

Safe & Supported: summary of the Theory of Change

STARTING POINT

What are the issues that need to be addressed?

When the social determinants of child safety and wellbeing are not fulfilled this can undermine a family's ability to keep their children safe and well.

Intergenerational trauma and disadvantage often underpins experiences of child abuse and neglect.

Many children, young people and families face systemic and service-level barriers (e.g. discrimination) to accessing opportunities and supports.

Services and systems work in silos – need to shift focus towards more holistic and early supports.

It is recognised that First Nations people have a unique starting point under Safe and Supported (see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theory of Change).

Need to improve services and supports for children and families across the service spectrum, from prevention to out-of-home care and supports for care leavers.

Need to improve services and supports for children and families across the service spectrum, from prevention to out-of-home care and supports for care leavers.

UNDERPINNING PRINCIPLES OF SAFE AND SUPPORTED

Access to quality universal and targeted services designed to improve outcomes for children, young people and families

Excellence in practice and policy development, based on evidence, data and information sharing

Listening and responding to the voices and views of children and young people, and the views of those who care for them

Clear responsibilities and strong monitoring, evaluation and achievement of outcomes

Trauma-informed, culturally safe and inclusive policies and actions

Embedding the five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP)

KEY ENABLERS OF CHANGE

Recognising the expertise and authority of children and young people on their needs and lives, with respect to their age and maturity.

Recognising the expertise and authority of parents/carers and communities on the needs of their children.

Valuing the living experience of children, young people and families.

Understanding the needs of children, young people and families in their own words.

Collaboration between communities, services, governments and other organisations.

Collaboration across different sectors that impact the social determinants of child safety and wellbeing.

Strong and capable workforce.

Sufficient data and research in areas of interest.

Sustained commitment to improving child safety.

FOCUS AREAS UNDER SAFE AND SUPPORTED

Where are we focusing our collective effort?

A national approach to early intervention and targeted support for children and families experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage.

Addressing the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in child protection systems.

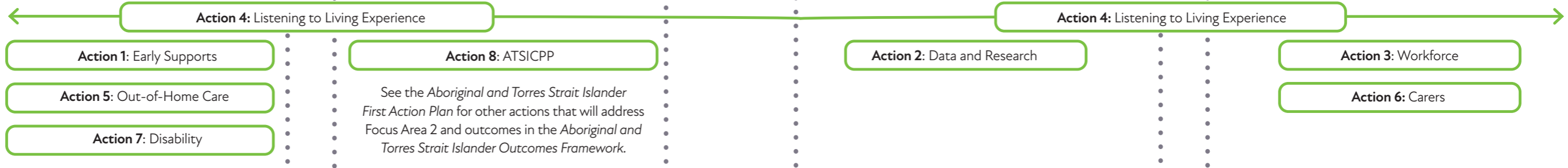
Improved information sharing, data development and analysis.

Strengthening the child and family sector and workforce capability.

ACTIONS TO DRIVE CHANGE: SAFE AND SUPPORTED: FIRST ACTION PLAN

What will stakeholders do/support/develop?

*See pages 23 to 42 for details on the Actions.



THE SYSTEM AND SERVICE LEVEL?

S1(b) – Systems and services prioritise resourcing, strengthening and supporting families to stay safe together.

See the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outcomes Framework* for outcomes specific to Focus Area 2.

S3(b) – Child and family support policies and services are consistently based on reliable evidence, including living experience.

S4(b) – The child and family support system has the capacity to respond effectively and adapt to meet future demand.

THE CHILD AND FAMILY LEVEL?

S1(a) – Children and young people grow up in safe and nurturing homes, supported by strong families and communities.

S5(a) – Children, young people, families and communities have their holistic needs fulfilled. As such, fewer families experience social, emotional and economic risk factors for child abuse and neglect.

S3(a) – Children, young people and families, and their experiences, are accurately represented in the evidence about them.

S4(a) – Children, young people and families have their needs met by an effective and skilled workforce.

SAFE AND SUPPORTED VISION AND GOAL

See the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outcomes Framework* for outcomes specific to First Nations children and families.

See the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outcomes Framework* for outcomes specific to First Nations children and families.

Vision: Children and young people in Australia reach their full potential by growing up safe and supported, free from harm and neglect.

Goal: To make significant and sustained progress in reducing the rates of child abuse and neglect, and its intergenerational impacts.

Vision: Children and young people in Australia reach their full potential by growing up safe and supported, free from harm and neglect.

Goal: To make significant and sustained progress in reducing the rates of child abuse and neglect, and its intergenerational impacts.