

Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care

Public Hearing Session 2

An SA case study of creating a 'learning system' using big data and program data from the Early Intervention Research Directorate (EIRD) and Child and Family Support System

27 March 2023



Government of
South Australia



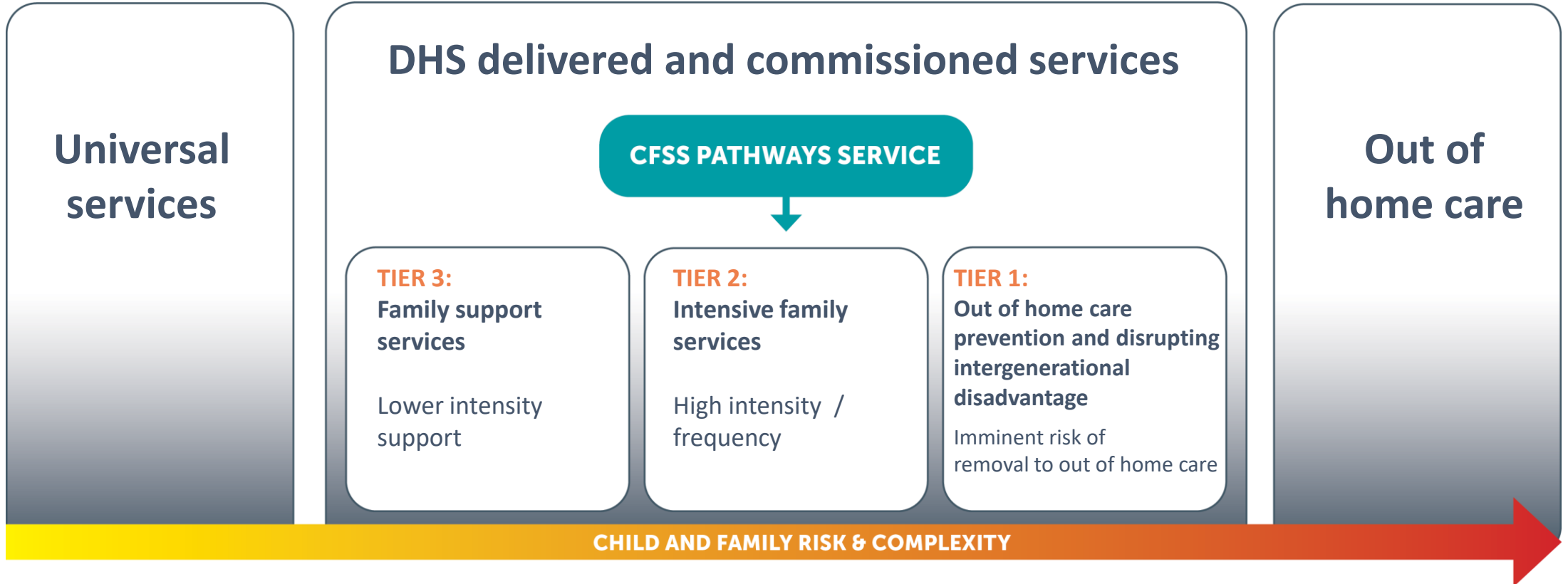
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Acknowledgement

