

Family Preservation Program Funding Approach

Briana Jurgeit, Director, Family
Preservation & Child Protection

7 May 2025

Acknowledgment of Country



'Family Meeting Dreaming' - Danial Kelly (Wodi wodi/Yuin Nation)

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Nations Peoples of NSW and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and future.

We also acknowledge that family is the cornerstone of Aboriginal culture, spirituality and identity.

Through our work we will strive to ensure Aboriginal children and young people grow up safe and cared for in family, community and culture.

Introduction



Facilitator: Briana Jurgeit, Director Family Preservation and Child Protection.

Today's forum is a briefing session on the recently released *Family Preservation Funding Approach*.

We will be using the Slido platform to capture questions and discussion points.

The Family Preservation microsite will be updated post forum with information presented today, including a recording of this briefing and the slide deck.

We are aware of new AI tools being used by some organisations that can be integrated with Microsoft Teams and enable features such as meeting recording. Please be mindful of these features being automatically enabled. Family Preservation's protocol is to remove AI bots from the meeting.

If you have any questions throughout today's briefing...



Use your mobile to scan the QR
code

or

Join at
[slido.com](https://slido.com/join/4277819)
[#4277819](https://slido.com/join/4277819)

Today's Forum

Item		Agenda
1	Family Preservation	Recommissioning update
2	Funding approach	overview
3	Next steps	

