

Beyond safety & permanency: Trialling a child outcome-focussed Statutory OOHC Quality Assurance Framework - QAF

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Acknowledgement of Country

*“We would like to begin today by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the Land in which we meet – the **Turrabul and Jagera peoples of Brisbane**. We would also like to pay respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people here today.”*

The current picture

Internationally consensus is we.....

***Need to know how individual children are faring
so we can improve outcomes***



We need to move away from focusing on what “we do”
towards “what difference are we making”



Where are we now.....



No systemic collection, reporting and use of individual outcome data. The majority of information collected is focused on outputs



Wellbeing information is collected inconsistently, is limited or anecdotal or proxy data is used



No synergies between casework, program, performance, funding

Where we want to be.....



Consistent, comprehensive and integrated **outcome** information is collected for each child



Consistent data is collected and disseminated through accessible and useable systems using valid and reliable instruments



Caseworkers use the data to inform practice Access and use by relevant stakeholders (Minister, OOHC agencies, FACS, oversight agencies)



Focus on every child in OOHC being well, educated and having a strong sense of self, culture and identity

What is the QAF?

Adapted from the: *US Child Wellbeing Framework* developed by the Obama Administration (DHHS, 2012) *Framework of Wellbeing of Older Youth in Foster Care* (Hanson, Langford & Badeau, 2013)

A framework to continuously assess, assure and improve the quality of the services provided and the results achieved by NSW OOHG providers

Describes the 'what' not the 'how'

Evidence based. Informed by NSW expertise



The principles of the QAF

Ensure child/young person's **safety, permanency AND Wellbeing**

Contextualise a child's **development**

Children and young people **thrive**, learn and achieve when they are safe, healthy and engaged

NSW context

Culture is a life long influence on development and wellbeing

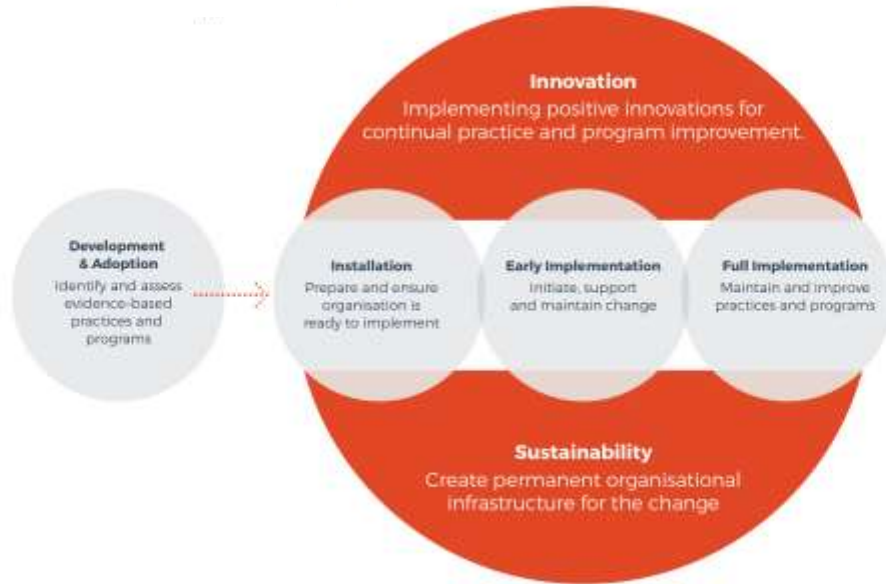
Parents, families, kin, community & carers play a crucial role in improving outcomes for children and young people

