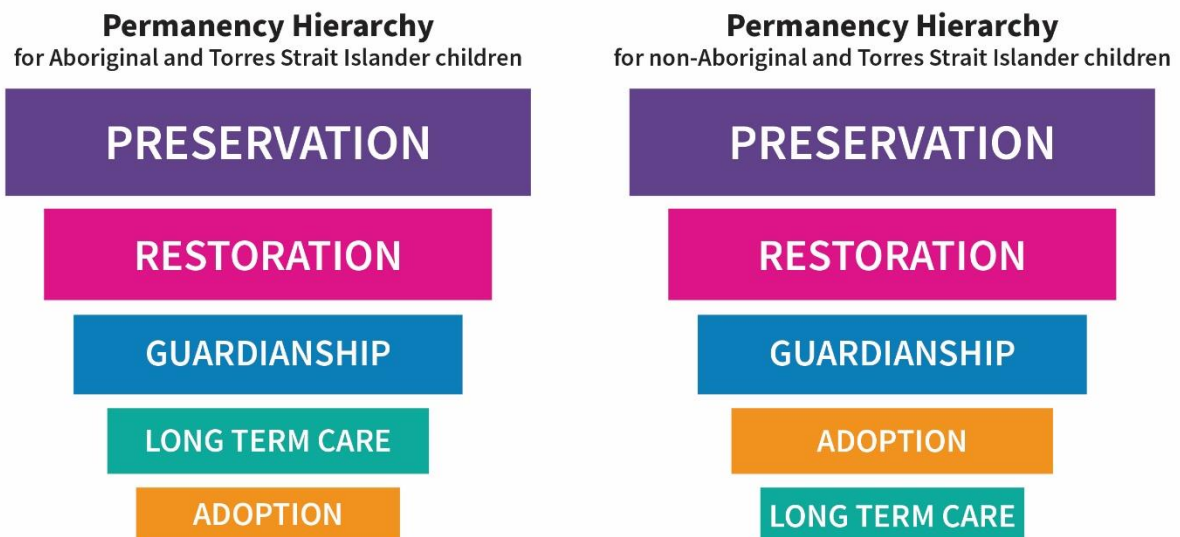


Framework for Family Preservation

Keeping children with their families is the preferred option for all children involved with the NSW child protection system. Other options for permanency are defined by the permanent placement principles set out in the [Children and Young Persons \(Care and Protection\) Act, 1998](#). These principles are also part of the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Permanency Support Program (PSP) policy framework.



As a PSP Family Preservation service provider, you are guided by the following key documents:

Family Preservation Program Logic

Link: [Family Preservation Program Logic](#)

Pages: 2

Purpose: to provide a snapshot of how the DCJ expects Family Preservation programs to work. It describes and links research, program components and delivery approaches with goals, outputs and outcomes. It is the PSP [Theories of Change](#).

The program logic is relevant to all staff working in the Family Preservation space. It provides an overview of the program from the problem to the goal. It's especially relevant for team leaders and managers, who can use it to help casework staff stay focused on their role and resist feeling overwhelmed.