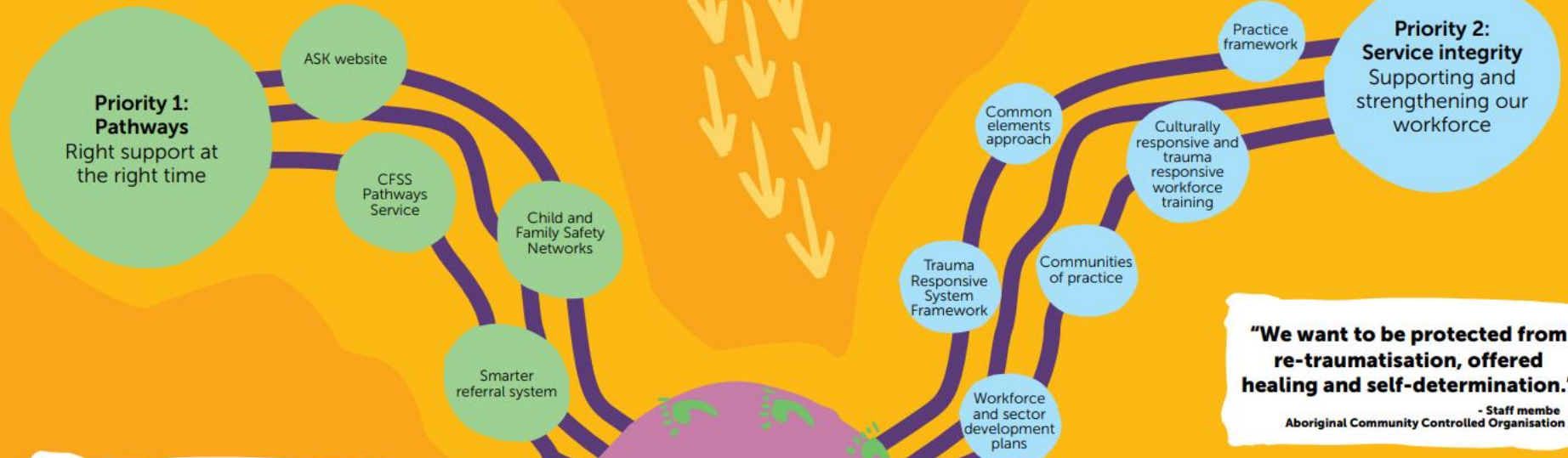
We would like to acknowledge this land that we meet on today is the traditional lands for the Kurna people and we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.

We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today.

Child and family support system (CFSS): overview



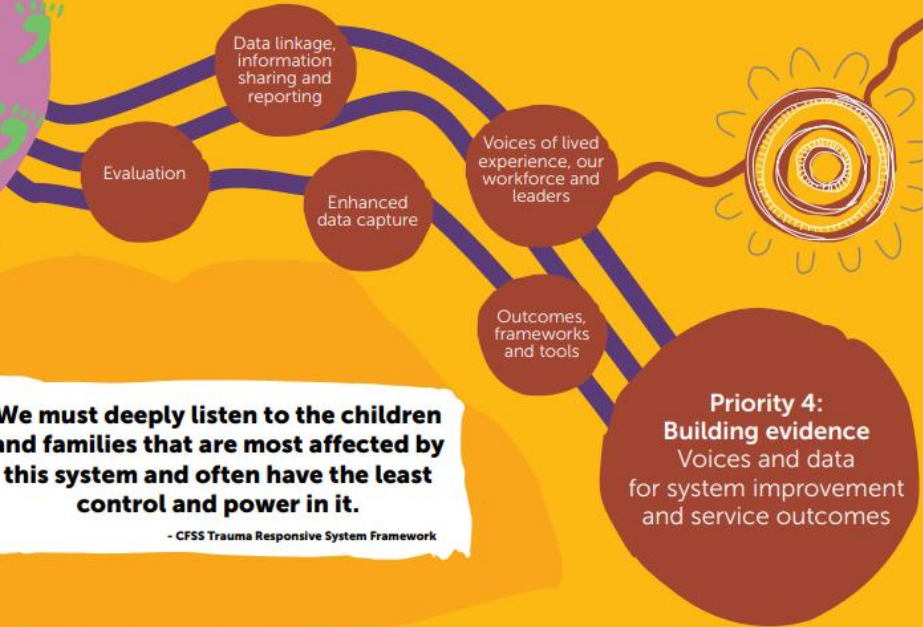




Building a trauma responsive and healing system will not be easy – we know it will be challenging and hard but we are up for it.
- CFSS Trauma Responsive System Framework

