



# Creating a research agenda with Grandparent Carers in Western Australia: partnerships, policy and engagement

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## WA Policy and Service Context

Grandparent  
Research  
Advisory Group

Grandcare  
Support  
Scheme

Senate  
Inquiry  
2014

Community  
Vision & ECU  
'Grandparents  
24/7'

Accessing the  
voice of  
grandchildren

Lotterywest  
Funding for  
current project

Exploring the needs of  
Grandparent Carers: impact,  
context, voice

# Identifying a need

Reliance on anecdotal evidence

Limited any shared understanding

Differences and commonalities across states

Data needed for

- Advocacy
- Best practice
- Service design and development
- Policy formation

# Creating a Research Agenda

Felt and identified gaps

Picture Building

- Demography
- Lived Needs
- Policy and service gaps
- Absences

Managing multiple sets of expertise and priorities

# Creating a Research Agenda

- Reach to marginalised populations
- Engagement of Indigenous communities
- Mixed methods
- Clear communication strategy
- Multi-disciplinary
- Implementation and knowledge transfer
- Didn't need more picture building – numbers and understanding impact

# Creating a Research Agenda

## Outcomes

- Recognition of grandparent carer's needs and contribution
- Recognition of knowledge, skill and resource requirements
- Meeting of needs of grandparent carers
- Understanding of experience of grandchild

## Output

- Evidence based data including
- Incidence of grandparent caring
- Impact of caring on grandparents' lives
- Impact on children
- Information for grandparent carers

## To enable

- Recommendations about legislative and policy changes
- Recommendations to state departments about policy and practice
- Development of best practice
- Communication of findings to a diverse range of stakeholders
- Advocacy



# Aims and purpose of research

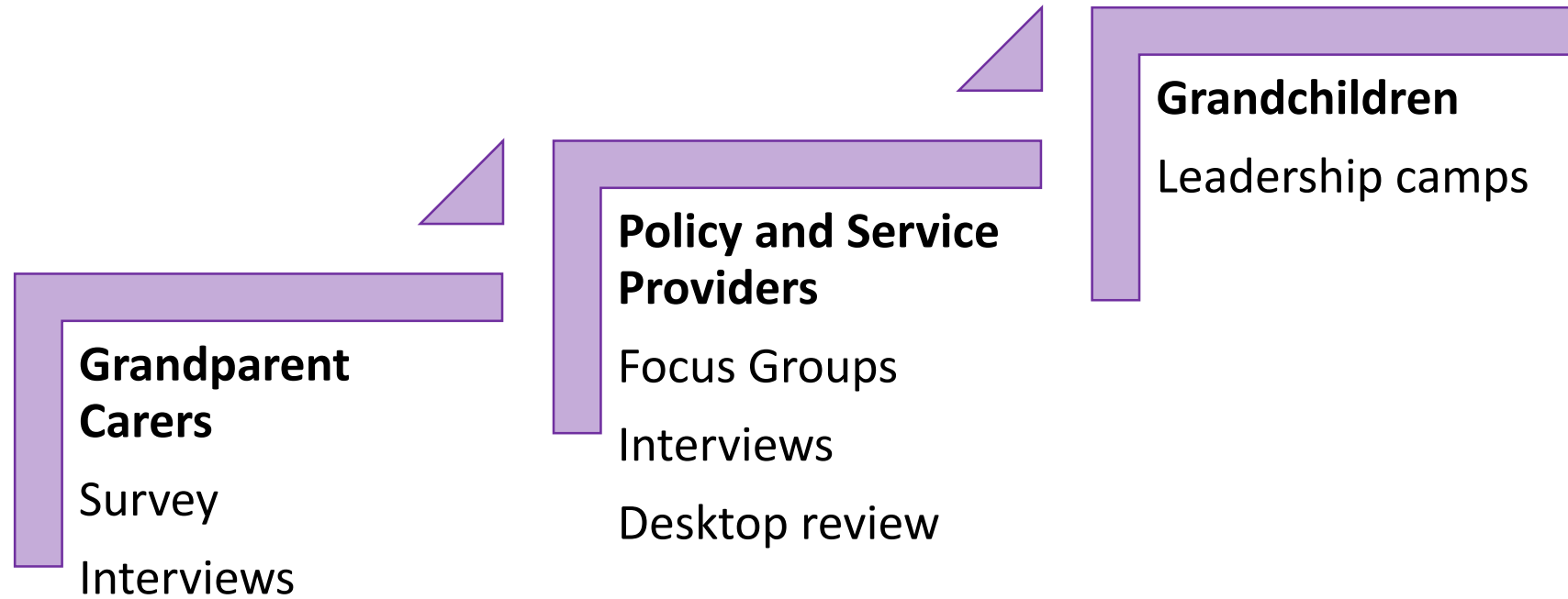
***Purpose:*** to inform advocacy, policy and service development for all WA grandparent carers.

## ***Aims:***

- i. develop an understanding of the daily lived experiences of WA grandparent carers
- ii. assess the implications of these experiences for their health, economic and social well-being
- iii. assess the service and policy implications of the above - both existing frameworks, accessibility and informing change
- iv. assess the shared and different experiences of formal and informal grandparent carers
- v. access the voice of children being cared for by their grandparents to develop a further understanding of growing up in this family type



# Methodology



# Multiple stakeholders

- Identifying stakeholders when working with invisible populations
- Ensuring diversity and collaboration
- Engaging consumers
- Active membership
- Facilitating participation
- Exit strategies
- Engaging influencers

# Partnerships with Universities

- Research V Service needs
- Engaging multiple universities
- Timelines and shared data
- Complex system
- Recognition of expertise
- Different agendas, structures and rules
- Challenges to consensus
- Intellectual property

# Engaging funding

- More stakeholders
- More agendas
- More research V service
- Relationships
- Reporting

# Key Learning

- Time
- Multiple relationships and engagement
- Identifying gaps
- Making the case
- Research V Service V Policy
- Communication
- Creating influence