

Are you an individual or making a submission on behalf of an organisation?

Individual

Are you a

Parent and/or caregiver

1. Does the new vision reflect what we all want for children and families?

Yes but who decides whats healthy and resilient.

2. Are the two main outcomes what we should be working towards for children and families? Why/Why not? - Outcome 1: Parents and caregivers are empowered to raise healthy, resilient children - Outcome 2: Children are supported to grow into healthy, resilient adults.

Yes, but again, who decides whats healthy and resilient.

3. Will a single national program provide more flexibility for your organisation?

I am an individual so this does not apply to me.

I live in an area that has one of the programs (they emailed us asking us to do the survey) and I hope that the good work that they've been doing can continue.

4. Does the service or activity you deliver fit within one of the three funding streams? Do these streams reflect what children and families in your community need now – and what they might need in the future?

I am an individual so this does not apply.

The services I have accessed would.

5. Are there other changes we could make to the program to help your organisation or community overcome current challenges?

As an individual I know people who want to access programs but can't because they don't have a car to get to them. There's only a few buses a day and it can take 1-2 hours waiting and swapping busses, to get from the outer suburbs into town.

6. Do you agree that the four priorities listed on Page 4 are right areas for investment to improve outcomes for children and families?

Sort of. Everyone should be doing parenting programs if they have kids. Things are different from when I was a kid and the advice I get from my parents doesn't work

very well. My parents don't understand social media and the different stuff that come with kids now. I did a few programs like Circle of Security, 123 Magic and Bringing Up Great Kids and they were really good. I know you can do triple p online but doing the programs in a group was way better cause we could talk about stuff and not feel bad.

7. Are there any other priorities or issues you think the department should be focusing on?

Yep. Making sure the people who get the money are from the area. Where we are they send people from the city closest to us. They don't know what's going on in our town and they're not local so we can't contact them when we need extra help or to talk about the things we learned about in the programs.

8. Do the proposed focus areas – like supporting families at risk of child protection involvement and young parents match the needs or priorities of your service?

I'm not a service. It would be better to do more so that child protection services aren't needed as much. I know of people who have had heaps of kids and they're taken as soon as they're born. I know you can't stop them from having kids but if there was more programs on how to be a better parent maybe this wouldn't happen as much.

9. Are there other groups in your community, or different approaches, that you think the department should consider to better support family wellbeing?

We had a great program where a 'nanna' got matched with a family and they helped to learn to be a better parent from the nanna. They helped for a year to start with, once a week or as much as the family needed, and then less and less as the help wasn't needed as much. I know people who still catch up with their nanna even though its not through the program. Some people don't have family who can help or support them (or who shouldn't!!) but learning how to cook and look after everyone takes a long time and it feels better when the person teaching you is nice and doesn't make you feel bad for being dumb.

10. What are other effective ways, beyond co-location, that you've seen work well to connect and coordinate services for families?

A bus!! We don't have much public transport in our area and if you have to get to the centre of town from the outer suburbs where rent is cheaper, you have to get 2 buses and wait around 45mins between the first and second one. In some suburbs there isn't even a bus service.

There should also be people you can ring who can tell you about all the things available and how you get access. They should know about the hospital and private stuff so we can choose who we see and how much it will cost. Sometimes they can organise an appointment or tell us if we need to see the doctor to get a referral. When I needed help, I didn't even know there was help available and I definitely didn't know how to get access.

11. What would you highlight in a grant application to demonstrate a service is connected to the community it serves? What should applicants be assessed on?

I don't know. The people who do good stuff in my community share a lot of stuff on social media so we know about it so maybe check that. You'd need to be careful though cause there are some people who say they're doing stuff but their not really or it's a bit crap.

12. Beyond locational disadvantage, what other factors should the department consider to make sure funding reflects the needs of communities?

I don't know but don't you have loads of information that you collect from centrelink and all the other things you monitor us on. The schools have reports, so do the hospital and the police and even the tax man. Have you asked the people who are already helping?

13. What's the best way for organisations to show in grant applications, that their service is genuinely meeting the needs of the community?

You probably need to visit the town and check it out for yourselves.

14. How could the grant process be designed to support and increase the number of ACCOs delivering services to children and families?

I don't know.

15. What else should be built into the program design to help improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families?

How about everyone is honest about the bad things that happened and stop telling them to 'get over it'. They were here for 40,000 years and white dudes have been here for 250 years and they're trying to make them act like white people. Stop telling them what to do and let them tell us what we need to do.

16. What types of data would help your organisation better understand its impact and continuously improve its services?

I'm not an organisation. If you're paying an organisation to do work, then they should be asking the locals if it's helping. Don't use NAPLAN cause it just tells you what schools get the kids to do 100 practice session and told the dumb kids to be away on the days it's done.

17. What kinds of data or information would be most valuable for you to share, to show how your service is positively impacting children and families?

I'm not a service but the local service I used did interviews and videos. I know people who did programs because the people in the videos said it was great.

18. If your organisation currently reports in the Data Exchange (DEX), what SCORE Circumstances domain is most relevant to the service you deliver?

I don't even know what this means.

19. What kinds of templates or guidance would help you prepare strong case studies that show the impact of your service?

I got no idea. Maybe teaching them to do video interviews?

20. What does a relational contracting approach mean to you in practice? What criteria would you like to see included in a relational contract?

I don't know what this means.

21. What's the best way for the department to decide which organisations should be offered a relational contract?

Is this about all the places helping the people and each other?

22. Is your organisation interested in a relational contracting approach? Why/why not?

No, cause I'm an individual

23. Is there anything else you think the department should understand or consider about this proposed approach?

I'm doing this survey because the organisation I went to asked me to do it. They were really nice to me and didn't make me feel bad. They helped me find other services

who could help me with money and food when there was lots going wrong in my family. We don't live in the city so there's not much choice, and I don't want everyone knowing my business. Even after I finished a program they would still talk to me and make me feel welcome and not dumb. They always asked me if it was okay and never made me go to another place I didn't want to. I tell people about them and I've even taken people to them when their new to town and are scared it will be bad. Mostly I'm grateful someone wanted to help us and I don't want that to stop. Just because you don't live in the city (where it costs too much anyway) doesn't mean you shouldn't get help.