

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities

Question No: SQ17-000428

Topic: Third Action Plan of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

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Senator Louise Pratt asked:

Are there any other initiatives being considered as part of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children that the Commonwealth will lead?

Answer:

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is leading the Building Capacity in Australian Parents (BCAP) trial through managing and funding the trial. The Queensland Government is working in partnership with DSS to implement the trial, which aims to build parenting skills in the first 1000 days for a child.

The trial includes support for local services to better support new parents to be more effective in their parenting role, including strategies for parents who face significant disadvantage.

DSS is also leading the Towards Independent Adulthood (TIA) trial through managing and funding the trial. The Western Australian Government is working in partnership with DSS to implement the trial on the ground, which will test a new approach to supporting young people as they move from out-of-home-care into adulthood.

DSS is leading and funding the development and implementation of a national communications strategy focused on strengths based parenting messages and motivating parents to seek help during their child's first 1000 days.

The Commonwealth is also involved in some joint projects with states and territories.

DSS and the Australian Capital Territory Government are undertaking a project to evaluate the impact of jurisdictions' policy changes to extend statutory responsibility and access to services to young people who exit out-of-home care over the age of 18 years.

DSS is working with the National Children's Commissioner and New South Wales Family and Community Services on a draft set of National Statement of Principles for Child Safe Organisations based heavily on the preliminary findings from the Royal Commission.

Additionally, DSS and the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training are conducting a project to support integration of child care, maternal and child health and family support services in a number of disadvantaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, through the Department of Education and Training's Community Child Care Fund.