

Cohort approach Fact Sheet



Their Futures Matter is a landmark reform of the NSW Government to deliver improved outcomes for vulnerable children and families.

The **Cohort Approach** is an initiative of the reform that will deliver **cross-government wrap-around support packages to vulnerable children and young people**. Cross-agency departments leading the reform include: Education, Family and Community Services, Health, Justice, Premier and Cabinet and Treasury.



A CASE FOR CHANGE

The Independent Review of Out of Home Care (OOHC) found that the **current service system did not deliver services to a child's individual needs, despite efforts to better coordinate services.**

The review recommended a whole-of-system reform to turn the system into one that works for vulnerable children and families and deliver services designed to meet individual needs.

TRANSFORMING THE SYSTEM TO MEET INDIVIDUAL NEEDS



Their Futures Matter is using an **INVESTMENT APPROACH** to direct funding, effort and other resources to cohorts of children, young people and families with greatest needs, and where there are the most opportunities to improve life outcomes.

This approach will involve intervening in a child's life earlier to provide additional support to keep children safe and families together.

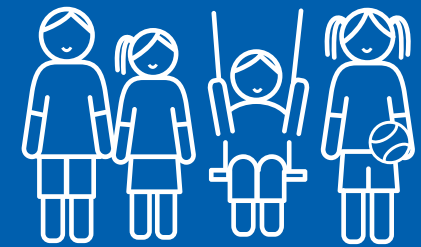
The **COHORT APPROACH** involves identifying and understanding groups of vulnerable children and families with similar needs and experiences. Children, young people or families are part of a cohort depending on their shared vulnerabilities, needs and characteristics. Evidence and data is gathered to inform the design of **WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT PACKAGES**.

The cohort approach will help to prevent children entering OOHC where appropriate, and will primarily focus on cohorts of people who are at greatest risk.



The **COHORT APPROACH** introduces child and family-centred support packages. These wrap around support packages will bring together funding, effort and other resources from across government and non-government organisations, and tailor supports to a cohort's particular needs.

Supports might include improving, scaling up or changing existing services and programs, or designing new support systems.



Target population vulnerable children & families

Available data suggests approximately

1 IN 20 CHILDREN
IN NSW ARE
VULNERABLE

Vulnerable children and families are those who are at serious risk of poor life outcomes due to:



MULTIPLE RISK FACTORS often linked to long-term socio-economic disadvantage



ABSENCE OF PROTECTIVE FACTORS such as a strong child-parent relationship



POOR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH, related to behaviour or disability