A policy framework for kinship care in Australia?

Child Aware 2019
Chair, facilitator/presenter:

- **Wendy Foote**; Ass/ Prof. Uni of Newcastle, formerly D/CEO ACWA

Panel

- **Natalie Lewis**; CEO QATSICPP; SNAICC National Executive.
- **Bryan Smith**; CEO FosterCare Queensland.
- **Tricia Murray**; CEO Wanslea, Deputy Chair, Families Australia.
- **Dr Meredith Kiraly**; kinship care researcher & advocate.
Kinship care policy....

- What is it?
- Who has authority to decide who is a kinship carer?
- Who are kinship carers?
- Self-funded or eligible for financial support?
- What is informal kinship care?
- What jurisdictions/government departments are involved?
- Who are the children in kinship care?
Key concepts:

- Family based
- Within the child’s extended family/close friends of the family known to the child, whether formal or informal
- ‘Informal kinship care’- no financial support
- Who determines who is ‘kin’- in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Distinct differences v’s foster care
Kinship care making it a national issue - 2018

Funding from philanthropic
Sponsored by ACWA
National reference group and working group
Involvement from each state and territory
CAFWAA and SNAICC
Human Rights Commission sponsored round table
Stream in the ACWA conference
2 special issues of Developing Practice
Submission to the ABS to include a carer
Principle 1: The services available to children are not limited by the type of care they are in.
Principle 2: Children in Kinship care have rights - and government, services and the border community have a responsibility to uphold these
Inclusion: The definitions of kinship care in law & policy need to be reviewed, to ensure an adequate recognition of extended family as well as culturally defined concepts of kinship care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples & the critical role of children families & communities with cultural authority to define kinship relationships for children.
Principle 4: There is recognition of the role of Kinship care and that public awareness raising about kinship care include recognition of the distinct nature of ATSI kinship care.
2 pager

- Definitions
- Vision

Next steps:

- Broad policy – policy fragmentation/integration
- A child focused policy?
- Identification of gaps in services / eligibility
- Advocacy