



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**

# Families and Children Consultation 2020

*DSS acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present*

# Funding extensions

- More than \$1.2 billion in extensions over the next five years
- Builds from a successful 2020 Budget:
  - \$40.1 million for CaPS Additional Services
  - \$132.6 million for SACS funding

# FaC Activity consultation

- Five programs are in-scope for consultation:
  - Children and Parenting Support (CaPS)
  - Budget Based Funded Services (BBF)
  - Family and Relationship Services (FaRS)
  - Family Mental Health Support Services (FMHSS)
  - Communities for Children Facilitating Partners (CfC FPs)

# FaC Activity consultation

- Consultation launched 27 November 2020
- Consultation will continue through first quarter of 2021
- Variety of consultation methods
- DSS Engage website has more information

# 5-year extensions

- Ongoing and substantial commitment to families and children.
- Longer-term grant extensions for five years to 30 June 2026 for:
  - CfC FPs
  - FARS
  - FMHSS and
  - National-level CaPS services (5 services)

# 2-year grant extensions

- Other programs **extended by two years** to 30 June 2023, including:
  - All other ongoing CaPS providers
  - BBF

# Five consultation themes

1. Outcomes and evidence

2. Certainty and accountability

3. Targeting and accessibility

4. Collaboration and coordination

5. Capability and innovation

# Recent and emerging impacts

- A new and challenging environment
- Impacts on service delivery and access to services
- Alternative and adapted service delivery methods



How have you adapted service delivery in response to the bushfires, floods and Coronavirus pandemic? How will this affect how you deliver services in the future?



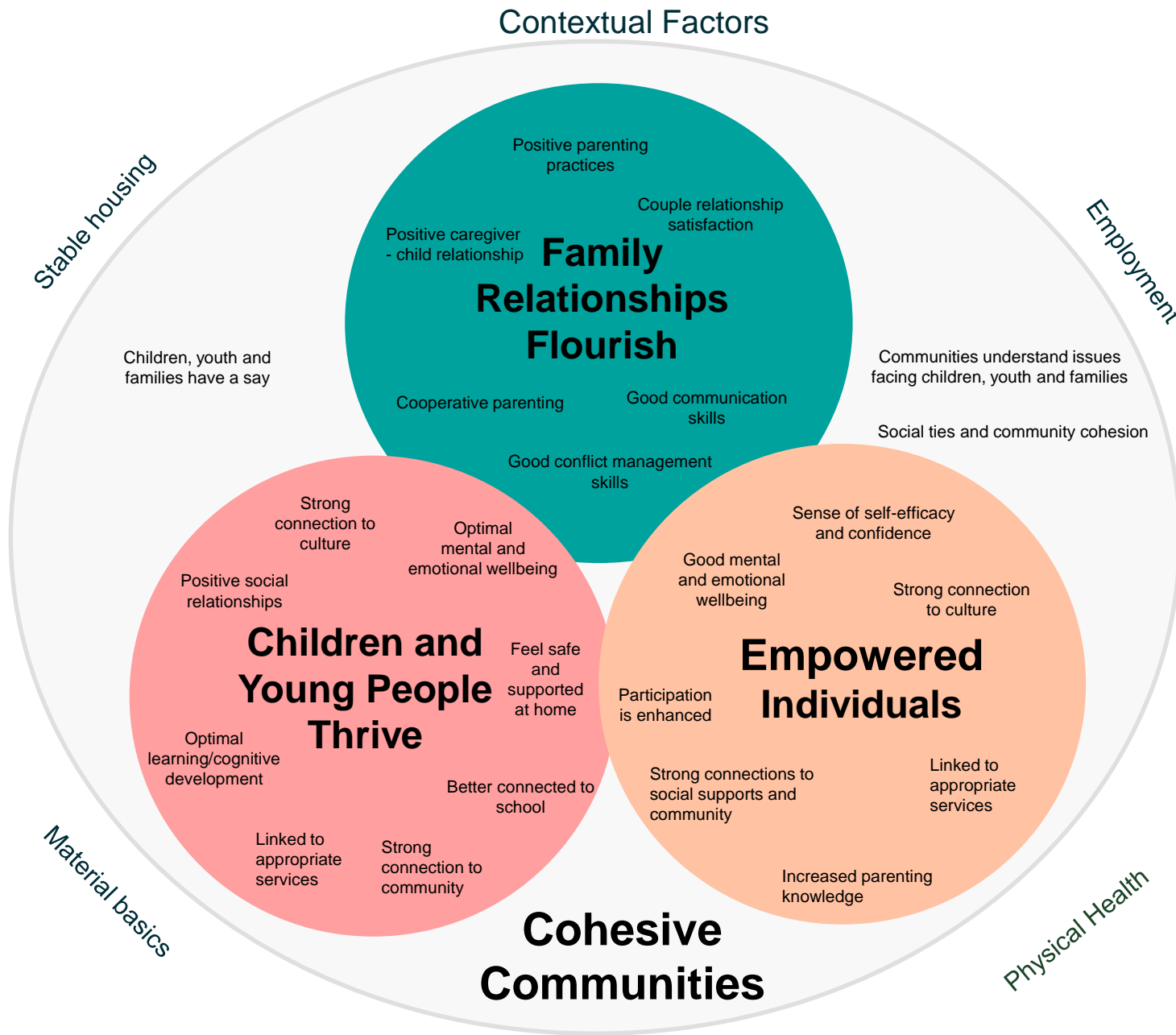
# Outcomes and evidence

- Data Exchange Partnership Approach
- Development of program logics
- Developing an outcomes framework



Are the proposed key outcomes for the families and children programs the right ones? Are there any significant outcomes that we are missing?

What tools or training would further support you to effectively measure and report outcomes through the Data Exchange Partnership Approach?



# Certainty and accountability

- Funding certainty needs to be balanced with accountability
- Balancing long-term extensions with reviews along the way



As longer-term agreements are implemented, how can the department work with you to develop criteria to measure and demonstrate performance?

What does success look like for your service, and how to you assess this?

# Targeting and Accessibility

- Ongoing commitment to universal early intervention
- Discretion and flexibility for service providers is vital
- Consideration of more targeted support

*(National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children)*



Do you currently service cohorts experiencing vulnerability, including those at risk of engaging with the child protection system? If not, how does service delivery need to adapt to provide support to these cohorts?

# Collaboration and coordination

- Collaboration and coordination across governments
- Work aligned with successor to the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children*
- Sub-activities working in a more unified way



For all providers, are there other ways to improve collaboration and coordination across services and systems?

# Capability and Innovation

- Refocusing existing capability arrangements to key areas of need
- Ensuring future grant arrangements are enablers of, rather than barriers to, innovation



Aside from additional funding, how can the department best work with you to support innovation in your services while maintaining a commitment to existing service delivery?

# Next steps

- Has this webinar been useful?
- What would you like to hear about at a future webinar or working group?
- Please send your questions or concerns to the [families@dss.gov.au](mailto:families@dss.gov.au) mailbox.



Together, we can create better outcomes and brighter futures for Australian families and children.



# Thank you

*For further information, please contact:*

*[families@dss.gov.au](mailto:families@dss.gov.au)*