Reliable and valid assessments

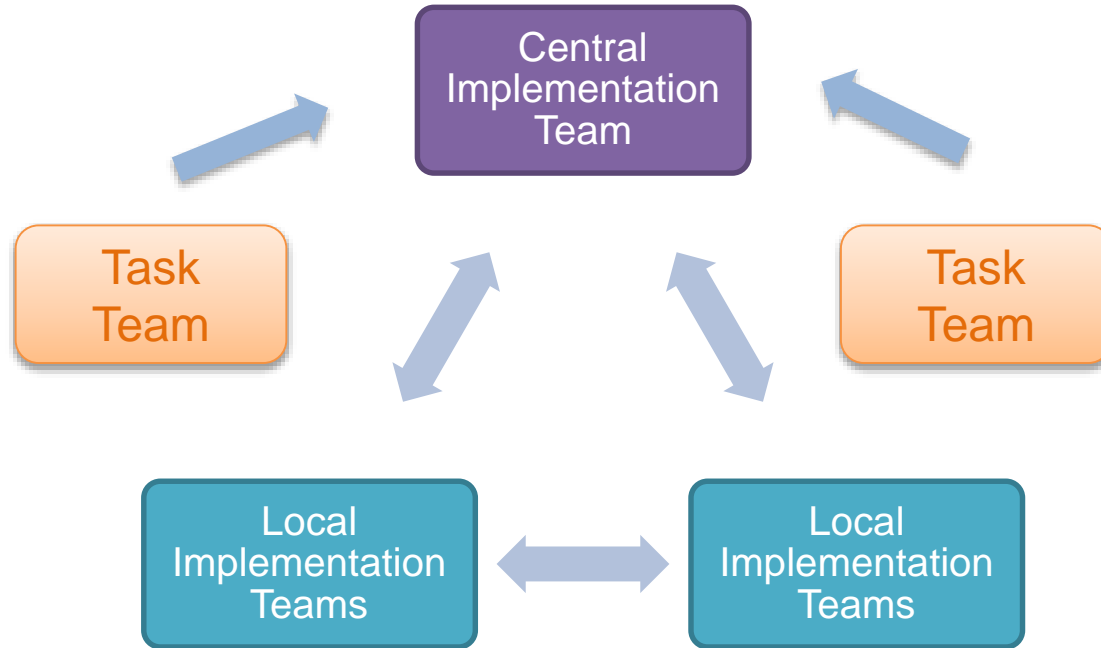
QAF Wellbeing Domains



Implementation Stages



Teaming structure



Implementation facilitators and barriers

- Data issues: using data in new ways; finding valid and reliable self report measures; cross agency exchange of information.
- Systematic use of wellbeing tools as screeners
- Understanding cultural and spiritual identity
- Child welfare reform environment

What we have done so far? NGO Trial sites



The trial stage for the QAF began with three NGOs, Key Assets Fostering, Burrun Dalai Aboriginal Corporation and MacKillop Family Services, who were chosen as trial sites in August 2016.

FACS Mid North Coast District joined the trial early in 2017.

QAF Trial Sites

- Examine best tools, practice, processes & procedures needed to successfully implement the QAF.
- Wellbeing domain: Each trial site has selected an evidenced based tool to trial:
 - Burrun Dalai - SDQ
 - Key Assets – SDQ
 - Mackillop - Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL).
- Burrun Dalai (Kempsey) **30** children and young people
- Key Assets (Metropolitan Sydney) **58** children and young people
- Mackillop Family Services (Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains) **50** children and young people.
- FACS Mid North Coast District **200** children and young people

QAF Trial Sites cont.

- Local Implementation Teams (LIT):
 - Established in each trial site
 - Involve stakeholders from NGO, FACS, PRC, Education and Health
 - Serve as a focused and accountable structure for operationalising locally
 - Links with Central Implementation Team responsible for QAF implementation

What have we done so far? Consult Community

Forums to start the development of the **Cultural and Spiritual Wellbeing Domain**



Aboriginal Forum:

- 58 people came together on 16th November
- 90% were Aboriginal Elders and community, service providers, FACS and OOHC NGOs
- Discussions around what does culture and spirituality mean to you?

What have we done so far? Consult Community

Forums to start the development of the **Cultural and Spiritual Wellbeing Domain**



CALD Forum:

- 44 people came together on 22th November
- Over 20 countries represented from community, NGOs FACS and OOHC service providers
- Discussions around what are the key elements of culture and spirituality and how could we measure this?

Thank you and questions

More information on the QAF is available:

<http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/QAF>

Or email the QAF Team at QAF@facs.nsw.gov.au

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