1. PROBLEM	2. EVIDENCE	3. PROGRAM: core components and flexible activities (if applicable)	4. MECHANISMS OF CHANGE	5. OUTPUTS & CLIENT OUTCOMES! Describe the specific client outcomes likely to result from this program component as they relate to the NSW Human Services Outcome Framework Domains				6. GOAL																																																
<p>Many families face a range of social, emotional and cultural factors leading to some children and young people experiencing an increased risk of harm in their homes. This has been exacerbated by insufficient resourcing of family preservation services, including culturally competent services, an over-reliance on out-of-home care (OOHC) to protect children and young people, and poorer outcomes for those affected.</p>	<p>Evidence examined in the design of the Family Preservation has focused on the following topic areas and studies:</p> <p>The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) table of commonly cited risk factors correlated with child abuse and neglect.²</p> <p>The AIFS list of common protective factors for child abuse and neglect.³</p> <p>The need to better support birth parents of children in OOHC.⁴</p> <p>Issues identified in the Independent Review of Aboriginal children and young people in OOHC report: 'Family is Culture.'⁵</p> <p>Levey, Gelayed, Bain, Rondon, Botta, Henderson and Williams (2017) systematic review of randomised controlled trials (RCT) of interventions designed to decrease child abuse in high-risk families.⁶</p> <p>Review of the evidence for intensive family service models (University of Melbourne and Parenting Research Centre, 2015, commissioned by FACS).⁷</p> <p>The importance of culturally safe early intervention services and cultural connection for Aboriginal children and young people, identified in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.⁸</p> <p>Moving to Prevention research report: Intensive family support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (Tibury, 2015). This report is based on research conducted by Griffith University and the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC), which</p>	<p>The Permanency Support Program (PSP) Family Preservation Program Framework outlines four core components considered critical for effective family preservation work for all families. Each core component includes mandatory and non-mandatory activities. The Program Framework also indicates mandatory activities and approaches to support work with Aboriginal and CALD children and families.</p> <p>Care Component 1: Family and parenting support Essential content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parenting skills Parent/child interaction Child development, health and safety <p>Essential activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build networks of support around the family, including use of Family Finding and Family Group Conferencing In terms of providing support for the care of children, the use of family and social support networks is to be given preference over respite Family relationship counselling Work to create an environment and foundation conducive to successful preservation work, including identification of housing and income needs, and advocacy work In-home practical support and brokerage <p>Non-essential activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respite <p>Care Component 2: Child focused support Essential activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of child's emotional and psychological 	<p>Delivery approach The evidence-informed delivery approach will maximise opportunities to achieve program goals and outcomes.</p> <p>Aboriginal and CALD families Culturally safe and responsive service delivery will support the meaningful participation of Aboriginal and CALD families, along with subsequent achievement of outcomes.</p> <p>Core components</p> <p>Family and parenting support will help create change by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving and expanding networks of support and social support for families; improving parenting capacity and family functioning; strengthening family and kin participation in decision making strengthening family bonds; reducing conflict and improving safety; improving parenting skills; developing better household living conditions; developing sustainable household routines; enhancing problem solving and budgeting skills <p>The provision of child focused support will help create change for children by improving their health, behavioural problems and overall wellbeing. These</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Outputs</th> <th>Immediate outcomes Primarily attributed to the program</th> <th>Intermediate outcomes Partly attributed to program, beginning of shared attribution</th> <th>Long-term outcomes Shared attribution across agencies/NGOs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">Permanency goal - Preservation Human Services Outcome Framework (HSOF) goal: Home</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of children and young people with a case plan goal of family preservation</td> <td>Child is assessed as safe at home</td> <td>Increased child safety within the home</td> <td>Increased numbers of children remaining safe at home with their families</td> </tr> <tr> <td>List of approved service providers with family preservation capability</td> <td>Child is assessed as safe at home</td> <td>Improved family functioning/parental behaviour</td> <td>Improved family functioning/parental behaviour is maintained or surpassed</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">Safety</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of service providers receiving a family preservation</td> <td>Child is assessed as safe at home</td> <td>Increased child and family safety</td> <td>Child and family safety maintained or surpassed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number/type of specific services and activities delivered in each program component</td> <td>Parents have engaged with services to address risk factors</td> <td>Improved family functioning/parental behaviour</td> <td>Improved family functioning/parental behaviour</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">Wellbeing - 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Family Preservation Program Framework

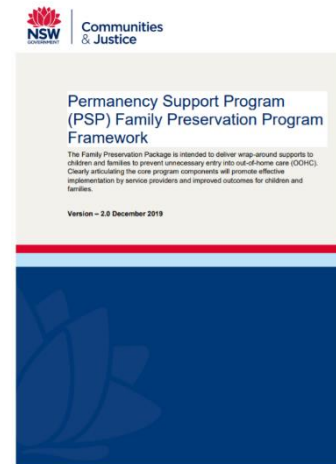
Link: [PSP Family Preservation Program Framework](#)

Pages: 32

Purpose: The [PSP Family Preservation Program Framework](#) (known as the program framework) outlines the delivery of family preservation services under the PSP. It gives the **why** and **what** of the PSP family preservation program.

