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?

![Bar chart showing children receiving child protection services from 2012-13 to 2014-15.](chart.png)

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

- **2012-13**:
  - Not Recorded: 7,886
  - Non-Indigenous: 90,597
  - Indigenous: 36,656

- **2013-14**:
  - Not Recorded: 7,868
  - Non-Indigenous: 94,439
  - Indigenous: 39,716

- **2014-15**:
  - Not Recorded: 6,015
  - Non-Indigenous: 103,052
  - Indigenous: 42,913

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
Thank you

Dr Ros Baxter
Group Manager, Families Group
Department of Social Services