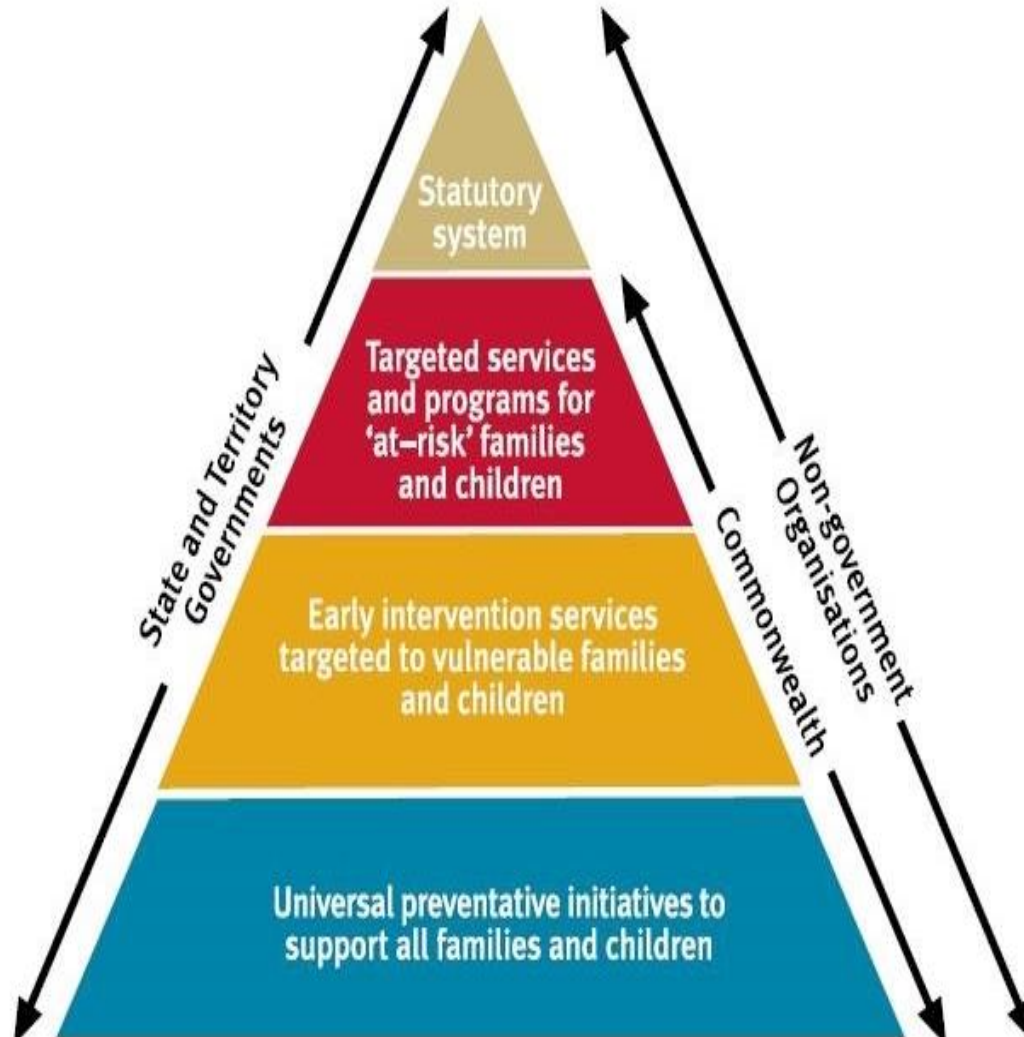
Commonwealth contribution

- National policy levers to improve outcomes
 - payment system
 - universal services
 - specific programs
- \$2.4 billion in grant funding to 2020
 - 1,600 different grants to over 800 orgs

Some recent Commonwealth measures

- The \$96.1 million Try, Test and Learn Fund, aimed at achieving better outcomes for welfare recipients
- \$100 million in funding towards the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children
- The Cashless Debit Card to be trialled in a third site

National Framework



Our Goal is safety and wellbeing for all Australian Children



Key achievements snapshot - National Framework (2009-12) 1st Plan

- Development of Australia's first ever National Standards for out-of-home care
- Launch of the Australian Government's \$5.7million Child Aware Approaches grants
- Establishment of the first National Children's Commissioner

Key achievements snapshot - National Framework (2012-15) 2nd Plan

- 50 new Indigenous Parenting Support Services
- Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support
- Building Capacity, Building Bridges workshop programs to boost the capacity of community workers
- Launched the National Centre of Excellence, now Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)

Development and Focus – Third Action Plan

- Consultations in the first half of 2015
- The National Forum used this advice to identify what should be included in the Third Action Plan
- Agreed - early intervention focus

\$5.1 million committed over four years for two trials

- The Building Capacity in Australian Parents trial
 - to run over three years and focus on the first 1,000 days of a child's life with particular emphasis on families with parental mental health issues, incarceration or other significant disadvantage

\$5.1 million committed over four years for two trials

- The Towards Independent Adulthood trial
 - to run over three years and support young people with mentoring and targeted supports as they move from out-of-home care into adulthood
 - the support will also include securing priority access to government funded services

What more is possible?

- Improved data collection and sharing?
- Progress on permanency planning and adoption?
- Evidence based action?
- Innovation and flexibility?

The Department of
Social Services is
committed to the
wellbeing of children
and families across
Australia.

Thank you