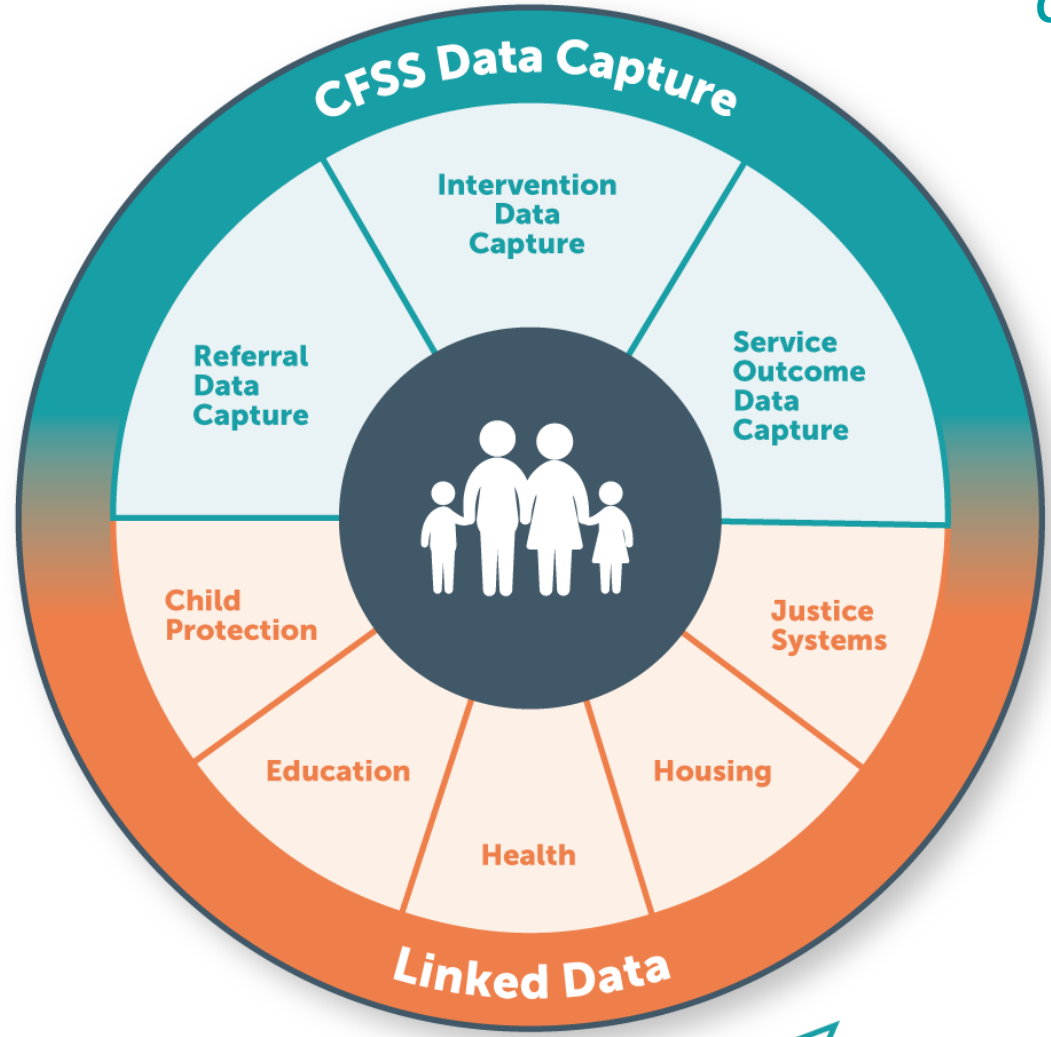
“We want to be protected from re-traumatisation, offered healing and self-determination.”
- Staff member
Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation

Our Healing Approach



We must deeply listen to the children and families that are most affected by this system and often have the least control and power in it.
- CFSS Trauma Responsive System Framework

The new CFSS data system



CFSS data capture

Referral data

- Family structure
- Concerns at referral
- Geography / region
- Timeliness of response
- Service intensity
- Referral source

Intervention data

- Mental illness
- Substance abuse
- Disability
- Housing
- Family supports
- Domestic violence
- Childcare
- Family functioning
- Financial stress
- Criminality
- Parental capacity

Service outcome data

- Safety goals
- Social connectedness
- Service engagement
- Family function
- Parental capacity
- Change in risk factors

Linked Data

Child protection

- Re-notification
- Investigations
- Out of home care

Education

- School attendance
- Schools / areas with most need

Health

- Perinatal data
- Antenatal data
- ED presentations

Housing

- Social housing
- Homelessness

Justice System

- Youth criminality
- Adult criminality

Child and Family Journey to Safety and Wellbeing

Different families have different challenges. A range of tools have been developed to capture data at key points in a family's journey in the Child and Family Support System (CFSS). These tools will help us to learn about the current circumstances, stressors, and strengths of the families that we work with to help us build a system-level understanding of our families, and to measure the impact of the services we provide.