Family Preservation Recommissioning update

Briana Jurgeit

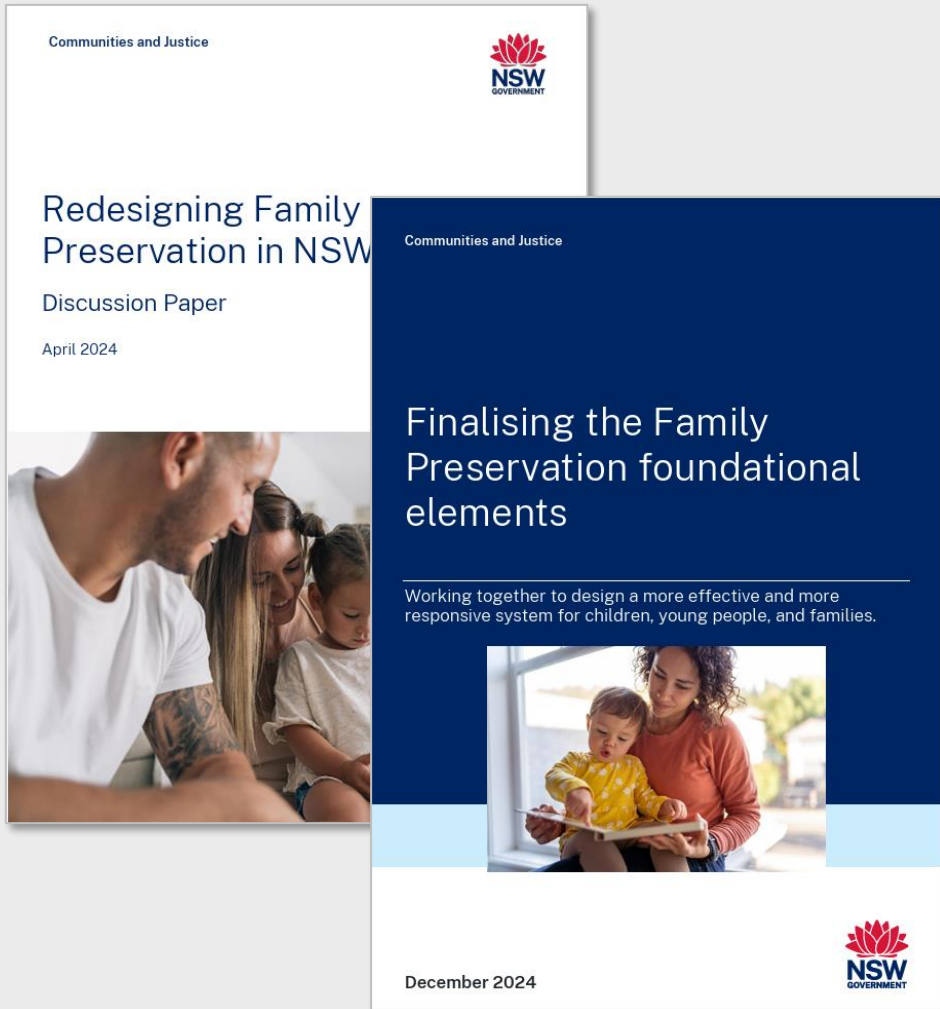
Key updates

Topic	Update
Contract variations	<p>DCJ will extend current Family Preservation contracts for an additional term of 9-months, for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.</p> <p>Current service providers have been contacted by their contract manager to execute the Letter of Variation by signature of two authorised officers. Please execute the Letter of Variation no later than COB Friday 23 May 2025.</p>
Procurement update	<p>On April 8, Family Preservation emailed stakeholders outlining the procurement approach we intend to take for each framework/model, subject to approval. The Family Preservation website was also updated. Key points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Families Together, this will likely be an open tender.• For ACCO-delivered Aboriginal Family Preservation, this will likely be an open tender.• For Multisystemic Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN), this will likely be through single-invited tenders.• For Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare (FFT-CW) this will likely be through single-invited tenders.• We anticipate these processes will commence at the end of May, with Families Together and Aboriginal Family Preservation tenders being open for 8 weeks.

Family Preservation Funding Approach- Overview

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Background to the *Family Preservation Funding Approach*



DCJ has been working with the sector over the last three years to redesign the Family Preservation service system in NSW to improve the outcomes, experience, suitability, and accessibility for families.

- The *Redesigning Family Preservation in NSW Discussion Paper* set out our vision for Family Preservation, synthesising the ideas and perspectives brought to the table by ACCO service providers, non-ACCO service providers, DCJ central office, DCJ districts, peak bodies, and other government departments and organisations.
- The *Finalising the Family Preservation foundational elements paper* summarised stakeholder feedback in response to the Discussion Paper and communicates DCJ's final position on key elements of the design ahead of procurement activity in 2025.

The *Funding Approach* supports the ambitious design and delivers better outcomes for children, families, and communities.



Based on extensive engagement, we have developed **five guiding principles** to underpin the Family Preservation funding approach.

- **Transparent:** Building trust with the sector and providing accountability by clearly explaining the process of determining funding positions and how resources are allocated across the state.
- **Secure:** Giving service providers long-term funding certainty to enable strategic planning and innovation and improving workforce development and retention - ultimately services that deliver better outcomes
- **Sustainable:** Building an effective and efficient system delivers a high-quality service and good outcomes within its means. Service providers are paid appropriately and provided implementation support, and that DCJ, as commissioners, can expect high-quality services.
- **Equitable:** Ensuring services are funded to deliver culturally safe, respectful, inclusive, and responsive to individual differences. For Aboriginal families, this recognises the systemic barriers and ongoing injustices that has resulted in Aboriginal children being over-represented in the child protection system.
- **Targeted:** Directing finite resources to those who need it most and where it can have the most impact.

The *Funding Approach* delivers on NSW Government commitments.



Secure Jobs and Funding Certainty

The NSW Government committed to enhancing job security and funding certainty for the community services sector by:

