

Protecting children is Everyone's Business

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children



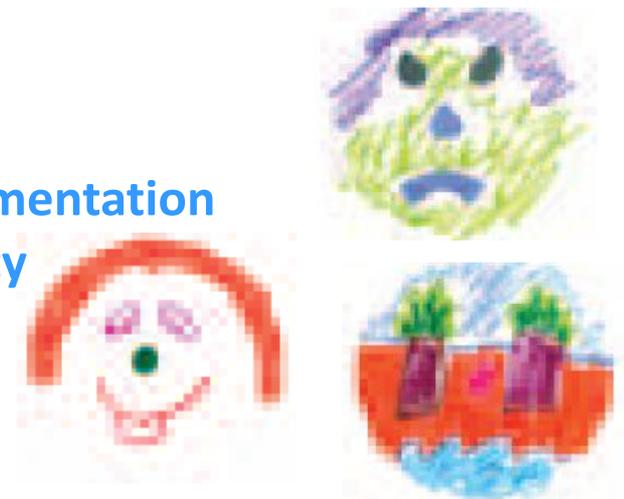


Background

- All governments across Australia worked in partnership with the non-government sector to develop the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020*.
- On 30 April 2009 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed the framework.
- Implementing the Framework includes the development of National Standards for Out of Home Care aims to ensure that children and young people who cannot live with their parents will receive a consistent level of quality, safe and secure care, no matter where they live.

Developing National Standards for Out of Home Care

- After consultations held by KPMG, a draft Working Document on the National Standards was released for national comment on 7 July 2010.
- The draft Working Document includes:
 - Overarching principles for the National Standards
 - Draft National Standards
 - Implementation issues
- The final National Standards, measures and implementation plans will be submitted to Community and Disability Services Ministers for approval before the end of the year.





Principles for the National Standards

- Care provided to children and young people living in Out of Home Care is focussed on their best interests and maximising potential.
- Children and young people living in Out of Home Care are provided with opportunities for their voice to be heard and respected.
- Children and young people living in Out of Home Care have their privacy respected.
- Children and young people living in out of home care are provided with a level of quality care that addresses their particular needs and improves their outcomes.



Principles for the National Standards (cont)

- The National Standards should add value to the current state and territory arrangements and not be unnecessarily burdensome.
- Continuous improvements are made to enhance the life outcomes of children and young people living in Out of Home Care.
- Changes to the Out of Home Care outcomes for children and young people are measured, monitored and reported in a transparent and consistent manner.



National Standards

1. Children and young people are matched with the most suitable carers and the care environment, according to their needs, that will provide stability during their time in care.
2. Children and young people participate in decisions that have a significant impact on their lives.
3. A comprehensive health assessment is provided to children and young people entering care, with ongoing medical needs attended to in an appropriate and timely way, and children and young people have their own written health record which moves with them.

NB The numbering of the standards in this presentation has been amended slightly



National Standards

- 4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are consulted in decisions concerning the placement of their children and young people and placements are made in accordance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principles.**
- 5. Children and young people in care are supported to participate in social and/or recreational activities, such as sporting, cultural or community activity.**
- 6. Children and young people entering into care receive timely and appropriate therapeutic assessment and support as needed.**



National Standards

7. Children, young people and carers are able to access objective advice, ask for help, have their concerns listened to, and have information and access to review mechanisms.

8. Individual education plans are developed, implemented, and reviewed regularly for children and young people in care.

9. Children and young people between 15 and 18 years are supported to be engaged in appropriate education, training and/or employment.



National Standards

10. Children and young people in care are supported to stay in contact with their families, friends, culture, spiritual sources and communities (providing it is safe and appropriate) and have their life history recorded as they grow up.

11. Children and young people are supported to identify and stay in touch with at least one significant family member or other person who cares about their future who they can turn to for support and advice on an on going basis.

12. Carers are assessed and receive relevant ongoing training, development and support.



National Standards

- 13. Each child and young person has a case plan developed that details their health, education, and other needs, which is implemented and reviewed regularly with the children and young people supported to participate in both the development and updating of their plan.**
- 14. Young people have a transition from care plan, commencing at 15 years old, which is reviewed at least annually, details support to be provided after leaving care and involves children and young people in its preparation.**



Questions

Issues for implementation

- What will be the impact of implementing the standards? Consider impact on children, carers, others?
- How do we make the system work?
- How do we take into account the capacity and diversity of current systems?

- **National Out of Home Care Standards, Rosie Crumpton-Crook and Diane Caney**
- Websites mentioned in the presentation
- **National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children**
- http://www.facs.gov.au/sa/families/progserv/Child_Abuse_Prevention/nfpac/Pages/gov_commitment.aspx
- http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2009-04-30/docs/child_protection_framework.pdf
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- **DRAFT National Standards for Children in Out of Home Care**
- http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/families/pubs/std_out_of_home_care/Documents/1_summary.htm
- **Tasmanian Charter of Rights for Children in Out of Home Care**
- Poster - http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/uploads/file/poster_4.pdf
- Booklet for Children - http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/uploads/file/bookletforchildren_5.pdf
- Back pocket booklet - http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/uploads/file/backpocketbookletforyoungpeople_4.pdf
- **Real Carers Really Needed – Tasmanian campaign (based on the Queensland Campaign)**
- http://www.fostercare.tas.gov.au/foster_carers2
- The Youtube Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=es2X0r2s42s>
- Mercury Article: http://www.fostercare.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/45746/MERC07JUL09.pdf
- Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Real-Carers-Really-Needed-in-Tasmania/95352528787?ref=ts>

- For information about the Queensland campaign, please contact Andrea Sturges on andrea.sturges@dhhs.tas.gov.au and for information on the Tasmanian campaign, please contact mark.pegg@dhhs.tas.gov.au
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- **Australian Institute of Family Studies – 2010 Conference, Melbourne**
- **Identity not just compliance: keeping the child at the heart of the care record**
- Professor Cathy Humphreys; Dr Margaret Kertesz and the 'Who Am I?' team, University of Melbourne: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/conferences/aifs11/docs/humphreys2.pdf>
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- **Cultural Safety**
- **Secretariat of Aboriginal and Islander Child Care – 2010 Conference, Alice Springs**
- **Cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and youth: frameworks and practices:** Richard Frankland and Dr Peter Lewis., VACCA
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- **Australian Institute of Family Studies – 2010 Conference, Melbourne**
- **Re-creating places of cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and youth: frameworks and practices:** Muriel Bamblett, VACCA
 - <http://www.aifs.gov.au/conferences/aifs11/docs/bamblett.pdf>
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- **On data collection – remember qualitative data also needs a voice in the midst of quantitative data: see Albert Einstein's quote:** <http://ourfunnyplanet.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Not-everything-that-can-be-counted-counts-and-not-everything-that-counts-can-be-counted.jpg>