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

- Universal preventative initiatives to support all families and children
- Early intervention services targeted to vulnerable families and children
- Targeted services and programs for ‘at-risk’ families and children
- Statutory system

State and Territory Governments
Non-government Organisations
Commonwealth
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