Worries are raised

Someone identifies a family is showing signs of risk or vulnerability and needs additional support.

Referral is made

A request is made to connect the family with a service to support you to make positive changes and keep their children safe at home.



Connected to child and family support service

The Pathways service does an assessment of family needs and strengths, to match them to the right type and intensity of service.

This initial assessment also helps us to collect baseline information about family safety, strengths, and needs. Data on referral decisions helps us monitor the appropriateness of referrals, service gaps and our system's capacity to meet demand.

The CFSS worker talks to the family about why they are there, what they do, the child safety concerns and the importance of engaging with the service. They listen to the family's story, worries, strengths and hopes.

This is completed at the start of engagement to capture data about a family's current circumstances, stressors and strengths.

It helps us understand a family's starting point, build a system-level understanding of the families we work with and measure the impact of our services.

This plan outlines immediate risks to child and family safety and sets clear, measurable safety goals to ensure their safety in the short term.

This is a more detailed assessment of a family's current situation. It helps to identify what a family is doing well and areas where they need support to make changes.

Informed by the assessment and by the family, the case plan is about working together on achieving goals to sustain children's safety and to strengthen the family.

The CFSS worker meets regularly with the family to help them achieve their case plan goals. This includes connecting them to other supports, celebrating achievements, problem-solving challenges and planning next steps. The case plan is updated as goals are achieved and needs change.

This is to review progress with the family. It is a chance to acknowledge their achievements, and seek their feedback on what has worked, and what supports they may need to sustain positive changes.

It helps us to understand a family's progress towards achieving case plan goals, barriers to achieving outcomes, engagement with other services and program effectiveness.

The Family Snapshot questions are asked again.

It helps us capture a system-level picture of the types of challenges facing families and whether our services help them to improve family functioning over time.

Our service is here to help keep children safe and well at home. This means helping them to sustain positive changes they have made through connections with other services and community support.

Our Outcomes Hierarchy helps guide our efforts across the CFSS toward the achievement of shared outcomes for children and families.



Our Journey to Safety and Wellbeing

Families working with child and family support services

Worries are raised

Someone is worried about your family and your children's safety.

Referral is made

A referral is made to connect your family to the right support service to help keep your children safe at home.

Connected to child and family support service

A child and family support service is found to match your needs.

Your worker talks with you about your children's safety and wellbeing, how they can support you, and about your involvement with the service. They listen to your story, strengths, worries and hopes.

A written plan is made for the immediate things that need to happen to ensure your children and family are safe.

Some short questions are asked to help us make sure our service is working for you, and to understand what might help other families in the future. Your information will be kept confidential.

Your worker talks with you about your family's current situation to identify strengths, and areas where support is needed to make changes.

A plan is created with you on how we will work together on steps to achieve goals to make sure your children and family are safe and well.

Your worker meets regularly with you to work on your case goals, through problem solving, connecting you to other services and community support, working with your strengths and celebrating progress. Your plan will be updated as you make progress or when your needs change.

Some short questions are asked again to check that our services are working for you, and to help us plan services for other families in the future.

At the end of our time together, we reflect on the progress you and your family have made, and make sure you are connected to any other helpful services or community supports to maintain positive changes.

