

## Family Preservation Recommissioning Update – Sector Forum 6 November 2024

### Current contracts variations

- DCJ will likely vary the Family Preservation contracts. This will allow DCJ and providers time to prepare for procurement of future Family Preservation services and the transition to the new system design so that providers and DCJ can best support clients, providers and their staff.
- The contracts variation applies only to the current suite of programs. Along with some clause variations, contracts will likely be extended for 9 months.
- DCJ recognises the degree of change required at this time and thanks the sector for its patience, hard work and understanding. We will continue to work closely with the sector and peaks.

### Response to Family Preservation Discussion Paper

- DCJ is aiming to publish a response to the [Redesigning Family Preservation in NSW Discussion Paper](#), related information and procurement timeframes before the Christmas/New Year break. The communication of this material is dependent on the required approvals.

### People and structural changes in DCJ

- DCJ has announced the departure of Simone Czech (former Deputy Secretary, Child Protection and Permanency). Lauren Dean has commenced on 8 November, as the A/Deputy Secretary.
- Directors Commissioning & Planning, who currently report into respective DCJ Districts, will move organisationally into the Strategy Policy and Commissioning (SPC) Division, as of 6 December 2024, under an Executive Director. C&P staff will continue to report to the same Director and the reporting lines will only change for the Directors.
- Stuart Malcher, Executive Director, Child & Family, is on leave for 3 months. Matthew Jones will move into the role for this period.

### infoShare update

- The data submission deadline has passed (31 October 2024). If your organisation has not submitted data you need to urgently contact your DCJ Contract Manager.
- The Organisation Service Delivery Report is now live. A user guide with details about accessing reports can be found in the resources section of infoShare instruct.
- The infoShare team sent an email to all users on November 19<sup>th</sup> with troubleshooting tips relating to bulk uploading data. User guides and videos on data uploading are also available in the resources section of infoShare instruct.
- Searching using ClientID is not an available function in infoShare but has been earmarked for a future release.
- Please contact [infoShare@dcj.nsw.gov.au](mailto:infoShare@dcj.nsw.gov.au) if you have any questions about data submission, data fields, platform access etc.

### Standardised Evaluation Analysis (StEvAn) tool

- Funded service providers were sent a brief survey to improve DCJ's understanding of program eligibility criteria and allocation for a number of DCJ existing programs.
- This work is being conducted by the New South Wales Government Actuary, who is responsible for developing the Standardised Evaluation Analysis (StEvAn) tool. The tool has been developed over the last few years and aims to deliver outcome analysis for government programs.
- The StEvAn tool uses retrospective data. The survey results will be used to inform ongoing analysis including identifying factors we can control for and documenting factors where data is not available.
- The StEvAn outcome analysis will be complemented by other forms of evaluation.
- Given the stage of the current analysis, the results have not been integral in the Family Preservation Recommissioning. The [Redesigning Family Preservation in NSW Discussion Paper](#) outlines the evidentiary approach DCJ has taken in redesigning the new Family Preservation system.
- DCJ will continue to work with peaks and the sector on the ways and means data analysis can be shared.

### Interim approach to assessing risk in Child Protection

- The interim approach to assessing risk in child protection commenced on 12 September 2024, with a 60-day grace period. As of 11 November 2024, risk assessments will no longer be available for use by DCJ caseworkers and only the Family Based Assessment (FBA) will be used.
- The Family Based Assessment will not be used for OOHC assessments.
- There will be a Quality Assurance model developed to monitor outcomes of the interim approach. Data collection changes will also assist in monitoring outcomes.
- DCJ will continue to monitor the rollout of the interim approach. Peaks will continue to be partners in this process.
- Unless referred directly from triage, DCJ will provide a copy of the completed FBA, In Need of Care and Protection (INOCAP) record and other relevant documents with Family Preservation program referrals.
- The Universal Referral Form requires caseworkers to select the Family Preservation program to which the family are being referred.
- The [Family Preservation microsite](#) contains information on the interim approach to assessing risk in Child Protection. An [FAQs document](#) assists Family Preservation providers' staff in understanding the changes. See also a [summary of SARA to INOCAP criteria, across Family Preservation Programs](#).

### Peaks contact details

Peaks provided updates on projects and events. Please refer to peaks websites and contact details.

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