



# **Aboriginal Case Management Policy, Rules and Practice Guidance**

*Strengthening Aboriginal families, delivering outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people*

AbSec Sector Conference

22 November 2017



# What we've done

**To develop a holistic Aboriginal case management approach for Aboriginal children, young people and families across the continuum of support**

- Intensive 2 day workshop (5/6 June and 30/31 August) with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Aboriginal practitioners
- 11 State-wide Consultations and State-wide On-line Survey
- 309 people consulted
- 3 targeted workshops
- Published Consultation Report
- Submitted Aboriginal Case Management Policy, Rules and Practice Guidance to FACS for final feedback and endorsement



# What we heard

Aboriginal Case Management Policy must empower Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities

An effective Aboriginal Case Management Policy supports service integration across the continuum of support

Aboriginal Case Management Policy must focus on culturally competent practice, working with Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities in culturally embedded ways

Services are tailored, flexible and holistic to meet the individual needs and strengths of Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities

Aboriginal Case Management is accountable to Aboriginal peoples for meeting outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people



# Aboriginal Case Management Policy

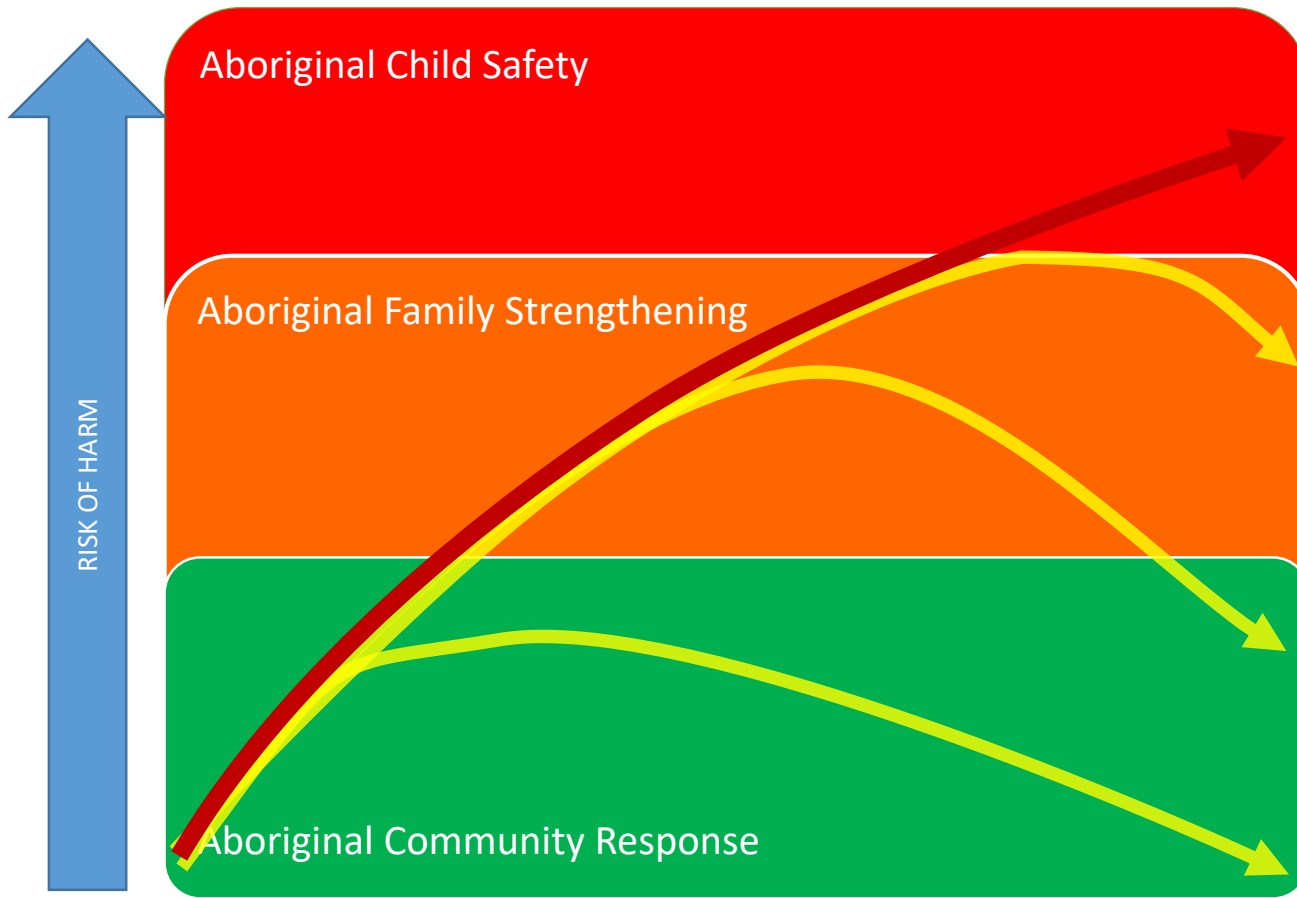
*Strengthening Aboriginal families, delivering outcomes for  
Aboriginal children and young people*