The family preservation program logic has 8 sections:

- Introduction
- Why Family Preservation?
- Program Goals
- What works to keep families together?
- What does this mean for the Program Framework? (Includes delivery approach and core components.)
- Outcomes and measurements
- Roles and responsibilities
- The importance of implementation.



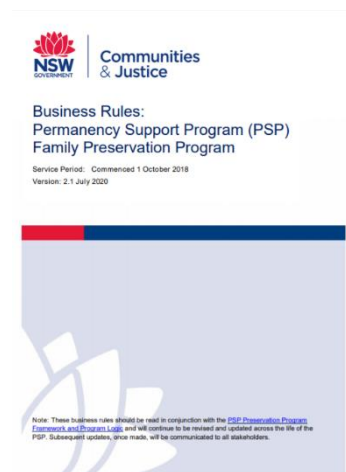
Family Preservation Business Rules

Link: [PSP Family Preservation Business Rules](#)

Pages: 32

Purpose: They explain the **how** of what needs to happen in the PSP family preservation program. The business rules give specific details on program components such as:

- referrals and referral refusal
- group supervision
- case coordination
- developing a Family Action Plan
- family group conferencing
- managing risk
- legal options
- roles and responsibilities
- dispute resolution
- brokerage
- record keeping
- closing a case.



Every caseworker, team leader and manager working in the family preservation space must be familiar with this document.

Aboriginal Case Management Policy (ACMP) Rules and Practice Guidance

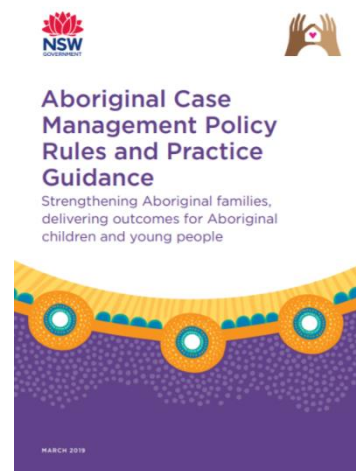
Link: [ACMP Rules and Practice Guidance](#)

Pages: 70

Purpose: This document supports casework staff to strengthen Aboriginal families and deliver positive outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people (children). The ACMP Rules and Practice Guidance covers four key areas:

- Aboriginal community response
- Aboriginal family strengthening
- Aboriginal child safety
- Roles of key stakeholders

Last updated by DCJ: March 2019



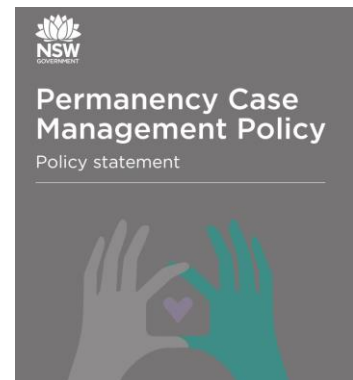
Permanency Case Management Policy (PCMP)

Link: [PCMP](#)

Pages: 10

Purpose: The Permanency Case Management Policy (PCMP) is designed to:

- explain the way we achieve safety, permanency and wellbeing for vulnerable children and young people by keeping them with or returning them to family, arranging a permanent legal guardian, supporting open adoption or providing long term care.
- clarify the different roles and responsibilities of NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and funded service providers (FSPs) in responding to child protection reports, assessing safety, and case planning for permanency and wellbeing.
- embed in practice culture a focussing on safety, permanency and wellbeing by:
 - responding (earlier) to the impact of trauma
 - collaborative and evidence-based approaches to casework practice
 - partnering with children, their families/kin, carers and people significant to them, to achieve meaningful change
 - engaging family strengths, nurturing resilience and giving dignity.



Last updated by DCJ: January 2020