Start working with the child and family support service
1st visit

Safety plan developed
By end of 3rd visit

Family snapshot completed
Within 6 weeks

Assessment completed
Within 6 – 8 weeks

Case plan completed
Within 6 – 8 weeks

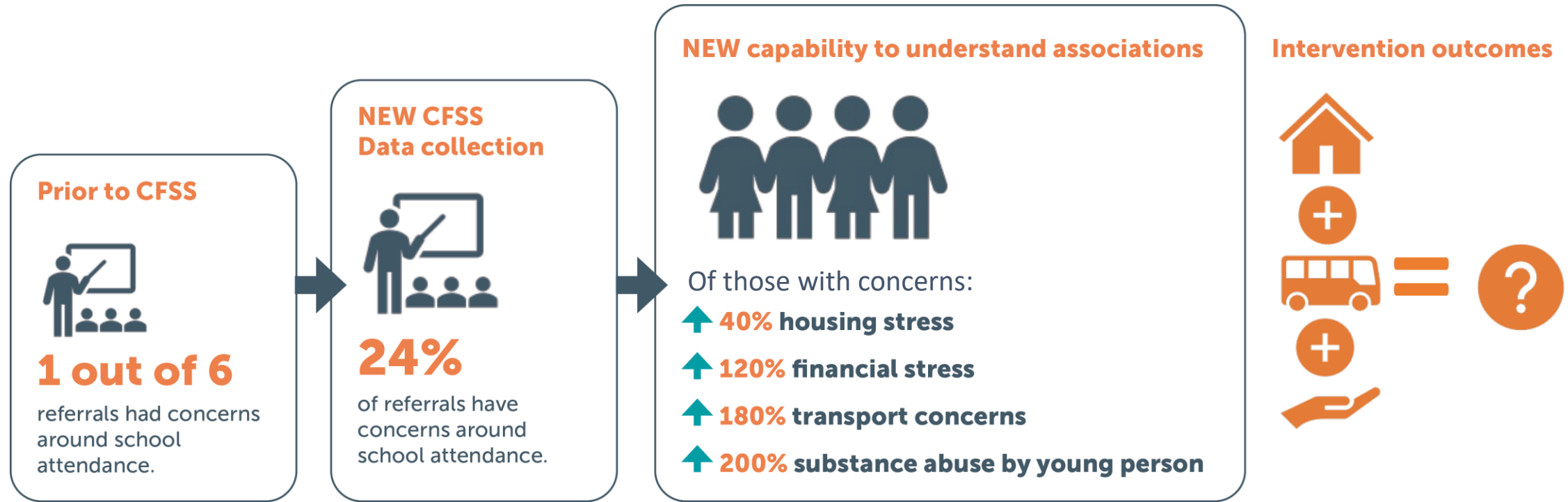
Case plan implemented
Ongoing

Follow-up family snapshot completed at the end of our support journey

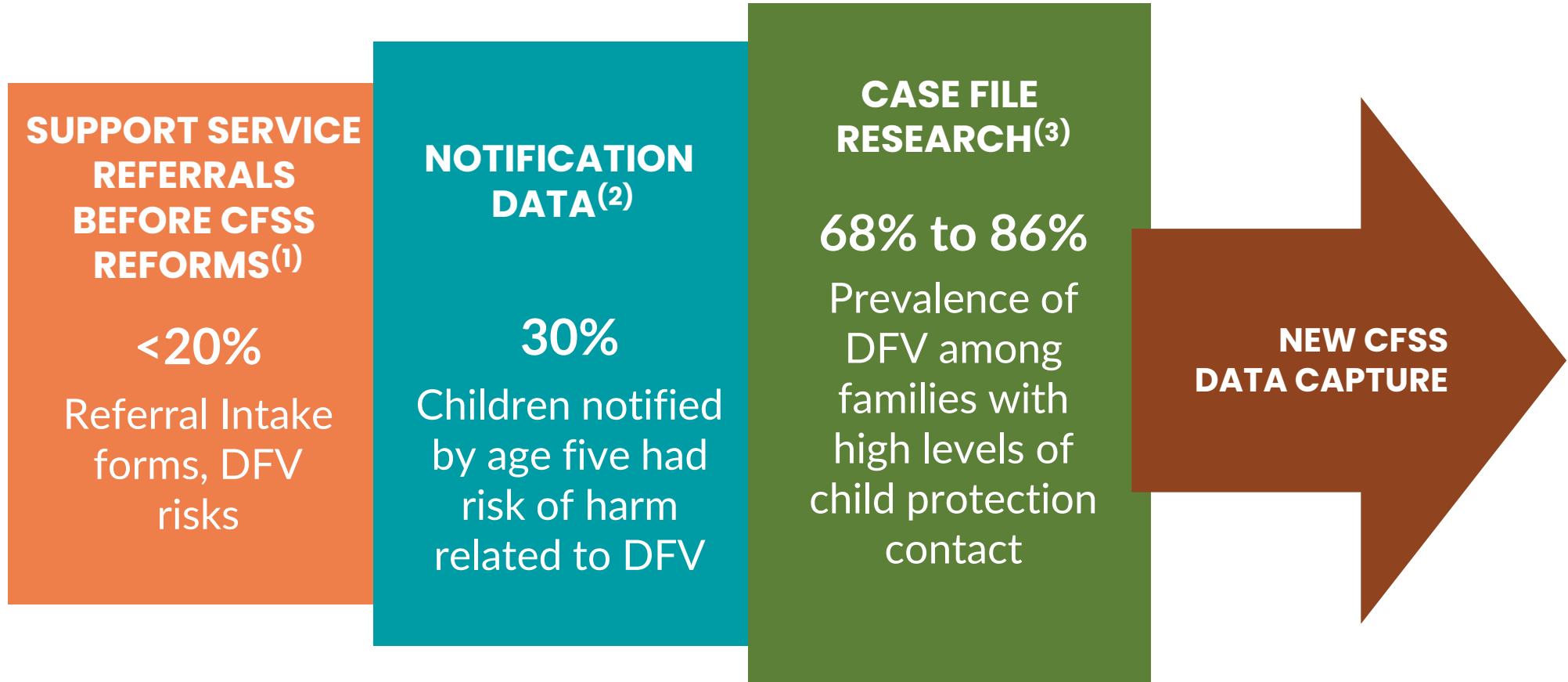
Case closure summary completed
Closure and connections to community