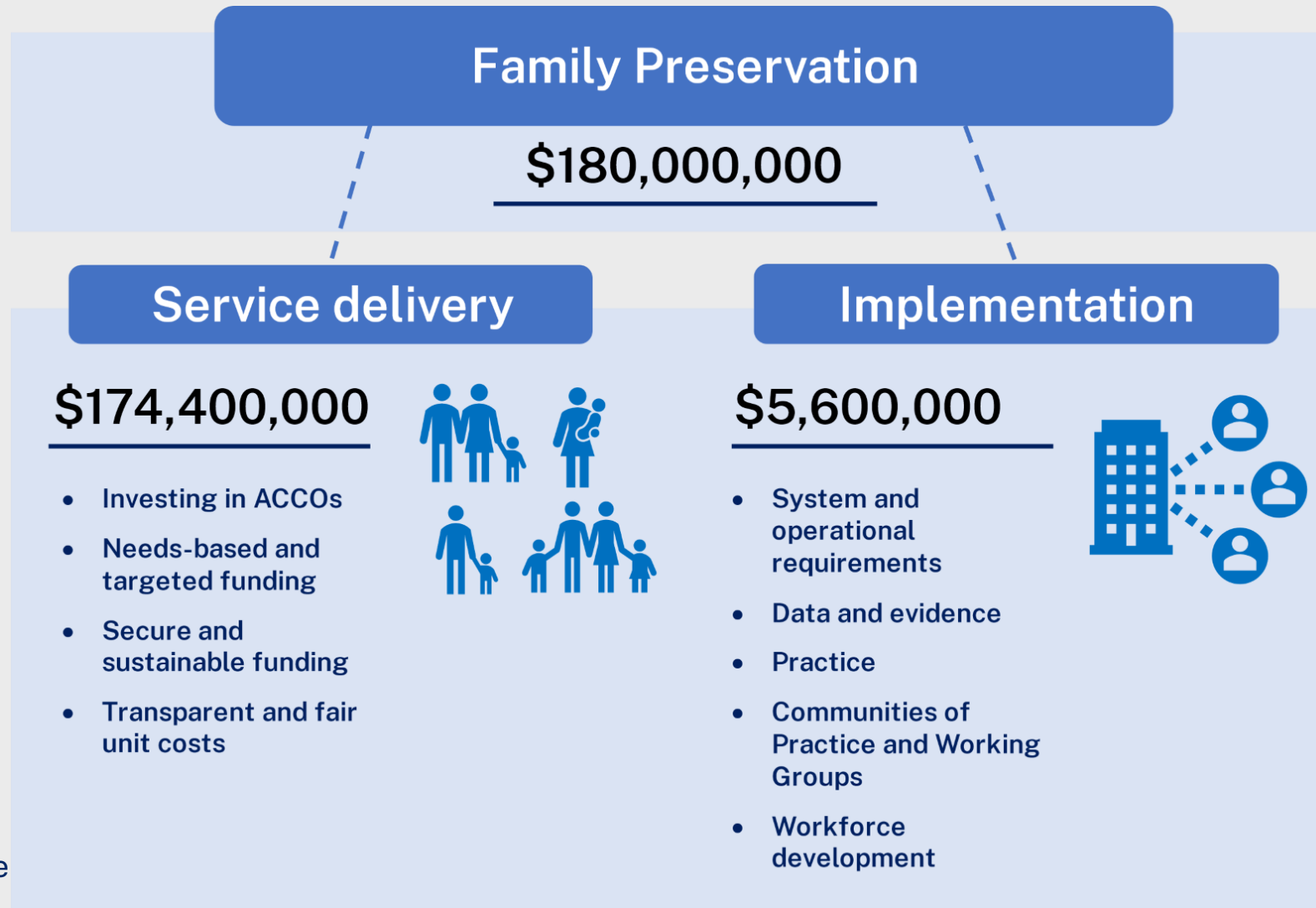
- Introducing longer-term funding arrangements (up to five-year contracts) for key community service providers.
- Establishing a Leadership Group
- Establishing an all-of-government prequalification process

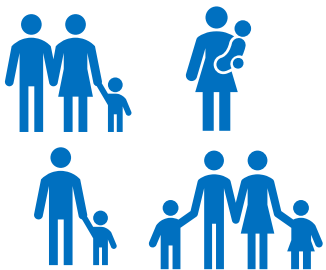
Family is Culture

The Family is Culture (FiC) Review Report made 126 recommendations, including a strong emphasis on early intervention and prevention services. One of the key recommendations was to invest in ACCOs to deliver these services.



The *Funding Approach* outlines two distinct investment components: Service Delivery and Implementation





Service Delivery

Investing in Family Preservation service delivery



Our approach to investment in service delivery has focused on four key areas to build a system that is responsive, effective, and efficient for children, young people, and families.