## Objective:

*‘To promote an integrated case management approach that is tailored to the needs of Aboriginal children, young people and families, that commences early in the continuum of support and that empowers and supports families and communities to reduce the incidence of harm, addressing identified risks and thereby supporting Aboriginal children and young people to thrive’*



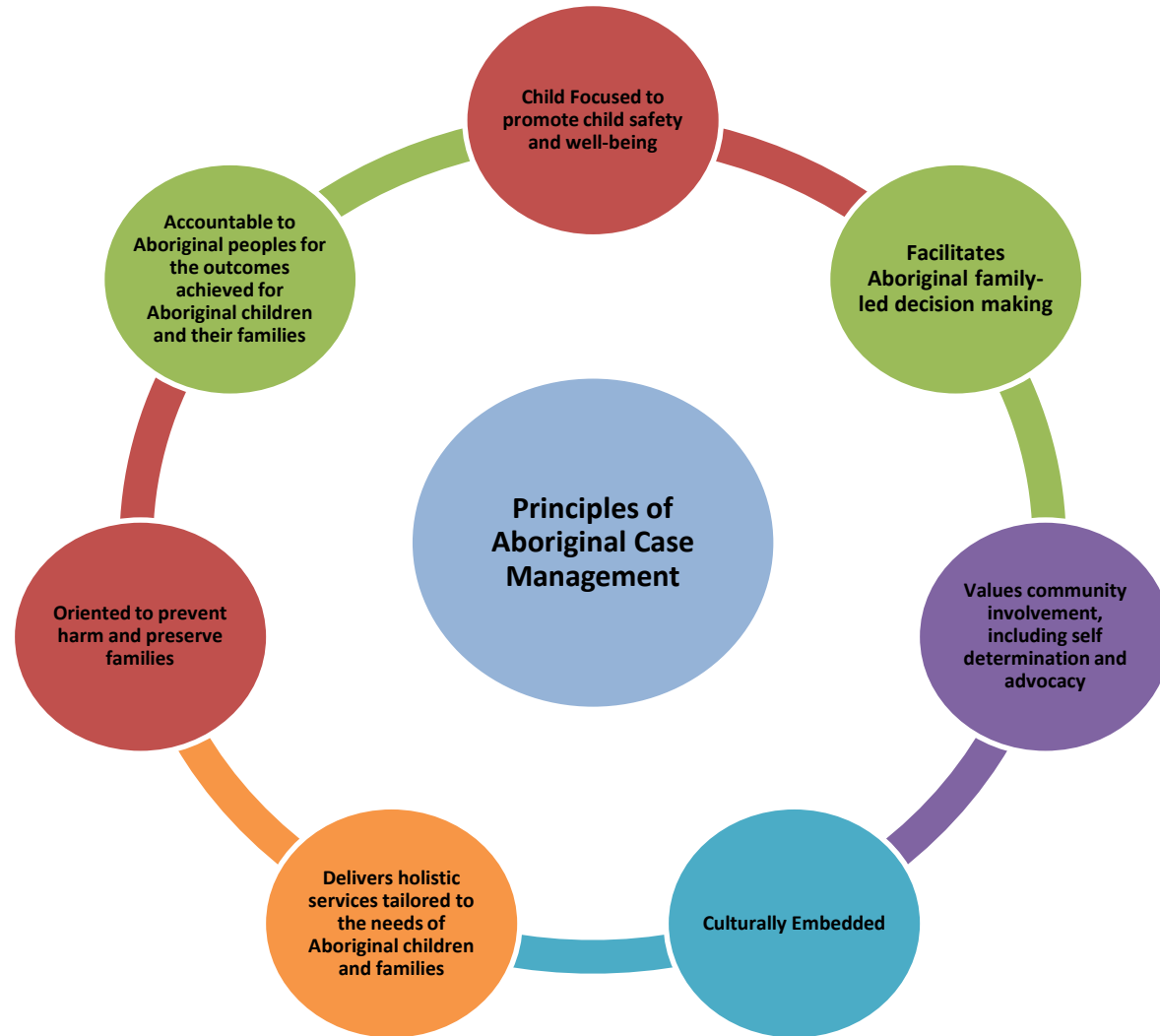
# Outcomes



*Figure 1: Case management is intended to alter an otherwise linear trajectory (red), through proactive efforts that divert families from statutory intervention (or promote restoration) (yellow arrows), thereby reducing the risk and incidence of harm experienced by Aboriginal children and young people*



# Principles of Aboriginal Case Management





# Aboriginal Case Management Rules and Practice Guidance – *Strengthening Aboriginal families, delivering outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people*

## Core Concepts

### Aboriginal Child and Family Well-being

- Encompasses the social, emotional and cultural functioning a child that promotes healthy development, resilience in developing and maintaining relationships and connections to culture
- Respect the unique differences of Aboriginal families, strengthens and empowers families to prevent the need for intrusive intervention, promotes well-being and stability of the whole family