New CFSS data capture provides increased visibility of factors impacting child well-being



Prior to CFSS data collection, the visibility of key risk factors was inconsistent with research

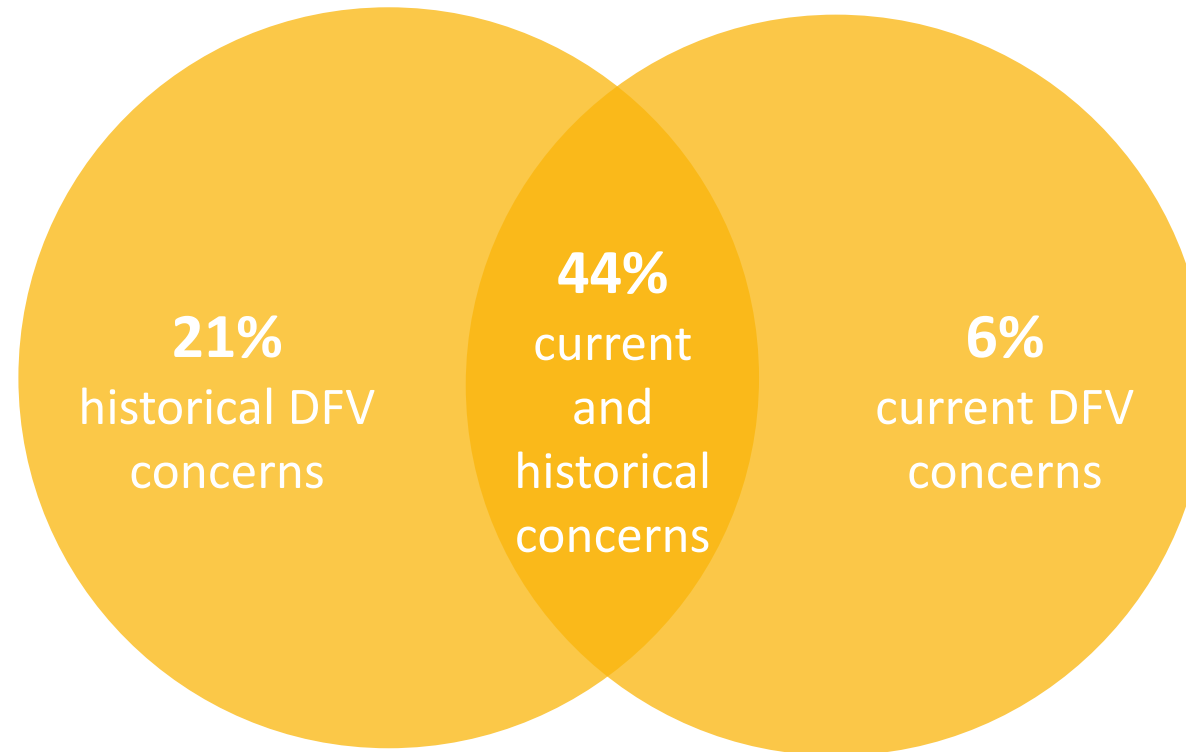


Notes

1. SFS intake information recorded with case notes, no structured data capture, analysed by EIRD.
2. How much domestic violence is recorded in the SA child protection electronic data systems? (2017), BetterStart, University of Adelaide
3. Estimates relate to various cohorts defined by family characteristics reported in: Early Intervention Research Directorate (EIRD) Case File Review Research Policy Brief #3 & Policy Brief#4 (2018), Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia

New CFSS data capture provides increased visibility of risk factors

Over 70% of all families had current and/or past domestic and family violence concerns recorded at referral



Source: CFSS data, Referrals received during 2021/22, DRAFT as at 22/12/22

Case plan goals related to domestic and family violence

Families receiving an Intensive Family Service

40% domestic and family violence related case goal

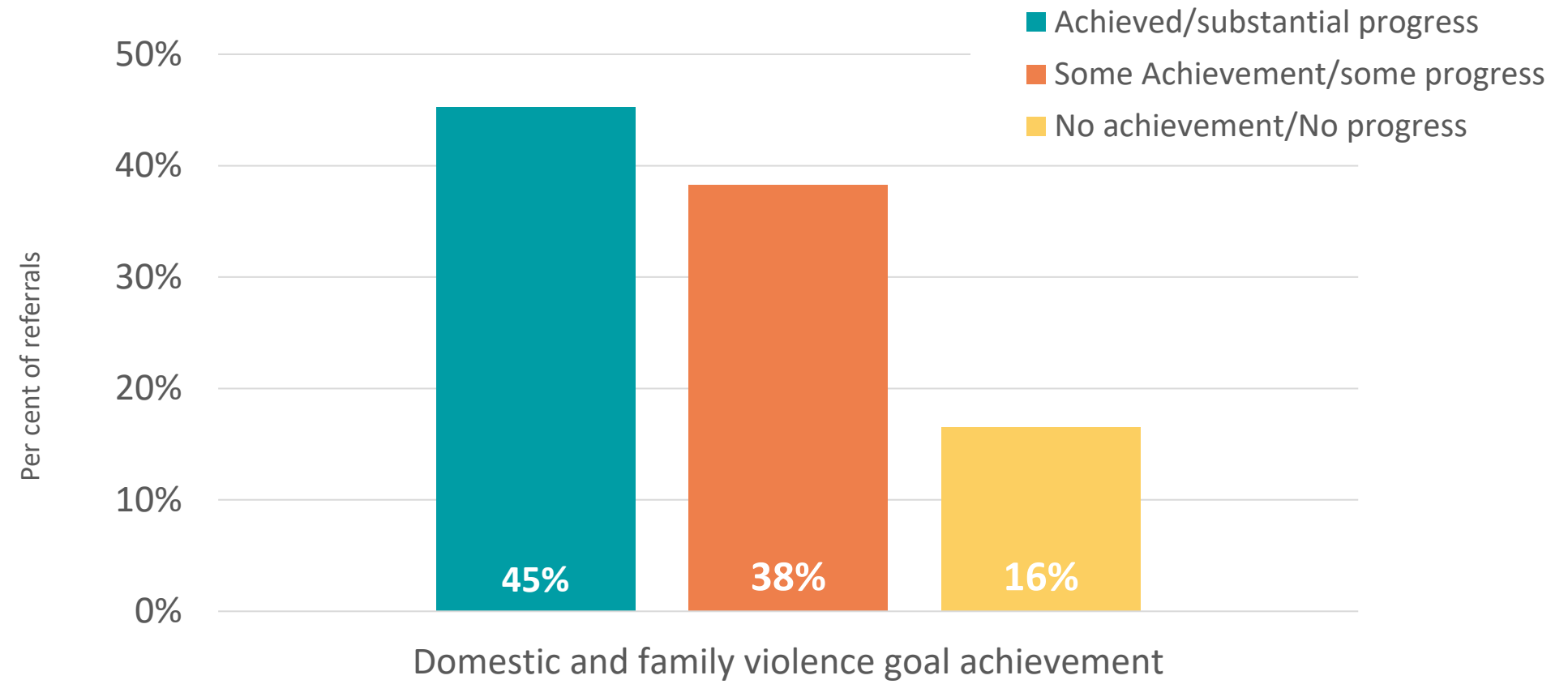