Investment
in ACCOs



Needs-based
and
targeted
funding



Secure
and
sustainable
funding



Transparent
and
fair unit
costs



Service Delivery

Investment in ACCOs

Investing in ACCOs



- We have set a state-wide ACCO sector investment target for Family Preservation of **40 per cent, equating to over \$69.5 million per year.**
- We will provide this funding to ACCOs **from the outset of new contracts in 2026**, supporting new and expanding ACCOs to scale up their organisations in line with this growth in investment.
- Most of the ACCO investment target will be achieved by commissioning the new, ACCO-only ***Aboriginal Family Preservation*** framework, which allows ACCOs to design Family Preservation models with community.





Service Delivery

Needs-based and
targeted funding

Directing services based on need



- For the first time in Family Preservation, we have adopted a **needs-based funding approach** to direct supports across the parts of our community that need it most.
- We have analysed child-protection **administrative data** to understand the needs of children, young people, and families across NSW and within each district and used the following data to inform our analysis of need and demand: **Children and young people (CYP) at risk of significant harm (ROSH), and CYP entering care.**
- We have also given a **weighting for Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) CYP** given the additional supports they require to meet their cultural needs
- The funding envelope for NSW has been **distributed to each district based on this analysis.**



Service Delivery

Needs-based and
targeted funding

Distribution of funding across districts



2026/27 financial year annualised contract values to nearest \$100,000

District	Allocation (excluding GST)
Hunter Central Coast	\$31,000,000
Murrumbidgee Far West Western NSW	\$26,000,000
Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW	\$18,500,000
Mid North Coast New England and Northern NSW	\$29,900,000
Western Sydney Nepean Blue Mountains	\$27,600,000
Sydney South Eastern Sydney Northern Sydney	\$19,600,000
South Western Sydney	\$21,000,000
Statewide CALD service	\$800,000
TOTAL	\$174,400,000³



Service Delivery

Secure and
sustainable funding

Secure and sustainable funding



We will provide security and stability in two ways:

1. Introducing **five-year contracts** – not three years
2. Introducing **block funding with minimum contract values** – not referral-based funding

Most likely contract values:

	Large		Medium		Small	
Framework/model	No. of places	Contract value (ex. GST)	No. of places	Contract value (ex. GST)	No. of places	Contract value (ex. GST)
Aboriginal Family Preservation	35	\$ 1,886,920	21	\$1,132,152	14 ⁵	\$754,768
Families Together	35	\$1,498,455	21	\$899,073	14	\$599,382
MST-CAN	16	\$1,653,472	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
FFT-CW (High Track)	72	\$1,283,184	56	\$998,032	40	\$712,880



Service Delivery

Transparent and fair
unit costs

Developing fair unit costs



Unit costs ensures economic accountability to the people of NSW. Key benefits include transparency, reliable data and consistency. The unit costs for the models DCJ will be commissioning are outlined below:

