



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Child Aware Approaches Conference 2016

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Introduction

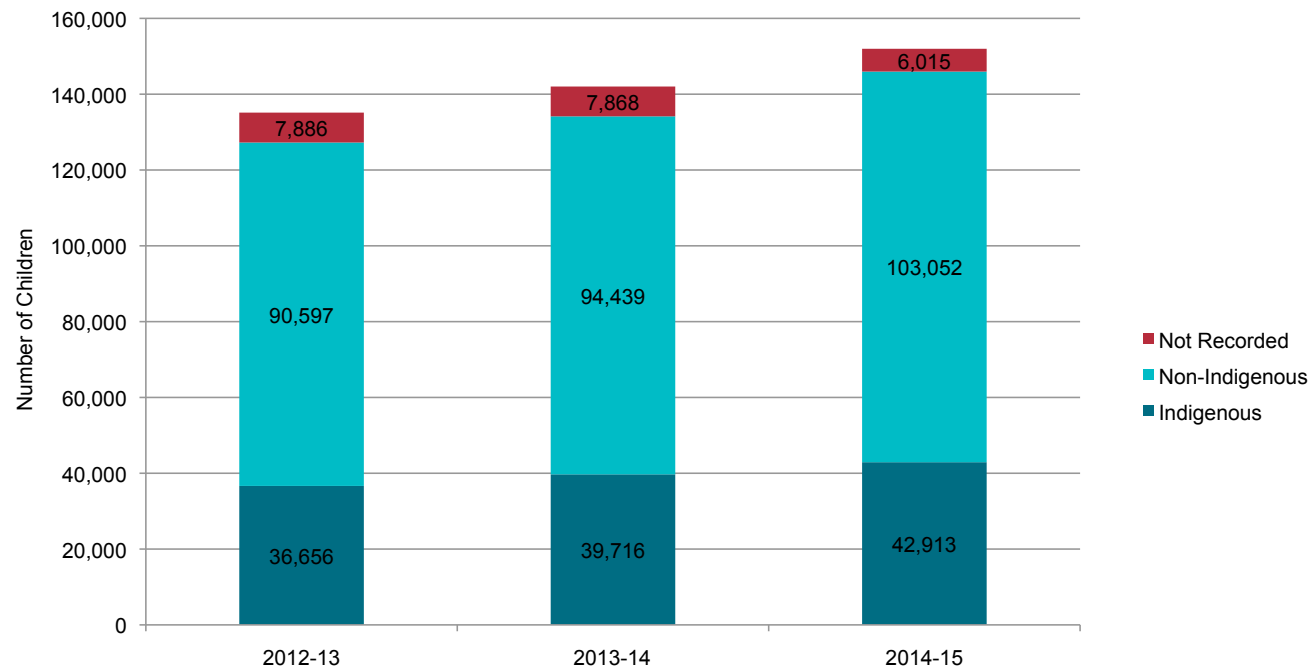
- Commonwealth role
- Third Action Plan and related investments
- The National Framework – history and benefits

Caretaker conventions

- Guide the Australian Government to ensure that actions do not bind an incoming government
- The Government is to avoid:
 - Making major policy decisions that are likely to commit an incoming government
 - Making significant appointments
 - Entering major new contracts or undertakings

Why is the Commonwealth involved?

**Children Receiving Child Protection Services -
2012-13 to 2014-15**



Source: AIHW 2016. Child protection Australia 2014–15. Child welfare series no. 63. Cat. no. CWS 57. Canberra: AIHW

