Working together to develop and trial a quality assurance framework (QAF) for out-of-home care (OOHC)
The problem – We have a lot of data but don’t always see the complete picture

Data is everywhere but we don’t often turn it into information so caseworkers can use it in case planning for continual improvement of outcomes
Where are child welfare systems heading?

Internationally, consensus is that.................

*We need to know how individual children are faring so we can improve outcomes*

The sector is moving away from focusing on what “we do” towards “what difference are we making”
Beginning the partnerships

- FACS partnered with the Parenting Research Centre (PRC), University of Melbourne and the Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW.
- The *Quality Assurance Framework* for Children in statutory OOHC was published in 2015.
- Continued our partnership with PRC, as specialist implementation partner for the QAF trial.
- This is an Australian first.
What is the Quality Assurance Framework?

A framework to continuously assess, assure and improve the quality of the services provided and the results achieved by NSW OOHC providers

Describes the ‘what’ not the ‘how’

Evidence based. Informed by expertise within FACS and consultation with key stakeholders in NSW

Adapted from the: US Child Wellbeing framework developed by the Obama Administration (DHHS, 2012) Framework of Wellbeing of Older Youth in Foster Care (Hanson, Langford & Badeau, 2013)
The QAF looks beyond safety and permanency for children and young people in OOHC by focusing on the domains of WELLBEING.
Making the QAF come alive – Hearing the voices of the sector, young people, Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities

- Sought public feedback on the QAF
- Consulted with young people in care across NSW to listen and learn
- Ran forums with Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities to listen, learn and develop the Cultural and Spiritual Identity Wellbeing Domain
Making the QAF come alive – Trialing the QAF with our partners supported by the Parenting Research Centre

Four Trial Sites

- Burrung Balda Aboriginal Corporation Inc.
  - Mid North Coast
  - Kempsey

- Key Assets
  - Metropolitan Sydney

- MacKillop Family Services
  - Western Sydney & Nepean Blue Mountains

The QAF Trial is developing and testing the tools, practices, processes and procedures needed to successfully implement the QAF across NSW
Making the QAF come alive – Other key partnerships

Wellbeing information collection partners

– NSW Department of Education
– Ministry of Health
– Local/District Implementation Teams at trial sites
References and more information

- Hanson, Langford and Badeau 2013. Connected by 25: A plan for investing in the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of older youth in foster care. USA. Youth Transition Funders Group.

Or email the QAF Team at QAF@facs.nsw.gov.au