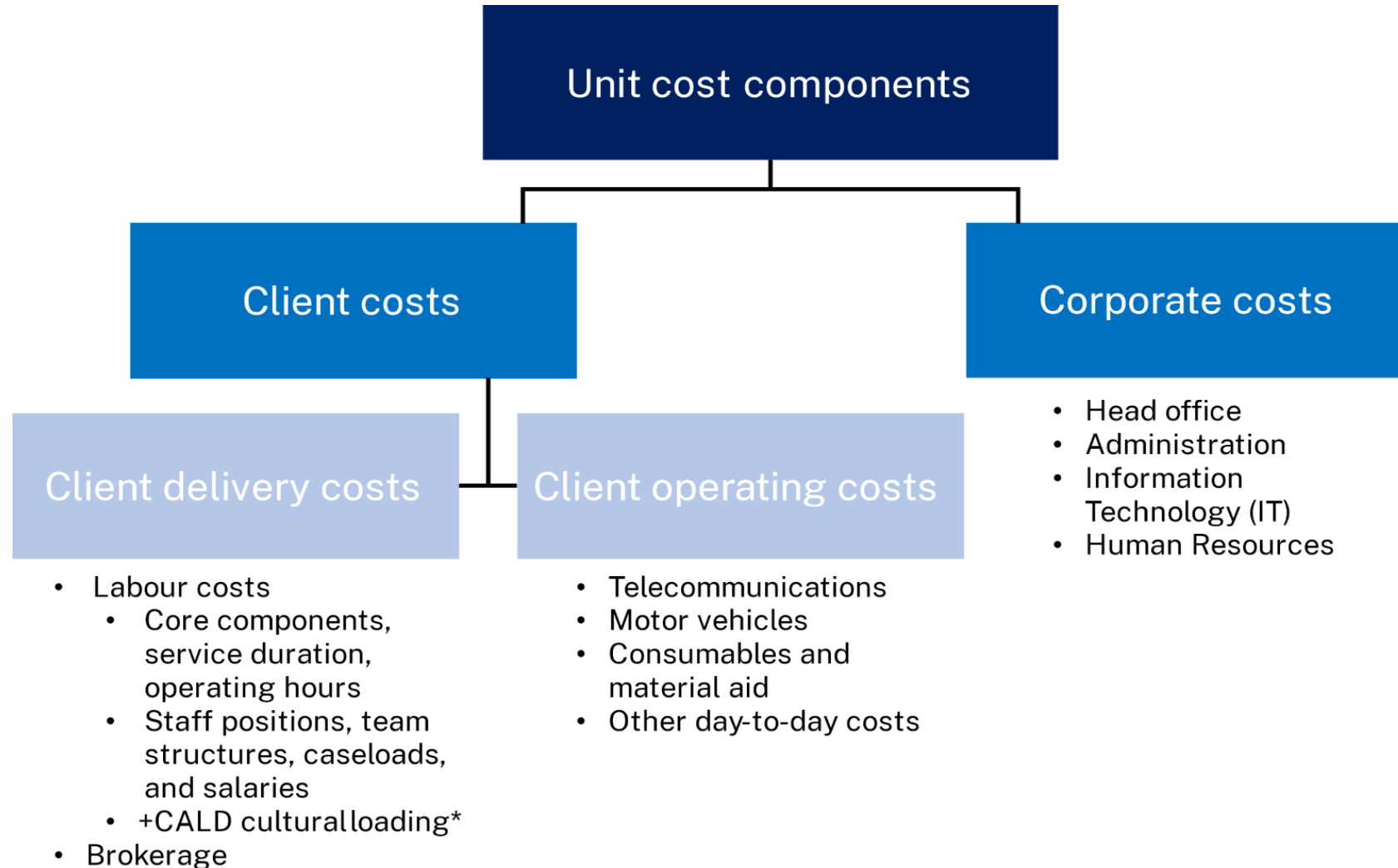
Framework/model	Unit cost (2026/27 financial year, ex. GST)	Service duration
Aboriginal Family Preservation	\$53,912 (Including up to \$5,000 brokerage)	12 months (noting that under the design, ACCOs will determine their own service duration as part of their model development)
Families Together	Standard place: \$42,813 CALD: \$50,212 (including up to \$5,000 brokerage)	12 months (noting that this is the average service duration across all families)
FFT-CW (High-Track)	\$17,822 (including brokerage)	6-9 months
MST-CAN	\$103,342 (including brokerage)	6-9 months
Nabu	\$64,366 (including brokerage)	3-18 months



