

- Integrate the High Risk Infant program into wider DECD early childhood approaches and practices
- Promote and extend the implementation of SDM@ as a tool for supporting quality practice and informed decision making in line with organisational priorities
- Facilitate the establishment of quality child protection practice, systems and services to enable children to be safely reunified with their parents
- Further strengthen Adverse Events program and facilitate the learning gained from the reviews into care and protection practice
- Strengthen interagency services and practice approaches to child protection.

The Courts Interface Team

The Courts Interface Team will contribute to the achievement of the Directorate vision by improved outcomes for children and families involved in all court processes through;

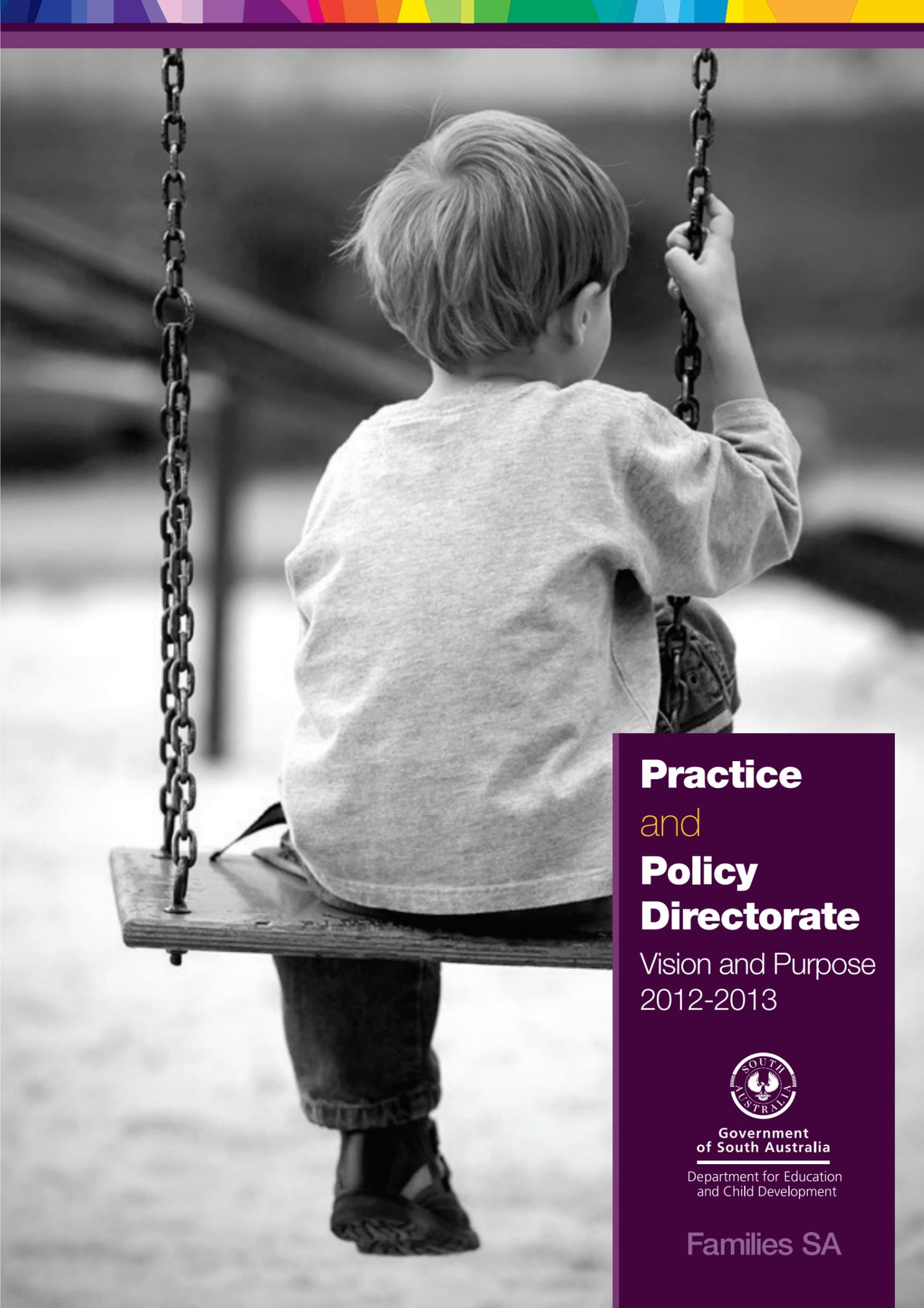
- Further development of all responses to courts.
- Full utilisation of all sections of each Act open to us to provide a targeted and appropriate response based on individual need.
- An improved experience and understanding of diversionary programs to increase numbers of children safely remaining at home.
- An improved experience and understanding of Family Law Court processes to support families to resolve child safety and wellbeing concerns and minimise placement into care.
- Improved relationships between Families SA and partner agencies to better address the needs of families and children at risk.
- Building the capacity of the workforce by providing learning opportunities and facilitating behavioural change.
- Contributing to the development and implementation of the practice framework and evaluating the quality of responses to court and outcomes.
- An improved collection and analysis of data to guide and strengthen our planning and implementation of targeted services and responses.