28% + Mental health related goals

24% + Housing related goals

22% + Drug and alcohol related goals

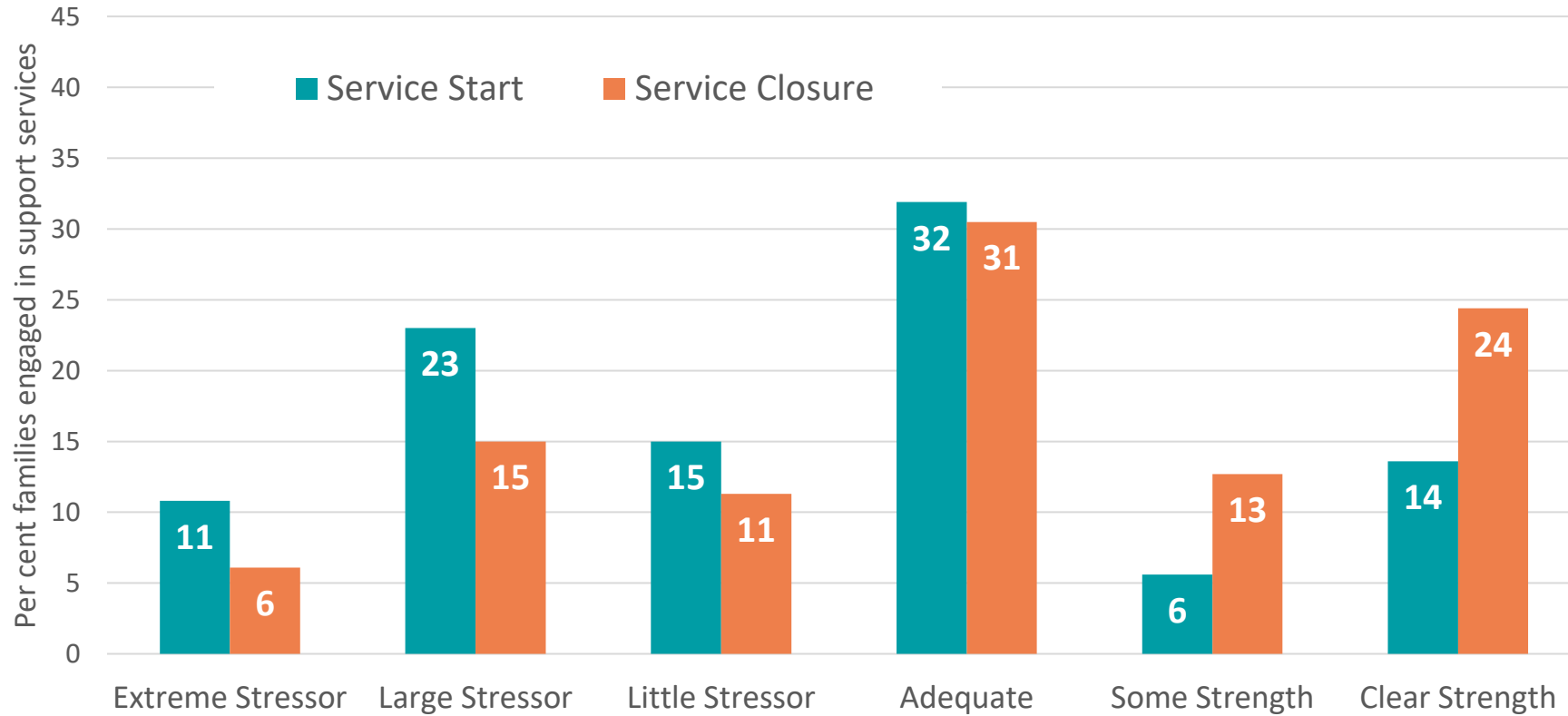
22% + Child/YP educational goals

Case plan goal achievement



Family snapshot tool: reflecting change in families' experience of social-ecological factors

Practitioner rating of domestic and family violence



Thank you



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