



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Factsheet

Families and Children Activity Expert Panel



To support more robust early intervention and prevention approaches, the Minister has recently agreed to the establishment of a panel of research, evaluation and practice experts.

During consultations with the sector in 2013, there was broad based consensus for increasing the use of evidence-based programs and practices, focusing on early intervention and prevention and moving towards true outcomes measurement and reporting. There was also recognition of the need for additional assistance to achieve this goal.

At the Family & Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) Executive Forum on 18 March 2014, the Minister announced his intention to establish an expert panel. The expert panel will work with service providers to advise, mentor and train agencies in how to develop, deliver and evaluate high quality programs and practices.

The role of the expert panel will include:

- providing implementation support and training for organisations in the use of evidence based practices;
- supporting the development of outcome measures that organisations can use to evaluate the extent to which they have helped their clients;
- providing training in the use of those outcomes measures; and
- supporting organisations to trial and evaluate new approaches, particularly in early intervention and prevention.

Details of the composition of the expert panel are still to be determined. More details will be released as they become available.

Panel members will be engaged to work with service providers and build their capacity to deliver high quality services. For example, the expert panel will work with service providers to help them to select, trial and evaluate new approaches, particularly in early intervention and prevention.

The work of the Panel will be undertaken through several channels from web information and support, through to the development of practice communities and even mentoring for individual agencies.

For more information refer to the [DSS website](#).