Aboriginal Programs and Service Development Unit

The Aboriginal Programs and Service Development Unit (APSD) is committed to improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, families, staff and communities through overseeing the implementation of the services review to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Adelaide metropolitan area and Cultural Inclusion Framework recommendations.

APSD aims to lead Families SA to become more culturally competent by ensuring Aboriginal business is reflected in the agency philosophy, vision statement, policy, structure, procedures and practice by guiding and supporting:

- The development of flexible, culturally inclusive services and programs which address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage at both strategic and operational levels.
- The development of training programs which will build the skills and knowledge of staff, business units and directorates to ensure they have the capacity and confidence to provide culturally inclusive services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.
- The development and implementation of effective systems, culturally appropriate tools and culturally competent practice across Families SA.
- The development and implementation of Aboriginal community relationships and strategic interagency partnerships across Families SA.
- The effective coordination, development, integration and evaluation of programs and services to South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.



Practice and Policy Directorate

Vision and Purpose
2012-2013



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education
and Child Development

Families SA

NATIONAL VISION

Australia's children and young people are safe and well

STATE VISION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Strong families help build communities

THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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

FAMILIES SA VISION

A future where children and young people are safe and thriving, and families are supported and strengthened

THE PRACTICE AND POLICY DIRECTORATE

Strategic policy and intergovernmental relations
Practice improvement
Aboriginal programs and service development
Implementation, planning and reporting
Courts interface team

DIRECTORATE VISION

We will contribute to improving outcomes for vulnerable children and their families

THROUGH

Strengthening and supporting practice
Building staff capacity, confidence and cultural competence
Leading, informing and influencing government strategic agendas, policies and programs that impact upon the wellbeing of children and families
Highlighting and promoting the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families
Adopting rigorous implementation, planning, evaluation and reporting frameworks and processes

BY

Being responsive, relevant, visible, connected and culturally sensitive
Fostering a culture of innovation and creativity in the pursuit of excellence
Advocating for the interests of vulnerable children and families in all our endeavours
Establishing and maintaining partnerships to help us broaden our capacity to achieve our goals and supporting others to achieve theirs, respecting their existing practice wisdom, knowledge and experience

WHOLE OF DIRECTORATE PRIORITIES 2012-13

Develop and implement the practice framework
Develop a planning and reporting framework
Determine and develop policy pillars
Redesign the manuals of practice
Develop and support implementation of the Families SA approach to practice, learning and development

Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Relations

- Develop an environment across government for better access to services, programs and opportunities for children under Guardianship through the continued development of the Rapid Response initiative.
- Embed National Standards for Out of Home Care into daily practice to improve outcomes for children and young people in care.
- Inform and shape policy and program directions within the department and across government, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable children and families.
- Lead South Australia's contribution, and increase our influence upon shaping directions under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.
- Lead Families SA involvement in national welfare reform initiatives.
- Build upon the Child Safe Environments legislative foundations to strengthen whole of community awareness and commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children as citizens.
- Support the implementation of Place Based Welfare Reform measures.
- Contribute to the development of policy pillars which reflect the vision and directions for Families SA and DECD.

Implementation, Planning and Reporting

- Develop a planning and reporting framework for Families SA.
- Redevelop quarterly and annual reports to inform on data related to activity, practice, workforce sustainability and outcomes.
- Develop Families SA strategic plan and contribute to departmental planning and reporting.
- Strengthen planning/service development across offices and business units.
- Work with directorates to undertake analysis of data to inform policy and planning.
- Provide advice and support regarding change management and implementation of key initiatives.
- Develop an annual research agenda, support research, and assist to translate research findings into practice.
- Continue to strengthen case management practice and recording in C3MS eg assessments, plans, services provided and coordinated, outcomes for families and children.
- Develop strategies to highlight and respond to data quality improvement opportunities.
- Identify strategic and operational risks, and develop risk mitigation strategies, and contribute to the departmental risk reporting cycle and risk management framework.
- Continue to build the data warehouse with a focus on completion of the operational reports currently under development and prioritise the development of child protection, alternative care data cubes, and train identified staff in their use.
- Automate national and specify and automate Families SA Annual Report.
- Continue to enhance C3MS in accordance with organisational priorities and train and support staff to make accurate client and case management records.

Practice Improvement

- Contribute to the improvement of care and protection practice and the establishment of quality child protection systems to enhance service delivery
- Lead on the development and implementation of the Practice Framework to shape and inform direct practice
- Develop and implement accessible and effective manuals of practice with aligned child protection policies and procedures to improve outcomes for children, families and young people
- Enhance relationships between policy and practice and strengthen approaches to implementation