



Government
of South Australia

*Achieving outcomes for children, families and
communities through integrated outcomes
based planning.*

Ms Trisha Winter

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Department of Education & Children's Services*

**Healthy Development Adelaide
19 April 2011**



**Children's
Centres**
for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting





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Presentation Overview

- **Background**
- **Children's Centres**
- **Challenges and enablers**
- **Children's Centre Outcomes Framework**
- **Evaluation**





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2004 Inquiry into Early Childhood Services

- Key priority for the Government
- Commitment to make a difference for young children and their families
- Parents, families, communities and governments all have an obligation to help children flourish
- Focus on both high quality and high equity
- Establish Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting



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Adelaide Thinker in Residence – Dr Fraser Mustard



- Early childhood development focus
- Quality
- Universal
- Accessible
- Developmental



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Minister for Early Childhood Development

- **First for South Australia**
- **Demonstration of Government commitment**
- **Underpins and promotes a cross-portfolio approach**
- **High level oversight**





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Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting - Vision

Children's Centre support children and families to achieve the best possible learning, health and wellbeing outcomes in a universal setting with targeted responses for children and families who may require additional support.



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- **Commitment to 34 centres**
- **4 Aboriginal Children & Family Centres**
- **School site locations**
- **Enabling/Partnership Groups**
- **Parent Advisory Groups**



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- **Community Development Coordinators**
- **Family Services Coordinators**
- **Allied Health staff**





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Working together is not easy...

From practice to policy, there is no alternative but to work together to benefit children and families. There are opportunities but also obstacles. It is exciting but not easy.



Dorothy Scott, 2007



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Enablers

- Common need for change
- Common goals and vision
- Understanding, respect and trust
- Communication
- Relationships
- Flexibility
- Individual passion
- Learning from others





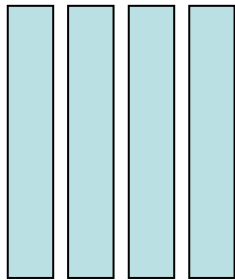
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Challenges

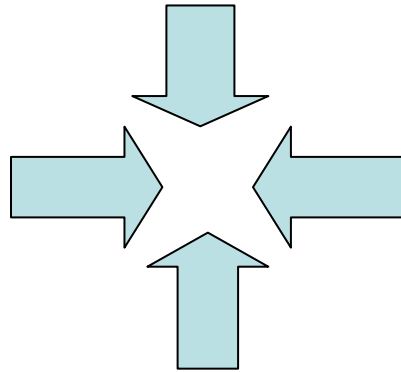


- Existing agency or discipline culture and language
- Territorialism
- Lead agency and partner agencies
- Legislation
- Budgets and funding
- Regional boundaries
- Governance
- Communication and information sharing
- Changes in decision-makers
- Keeping focused

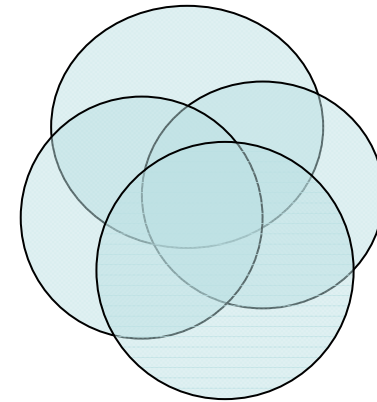
Towards Transdisciplinary practice



Silo or
single
disciplinary



Multi
disciplinary



Transdisciplinary

Jane Hargreaves, *Working in a Transdisciplinary Team*



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What is the Outcomes Framework?

The purpose of the Children's Centres Outcomes Framework is to support Children's Centres and partners to jointly plan and take action to improve the wellbeing of children and families within communities.



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Structure of the Outcomes Framework

Four Population Outcomes

Children have optimal health and development.

Parents provide strong foundations for their children's healthy development and wellbeing.

Communities are child and family friendly.

Aboriginal children are safe, healthy, culturally strong and confident.



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Key Objectives of the Outcomes Framework

- **Promote interagency partnerships**
- **Support shared responsibility**
- **Guide collaborative effort**
- **Provide a consistent planned approach**
- **Ensure responsiveness to community needs**



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Evaluation 2011-2014

- Evaluation Advisory Group
- Priority populations
- Service pathways
- Children's Centre staff
- Process for partnerships





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The child, the family and the service do not exist in isolation. They are all part of a much wider community. When services develop links, share information, and work in collaboration with other community organisations they are better able to achieve the best outcomes for children and families using the service.

*National Quality Standard – Quality Area 6
Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities*



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Thank you