### Aboriginal Family

- Practitioners understand the Aboriginal family and knowledge system, the unique family and community structures that exist
- Practitioners understand the complex system of these relationships including the vital roles of Aboriginal people in raising and educating their children

### Culturally Embedded

- Aboriginal cultural perspectives are intrinsic to all elements of service delivery as opposed to being an additional element applied to a non-Aboriginal program
- Supports and services are those designed and delivered by Aboriginal people and organisations
- Supports and services are aligned to the values and perspectives of Aboriginal communities





# Aboriginal Case Management Rules and Practice Guidance – *Strengthening Aboriginal families, delivering outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people*

## Core Concepts

### Best Interest Principle

- Best interests of an Aboriginal child is paramount for ensuring their safety
- Cultural rights are considered and their need to exercise such rights collectively with members of their family and community
- Holistic rights are considered, rights to safety, rights to live with family, rights to access health, education and housing

### Aboriginal Child Placement Principles

- Integrating into practice all five elements of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principles – Prevention, Partnership, Placement, Participation, Connections
- Ensuring participation of Aboriginal children, families and communities in decisions and actions that may affect them
- Greater involvement and control of Aboriginal communities in the welfare and well-being of their children and families





# Aboriginal Case Management Rules and Practice Guidance – *Strengthening Aboriginal families, delivering outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people*

## Elements

### Aboriginal Family-led Decision Making

- These processes are engaged early in the continuum of support, ensuring participation of families in communities in decisions and actions affecting them
- Core elements of Aboriginal Family-led decision making includes an Aboriginal Community facilitator, family as key decision making partners, family make their own 'family plans', follow up efforts

### Pro-active Efforts Standard

- Practitioners take meaningful and all possible steps to actively support families to address risks that are threatening the separation of a child from their family
- Practitioners must demonstrate and document when applying the pro-active standard

### Aboriginal Family-led Assessments

- Practitioners work from the perspectives of families to identify a range of supports, assessing each family's strengths and needs to formulate case plan goals and strategies.
- Practitioners use culturally valid assessment tools to identify and clarify the concerns related to the risk assessment
- Practitioners work through a cultural lens and are supported by Aboriginal practitioners where possible

### Aboriginal Community Controlled Mechanisms

- Consist of a formal structure established by local Aboriginal communities through their own processes to represent the interests of their community. These mechanisms provide oversight of decisions and actions affecting Aboriginal children, their families and communities. May encompass Aboriginal local governance groups or Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations



# Aboriginal Case Management Rules and Practice Guidance – *Strengthening Aboriginal families, delivering outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people*

## Practice Approaches

### Culturally Responsive Case Management

- Inclusive approach that is respectful and understands the unique cultural perspectives and experiences of Aboriginal families and communities
- Values self-determination and the individual dignity and rights of Aboriginal people
- Practitioners critically reflect on how they have included and represented Aboriginal culture into assessment and planning

### Strengths-based, family-centred

- Value Aboriginal cultural practices in family life and recognises the protective role of culture for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people
- Practitioners draw upon the unique strengths of the whole family and engage the family and engage the family as a partner through Aboriginal family-led decision making processes

### Participatory Approaches

- Respect individuals and families as active agents in their own lives and seeks to engage with them to drive responses to identified challenges

### Trauma-informed practice

- Practitioners are mindful of the indicators and impacts of trauma, appreciating the context of Aboriginal families and communities including intergenerational trauma
- Understanding how trauma affects thoughts, feelings and behaviours, as well as understanding of their beliefs and values
- Empowers families to take control of and responsibility for their own healing and recovery, including for the care and protection of their children



# Aboriginal Case Management Rules and Practice Guidance – *Strengthening Aboriginal families, delivering outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people*

## Aboriginal Community Response

- Intake
- Aboriginal Family-led Decision Making
- Aboriginal Support Plans
- Pro-active Efforts

## Aboriginal Family Strengthening

- Triage
- Aboriginal Family-led Assessments
- Safety and Risk Assessment
- Aboriginal Family-led Decision Making
- Aboriginal Case Planning – Family Strengthening
- Pro-active Efforts
- Permanency Support Services
- Information Exchange

## Aboriginal Child Safety

- Triage
- Safety and Risk Assessment
- Placement Decision Making
- Aboriginal Family-led Assessments
- Aboriginal Family-led Decision Making
- Aboriginal Case Planning
- Pro-active Efforts
- Permanency Support Services
- Cultural Planning
- Aboriginal Care
- Preserving relationships and connections
- Futures Planning and After Care
- Information Exchange

## Legal Issues

- Court proceedings
- Providing evidence
- Court Outcomes
- Children’s Court Clinic Assessments
- Dispute Resolution Conferences
- Section 76 and 82 reports
- Section 90 Proceedings
- Joint allocation of PR



# Next Steps

- Endorsement
- To be released statewide commencing December 2017
- Transitional Period
- Full Implementation



# Wrap up and questions

<https://www.absec.org.au/aboriginal-case-management-policy-guidelines.html>