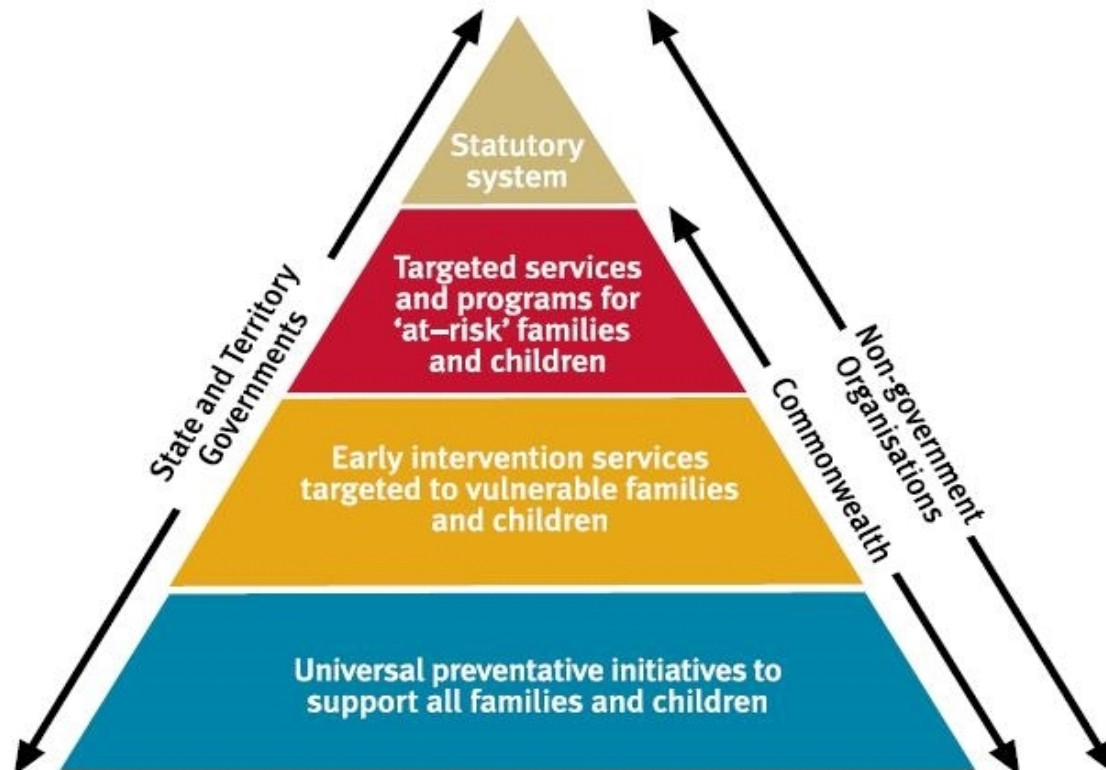
Investments to support children and families

- \$115.5 billion in 2016-17 on its welfare and social security programmes providing a safety net for:
 - Australian families
 - Pensioners
 - People with a disability
 - Those who are not in paid work
- \$2.4 billion in grants until June 2020 – targeted to families
- \$100 million to National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children
- \$3.5 million per annum to Transition to Independent Living Allowance

DSS long term policy priorities

- Greater welfare independence and improved social mobility
- Greater self-provision and intergenerational equity
- Improved quality of family functioning
- Strengthened social cohesion for communities at risk

National Framework



First Action Plan Achievements

- National Standards for out-of-home care
- \$5.7 million Child Aware Approaches
- Establishment of the National Children's Commissioner
- Six Centrelink Grandparent Advisors (now eight advisors servicing all states and territories)
- Better service delivery models for the future

Second Action Plan Achievements

- Appointment of the first National Children's Commissioner
- 50 new Indigenous Parenting Support Services
- Building Capacity, Building Bridges workshop programs
- National Centre of Excellence, now Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)
- Child Aware Approaches Conference 2013, 2014 and 2015
- The Good Practice Guide to Child Aware Approaches (Australian Institute of Family Studies)
- Child Aware Local Initiative

Commonwealth role and importance of collaboration

- Commonwealth leadership
- National policy:
 - Payment system
 - Universal services
 - Specific programs
- National Framework to guide collaborative action
- Joint reform of interlocking systems
- Recognise limits of National Framework

Development of Third Action Plan

- 17 Roundtable consultation in the first half of 2015
 - Representatives from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations
 - Children and young people
 - People and families living with disability
 - Representatives from culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- National Forum used advice to identify what to include in Plan

What we need to know more about?

- What interventions have the greatest impact
- How can interventions be best delivered
- Where should efforts be focused
- Who should be the focus

How should we respond?

Innovation
+
Collaboration
+
Partnership

= Reform and change to improve the wellbeing of
Australia's children

Third three-year action plan, 2015-2018

Driving Change: Intervening Early

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020



Thank you

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