



Families and Children Activity Newsletter

Issue 4 | March 2022



What is in this issue?

This issue focuses on:

- [new resources on the Families and Children \(FaC\) Activity webpage](#)
- [an update on Communities for Children Facilitating Partners](#)
- [updates on the Data Exchange \(DEX\), including DEX reporting requirements](#)
- [Program Logics, including links to resources and webinars.](#)

The department encourages providers to circulate this newsletter to their staff. If staff would like to receive the newsletter directly, they can send a request with their email addresses to families@dss.gov.au.

The department is open to feedback on the frequency, format and content of the newsletter. Please contact your Funding Arrangement Manager if you have suggestions.



Families and Children (FaC) Activity webpage

FaC Activity Outcomes Framework

The department and the Australian Institute of Family Studies have developed an Outcomes Framework to guide the delivery of FaC grant activities and the reporting of outcomes data in the Data Exchange.

The department expects service providers to refer to outcomes in the Outcomes Framework in their program logics, Activity Work Plans (AWPs) and AWP reports.

The [FaC Activity webpage](#) now includes links to:

- [FaC Activity Outcomes Framework guide](#)
- [FaC Activity Outcomes Framework with suggested indicators](#)
- [FaC Activity Outcomes Framework with suggested Data Exchange SCORE](#).

Operational guidelines

The department has updated operational guidelines for the following programs:

- [Budget Based Funded](#)
- [Children and Parenting Support](#)
- [Communities for Children Facilitating Partners](#).

Updates to operational guidelines for other programs will be published on the FaC Activity webpage in coming weeks.



Communities for Children Facilitating Partners

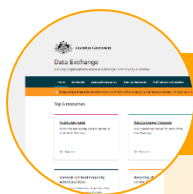
Closing the Gap

As part of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the department is aiming to increase the involvement of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in the child and family sector, with an immediate focus on potential opportunities in the Communities for Children Facilitating Partners (CfC FP) program.

In 2022, the department intends to fund an organisation to work with ACCOs and a small number of CfC FPs to explore potential opportunities for collaboration. The department will approach select organisations for this opportunity.

Activity Work Plan template

- The department has updated the [CfC FP AWP template](#) to eliminate duplication of information and incorporate some requirements of current grant agreements.
- All CfC FPs must use the new AWP template.
- Please contact your FAM if you require assistance or an extension.



Data Exchange

DEX survey on outcome measurement tools

- The department is interested to learn more about what instruments (outcome measurement tools) service providers use to collect client outcomes data.
- The department is currently conducting a [survey](#) that takes approximately 5 minutes to complete.
- We strongly encourage FaC Activity providers to respond to the survey using the link above before the end of March 2022.
- Please note FaC Activity providers have flexibility to decide how they measure outcomes. Some providers might choose to use validated tools whereas others might choose to use self-assessment tools or tools developed in-house.
- For more information on outcome measurement tools and translating tools into SCORE, please read the [Data Exchange SCORE Translation Matrix](#).

FaC Activity DEX requirements come into effect on 1 July 2022

- FaC Activity service providers have a 12-month transition period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 to build their capability, troubleshoot problems and work towards their requirements under the DEX Partnership Approach.
- This means January to June 2022 is the final DEX reporting period for providers to prepare to meet the requirements of the DEX Partnership Approach, **which come into effect from 1 July 2022**.
- To understand the DEX requirements for your grant, refer to the [Program specific guidance for Commonwealth Agencies in the Data Exchange](#).
- The department strongly encourages providers to strive towards their DEX requirements as soon as possible. If your organisation has any concerns or issues, please raise these with your FAM as soon as possible.
- Please note, FAMs will contact providers that did not report any outcomes data in the DEX during the previous reporting period (July to December 2021) to understand what barriers prevented them from reporting data.
- If your organisation has a five-year grant agreement, it will be subject to a **review point** that includes an assessment of DEX data reported during the period **1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023**. Refer to operational guidelines for your grant on the [FaC Activity webpage](#) to understand what DEX requirements your organisation must meet for the review point.

Learn more about DEX reports

- Each month the department is explaining one of the DEX reports in detail via the DEX Update mailing list.
- This month focuses on the *Client Outcomes* report.
- To subscribe to the mailing list, navigate to the [notifications and updates webpage](#) on the DEX website and click the button named *Subscribe to our updates*.



Program Logic

Program Logic requirements for service providers

- As part of the FaC Activity funding extensions that took effect on 1 July 2021, service providers funded under the following grant programs are required to develop program logics for their grant activities:
 - Budget Based Funded
 - Children and Parenting Support
 - Family and Relationships Services, including Specialised Family Violence Services
 - Family Mental Health Support Services.

Key dates

- Draft program logics are due 31 March 2022.
- Providers should expect to receive feedback on their drafts by 30 June 2022. It may take the department 10-12 weeks to assess draft program logics.
- Final program logics are due in June 2023.

Program Logic resources

The following resources provide guidance on developing program logics for the FaC Activity:

- [Program Logic template for service providers](#)
- [FaC Program Logic template - blank](#)
- [FaC Program Logic example 1 – single service](#)
- [FaC Program logic example 2 – multiple services](#)
- [FaC Program Logic – assessment checklist](#)

Program Logic webinars

The department and the Australian Institute of Family Studies hosted two webinars on the FaC Activity Program Logic requirements in late 2021:

- [Webinar one - Program Logic requirements](#) (click [here](#) for a copy of the department's PowerPoint presentation)
- [Webinar two – Step-by-Step: How to complete a Program Logic](#)