Service Delivery

Transparent and fair
unit costs

Costing Families Together and Aboriginal Family Preservation





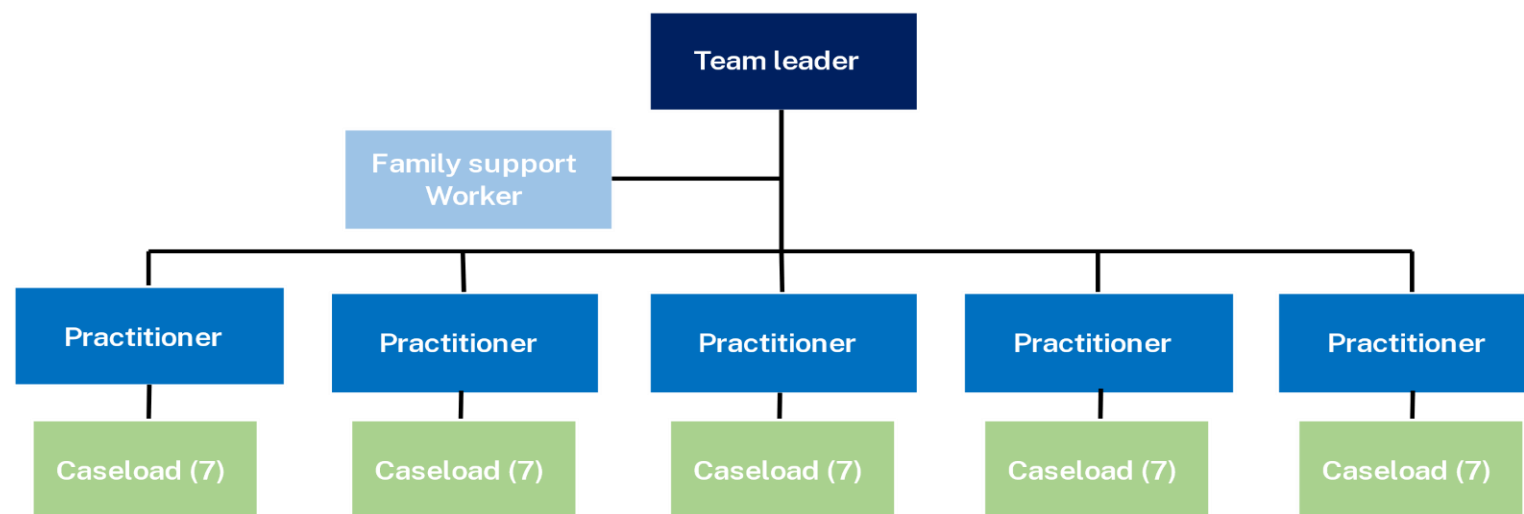
Service Delivery

Transparent and fair
unit costs

Families Together - client delivery costs



While **we will not be prescribing staff positions**, team structures, practitioner caseloads, or salaries, we used the 5 core components to build an **indicative team structure and caseload** used to calculate the *Families Together* framework client delivery costs. We have assumed pay rates from the **SCHADS award** and operating hours from 6am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.



CALD cultural loading: Contracts will specify the number of places that will be dedicated to CALD clients with specific needs and provide a 20 per cent loading



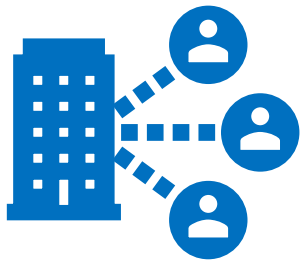
Service Delivery

Transparent and fair
unit costs

Aboriginal Family Preservation - Client delivery costs



- To calculate the labour costs for *Aboriginal Family Preservation*, we used the Families Together indicative model as a base and **applied an additional 30 per cent**.
- This uses the **7 core components** under the *Aboriginal Family Preservation* framework.
- The additional funding recognises the **extra time and/or resource ACCOs will need to deliver the Healing and Advocacy** core components and service activities.
- ACCOs will be able to spend this additional funding **in a manner which supports children and families to achieve their outcomes** and may include specialist and/or more practitioners.



