## In this edition

This edition of TEI Inform includes an update on:

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## Provider-led discussions with FACS Districts

District plans are being updated with the latest available data, and will be published on the FACS website. The plans will provide a District overview and priorities for the District.

FACS will not ask service providers to make changes to activities, locations or client groups, however service providers may request positive changes consistent with District priorities.

No changes will be made to Program Level Agreements (PLA) or Service Delivery Schedules (SDS).

Funding, under existing contracts will remain the same through to 30 June 2020.

## TEI pathways and activity mapping

There are two pathways available for service providers, both of which involve retaining the current funding commitment and contracts until 30 June 2020:

* **Pathway 1 -** service provider chooses to **align** with the TEI Outcomes Framework, and review some of their activities
* **Pathway 2 -** service provider chooses to **not align** with the TEI Outcomes Framework (existing service delivery and program data collection continues).

For more information about the two pathways see the related flow chart [Provider-led Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) Pathways flow chart 2018](https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/download?file=641608).

The two pathways will apply to 30 June 2020. What happens from 1 July 2020 will be informed by re-commissioning planning and design work with the sector through 2019.

***Pathway 1***

Service providers choosing Pathway 1 will be trained and supported to use the Department of Social Services Data Exchange (DEX), and the Personal Wellbeing Index, and supported to develop program logics for their service delivery. Service providers who choose this pathway will not be required to continue existing program data reporting arrangements, as DEX will replace these.

DEX training for providers and FACS District staff will begin in December 2018, and further sessions will be held in February and March 2019. Information on these training

sessions is available [here](https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/providers/children-families/early-intervention/tei-inform/previous-issues/targeted-earlier-intervention-program-reform-newsletter-edition-37/chapters/dex-fact-sheet-and-training-schedule). Once service providers have completed the DEX training they may begin using the DEX and cease reporting in traditional data systems.

An [Activity Mapping template](https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/download?file=641610) and [User Guide](https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/download?file=641591) has been developed to record changes to service delivery and map existing activities to the TEI framework and enable DEX reporting.

Completing the Activity Mapping Template will not result in changes to existing contracts, however the mapping template can be used by FACS and service providers at the end of the reporting period as an acknowledgement and record of any service improvements, in line with the outcomes framework.

Service providers wishing to discuss their existing Service Delivery Schedules are able to request this, as per normal contract management processes, but this is not required as part of TEI next steps.

***Pathway 2***

For service providers choosing Pathway 2 it will mean business as usual, continuation of current service delivery and reporting arrangements.

Where a service provider initially chooses no alignment with the TEI Outcomes Framework (pathway 2), they can also at any time re-consider and decide to align (pathway 1) at any time before contracts are recommissioned in 2020.

## Sector Assistance Strategy update

The TEI Sector Assistance Strategy (SAS) will continue to be implemented for all TEI services.

ACWA will continue to facilitate sector-wide training to all TEI service providers through 2019. The training schedule for 2019 will be influenced by demand data ACWA acquires from the waiting list information on their website.

Priorityaccess to specific support training will be given to service providers choosing pathways 1, where required.

NCOSS will continue to deliver the SAS panel with an increased focus on program logics.

Stage 2 of the Strategy will involve supporting TEI Aboriginal capacity building, DEX training and support, and other training as needed.

## Evidence and Evaluation Fund

A TEI Evidence and Evaluation Fund is being established to help build the evidence base for earlier intervention with state-wide priority groups and targeted service types. The Fund will be rolled out in 2019 and provide the opportunity for successful applicants to properly evaluate and demonstrate their effectiveness, and support and promote evidence of the human and economic value of early intervention services.

## What Works

The literature on prevention and early intervention is clear - getting it right, both early in life and at critical points improves outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and families.

We know that effective early invention can greatly reduce the likelihood of a child or young person facing challenges such as: low participation and attainment in education; poor physical and mental health; welfare dependency; substance misuse; and involvement with the criminal justice system.

To further support the move to evidence informed practice across early intervention, a showcase of *What Works* in prevention and early intervention will be developed in 2019. FACS, Their Futures Matter and NSW Treasury will partner on this initiative, and focus on the best of local and international evidence for social and economic outcomes, in translation to the NSW context.

This evidence base will also inform re-commissioning in 2020.

## Further information

* Updated [FAQs](https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/providers/children-families/early-intervention/faqs)
* For contracting queries please contact your District Commissioning & Planning team
* For general queries please contact the TEI mailbox at [TEIReform@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:TEIReform@facs.nsw.gov.au)