

Transcript - A new approach to programs for families and children

Introduction

Every child deserves the chance to grow up safe, supported, and surrounded by love.

The Government's proposing important changes to five core programs under the Families and Children Activity – to strengthen the way we support children, their families, and the communities around them.

Every year, we invest around \$300 million under these programs, with more than 240 organisations across Australia.

These programs play really important roles in supporting families, whether it's helping parents build confidence and skills, or offering critical early intervention.

But right now, we're seeing more children experiencing developmental delay and too many children entering out-of-home care.

We know, based on what you're telling us, that we need to invest better – not just in services themselves, but in the people, the systems, and the infrastructure that underpin them.

That's why we're looking at how we can better back organisations on the ground—those working every day to support families and children.

Getting these kinds of programs right is complex and it requires a really coordinated and effective response.

Consultation

That's why we're proposing a new streamlined program to replace the five separate child and family programs and turn them into a single national program.

The new program will focus on two key outcomes.

First, we want to ensure that parents and caregivers are empowered to raise healthy and resilient kids.

And secondly, we want to make sure that children are supported to grow into healthy and resilient adults.

We want to support the parents. We want to support the kids.

The new program will reduce red tape for service providers because we know that their time is better spent helping families, not filling out forms.

Most importantly, it'll ensure that more children and families will get the support they need when they need it most.

Next steps

We know the sector's been calling for change for a long time.

We really want to hear your views on the proposed reforms so that we get this right.

Please visit the DSS engage website to find out how you can get involved. You can join an online townhall, you can complete a survey, you can make a submission.

Your voice will help shape this reform, and I'm looking forward to hearing your views.