Implementation

Investing in implementation

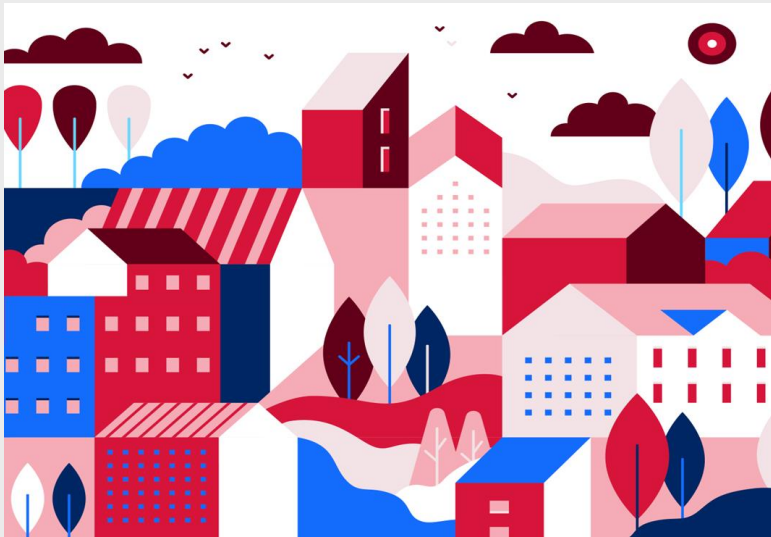


- Dedicated and ongoing implementation investment worth **\$5.6 million per year**.
- **Strong implementation and continuous service improvement** are key drivers to ensuring Family Preservation services deliver outcomes for children, families, and communities.
- We are developing a Family Preservation Implementation Plan that considers how to **support the sector in a phased approach over the contract period**. It will consider:
 - System and operational requirements
 - Data and evidence
 - Practice
 - Communities of Practice and Working Groups
 - Workforce development.
- We will **collaborate** with the sector to develop and refine the Family Preservation Implementation Plan,

We want to provide the sector with security and a clear vision for the future. We are developing a comprehensive transition plan.

Our goals are to:

- Minimise disruption to service provision whilst **maintaining consistent support for families**.
- Ensure seamless **collaboration between DCJ and service providers** for smooth and effective transition of services.
- Ensure **clear and timely communication** with stakeholders, including service providers, DCJ, and families, to build confidence and transparency.
- Establish **clear governance structures** to oversee the transition, ensuring accountability, decision-making clarity, and effective risk management.
- Support **provider readiness** by ensuring that service providers have the necessary resources to effectively implement the new system.
- Safeguard the **integrity of data and records** to ensure continuity of care and support.
- **Maintain performance** outcomes during the transition to avoid any dip in service quality.



Next Steps

Preparing for procurement

The Finalising the Family Preservation foundational elements paper set out the suite of models that DCJ will be commissioning from 1 April 2026. The below outlines the procurement approach we intend to take for each:

- For **Families Together**, this will likely be an open tender.
- For **ACCO-delivered Aboriginal Family Preservation**, this will likely be an open tender.
- For **Multisystemic Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN)**, this will likely be through single-invited tenders.
- For **Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare (FFT-CW)** this will likely be through single-invited tenders.

We anticipate these processes will commence at the end of May, with Families Together and Aboriginal Family Preservation tenders being open for 8 weeks.

From 1 April 2026, DCJ will no longer commission Brighter Futures, Youth Hope, Intensive Family Preservation, Resilient Families, Intensive Family Based Services, Permanency Support Program – Family Preservation (PSP-FP).

Proactively register to receive notifications and participate in upcoming tender opportunities

- Procurement Central is the platform that DCJ will use for the majority of its sourcing activities.
- Accordingly, DCJ invites you to proactively register in Procurement Central in order to receive future tender notifications and participate in tender opportunities.
- DCJ tenders can only be accessed and responded via the Department's end to end procurement system, Procurement Central. Any submissions lodged outside of Procurement Central are not considered by the Department.
- To register, please go to <https://justice.bravosolution.com/web/login.html>
- Organisations who have not registered on Procurement Central are not be able to access tender information. If you have already registered on Procurement Central, you are not required to register again.
- If you require assistance with registering on Procurement Central, you may contact the Customer Support by calling 02 8074 8627 or emailing customersupport@jaggaer.com
- Additionally, all NSW Government suppliers are required to be registered on the [buy NSW](#) Supplier Hub.

Peaks – FAMS, AbSec, ACWA



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Email us: FamilyPreservation@dcj.nsw.gov.au

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