

Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development

Children Communities Connections

Where to with early childhood and family support services?

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- Download the presentation from:
<http://tinyurl.com/kbdecd>



Building stronger communities
with children & families
New initiative 2012

Children and young people are at the centre of everything we do

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Agenda

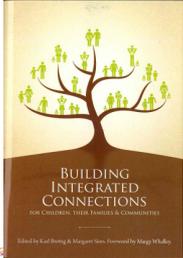
- The context
- Every Child Matters*
- The Department for Education and Child Development (DECD)
- Integrated Services Improved Outcomes (ISIO)*
- Engaging Families in the Early Childhood Development Story*
- Questions and comments



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The Context



Family Support Program
Future Directions
Discussion Paper

October 2012

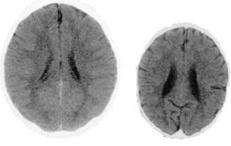
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What we know: the costs of failing to intervene early are immense

By the time a child is three-years-old, a large percentage of their brain has developed.

Brain of a three-year-old child



Normal development Extreme neglect

In South Australia alone, in relation to poor early childhood development, it is estimated that the annual cost to individuals and society:

- behaviour and crime is **\$3 billion**
- in relation to mental health and substance abuse is **\$4 billion**

Source: Mustard, J.F. "Investing in the Early Years: Closing the gap between what we know and what we do," South Australian Thinker in Residence, 2007 (available from the Adelaide Thinkers in Residence website)

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Every Child Matters

- Main aims, for every child to:
 - Be healthy
 - Stay safe
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Make a positive contribution
 - Achieve economic wellbeing.



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Every Child Matters

- Outcomes:
 - Team around the child (TAC)
 - ContactPoint
 - Local Safeguarding Boards
 - SureStart*.



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Every Chance for Every Child (EC4EC)

- Announced by the Premier in February as one of the government's seven strategic directions
- To guide policy and decision making by Cabinet and across government
- EC4EC aligns with the new agency and our current reform journey



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The New Agency

- Announced by Premier Weatherill in October 2011
- Places under the one Minister and one Chief Executive the following services:
 - Education
 - Early Childhood Development
 - Child Protection
 - Elements of Primary and Population Health



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The Vision

- **“Children and young people at the centre of all we do”** – giving every child the best start in life.
- **Investing in the early years** – balancing economic investment with investment in human capital.
- **Intervention** – early in the life of the child, and early in the life of an issue.
- **High Equity/High Outcomes** – no South Australian child left behind.



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What is DECD?

- 100% of the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS)
- 90% of Families SA
- Women's and Children's Health Services (by delegation).
- So: 27,000+ people...1,200 locations...\$3billion budget...220 000 babies



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DECD Aspirations

- Integrated services
- Interdisciplinary ways of working
- 'No wrong door'
- Working in and for local communities
- Co-production and co-construction



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Integrated Services Improved Outcomes (ISIO)

- A Project based approach:
 - Collecting examples of integrated services already in existence
 - Involving local communities
 - Promoting innovation.



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Engaging Families in the Early Childhood Development Story

- Parenting matters: parents are the first and primary educators of children
- Brain development in the prenatal period and early years affects physical and mental health and learning in childhood and adult life.



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What the research is telling us

- Making parents feel guilty is ineffective
- Affirming the things they do, is
- The story needs to be told in a way that parents can relate to, with a range of ways for them to participate
- We should not set ourselves up as experts, but work in partnership with parents.



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News and insights from Keith Bartley, Chief Executive, DECD

Chief Executive's Blog: <http://decchiefexecutive.blogspot.com/>



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