

KEEP THEM SAFE

A shared approach to child wellbeing

NEW AND ENHANCED SERVICES

Keep Them Safe: A shared approach to child wellbeing is the NSW Government's response to the Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW. Keep Them Safe recognises the importance of the wellbeing of all children and young people, with the aim of providing appropriate support to families earlier, to prevent children and young people from requiring statutory child protection intervention. To achieve this, Keep Them Safe encourages families, communities, government agencies, and non-government organisations to work together to support children, young people, and families.

Summary of changes

The NSW Government has committed \$750 million over five years (2009–14) for new services and associated systems to promote child wellbeing. The funding aims to reshape services for children, young people, and their families by providing more support earlier; developing an integrated partnership approach with the non-government sector; and strengthening collaboration between agencies across the whole NSW community support sector.

What is being funded?

Service expansion over the next four years (the budget cycle) is being funded as follows:

- enhanced prevention and early intervention services
- improving services for Aboriginal children and young people
- enhanced acute services (e.g. intensive family preservation)
- changes to the child protection system and services
- out-of-home care.

Forty per cent of increased funding is being directed to non-government organisations to support partnerships and provision of the following:

- extra places for children in a realigned Brighter Futures
- Family Referral Services
- Intensive Family Preservation
- Intensive Aboriginal Family Based Services
- a new model of working with Aboriginal children and families
- other prevention and early intervention services
- out-of-home care (OOHC).

More funding for prevention and early intervention

- Expansion of Sustained Home Visiting supports.

- Drug and alcohol services for parents and families.
- Services to support children who have parents with a mental illness.
- More Home School Liaison Officers.
- Non-government sector funding.

Supporting Aboriginal children and families

- A new model of working with Aboriginal children and families.
- Expansion of Intensive Aboriginal Family Based Services.
- More Aboriginal Student Liaison Officers.
- Parenting programs for Aboriginal adult offenders.
- Safe families accommodation.

Increased investment in acute services

- Expanding Intensive Family Preservation Services.
- Kaleidoscope and New Street.
- After-hours bail hotline.
- Joint assessment and investigation of serious abuse.