

# TEI Program Logic

## Current Situation

- The number of children reported at risk of significant harm continues to grow (NSW Government, 2016).
- Aboriginal people are overrepresented across all of our service streams and a significant number of Aboriginal people are multi-service clients. Evidence suggests if we continue along our current path, life outcomes for Aboriginal people will continue to worsen (Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy, 2018)
- We are achieving positive outcomes through current TEI services, but more people could be helped earlier.
- In the past, rigid program and funding structures have limited the ability of services to be responsive to local need.
- A lack of evidence contributes to the variability of services and limits the ability of DCJ to commission evidence-informed services (FACS, 2016).

## Evidence

### Early Intervention

Effective prevention and early intervention is the most promising strategy for improving children's life outcomes. There is clear evidence that improving the wellbeing of families and communities can improve children's life chances. This requires flexible and responsive systems that can respond early and effectively to issues and challenges.

*(Better Systems, Better Chances, ARACY 2015)*

### Community Strengthening

Community development has positive outcomes for children, young people and families, this includes increasing:

- parenting skills
- parental confidence
- self-awareness and confidence
- visits to health professionals and other services
- knowledge and understanding of money management
- employment
- re-engagement with education.

Community Development has also been shown to decrease:

- injury and suicide rates
- low literacy levels
- alcohol-related hospitalisation
- crime rates

*(Snijder, 2017)*

### Safety and wellbeing of children , young people and families

Extensive research into the effectiveness of a variety of early care and education programs has identified five key characteristics that are linked to positive outcomes.

These 5 key characteristics include:

1. build caregiver skills
2. match interventions to sources of significant stress i.e. financial burden, mental health issues of parent, child with special needs
3. support the health and nutrition of children and mothers before, during and after pregnancy
4. improve the quality of the broader caregiving environment
5. establish clear goals and targeted curricula

*(Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, 2016)*

## Program Streams

### Community Strengthening stream

- Program activity 1: develop community connections
- Program activity 2: provide a community centre
- Program activity 3: provide community support

### Safety and Wellbeing stream

- Program activity 4: provide targeted support
- Program activity 5: provide intensive or specialist support

## Mechanisms of Change

- Developing community connections will build social capital and local networks. This will promote tolerance and understanding which will create stronger communities.
- Providing a community centre will provide a place for people to meet, interact and volunteer. It will also provide a soft entry point with supported referrals for people who need more targeted intensive support.
- Providing community support will increase the knowledge, skills, experience, confidence and wellbeing of community members to support their goals.
  - Providing targeted support will ensure that the needs of people with known vulnerabilities are met and their outcomes improved (such as domestic and family violence, mental health needs, drug and alcohol needs, and social and economic disadvantage).
- Providing intensive and specialist support will ensure the needs of people with high and/or complex needs are met and their outcomes are improved.

## TEI Client Outcomes



**Social & Community:**  
Increased participation in community events  
Increased sense of belonging in the community



**Empowerment:**  
Increased self-determination



**Education & Skills:**  
Increased school attendance and achievement



**Economic:**  
Sustained participation in employment



**Safety:**  
Reduced risk of entry into the child protection system



**Health (physical & mental):**  
Improved health of children and young people  
Improved parent health



**Home:**  
Sustained safe and stable housing

## References

- Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy 2017-2021, Department of Family and Community Services
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