

Family preservation and restoration

Keeping Aboriginal families together



Keeping Aboriginal families together safely is a priority. That's because vulnerable Aboriginal children and young people are much better off if they are living in a permanent, safe home with relatives or kin, in community and on Country. FACS is changing the child protection system to make it work better.

FACS has identified two ways to support vulnerable families staying together or being reunited:

1. Family preservation

The work that's done to keep families together. This involves providing support services that help strengthen families.

2. Family restoration

Reuniting children or young people with their parents or kin when it is safe for them to return home. This is the preferred choice for a child or young person who is placed in out-of-home care for a period of time.

Early intervention and effective family support

FACS will work to keep families together as early as possible and fund NGOs to deliver support to help them keep children and young people safely at home. This is early intervention. Support can include therapy, working with parents to strengthen their parenting and in-home support.

Family group conferencing and mediation are processes which can be used by families to sort out any issues and avoid going to court.

Aboriginal placement principles

Aboriginal placement principles focus on keeping Aboriginal children and young people within their families and communities.

The general order of placing Aboriginal children and young people is within their:

- immediate biological family
- extended family
- local Aboriginal community
- broader Aboriginal community.

This approach is supported by New South Wales child protection laws.