

Research Agenda

2006-2009



NSW Department of
Community Services

Research Agenda

2006-2009

Produced by

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Research, Funding and Business Analysis
NSW Department of Community Services

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July 2006

ISBN 1 74190 007 7

www.community.nsw.gov.au

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1. Introduction

The Department of Community Services' (DoCS) Research Agenda reflects the Department's commitment to research as one of its core activities. It is designed to provide the evidence base to inform policy, practice and program development.

There are three main functions of DoCS' Research Agenda:

1. to identify research projects and priorities that will inform DoCS programs in community capacity building, prevention and early intervention, child protection and out-of-home care
2. to inform and communicate to DoCS' staff, prospective research collaborators, stakeholders and the community current and future research priorities
3. to foster a culture of research and an understanding of the value of research both within DoCS and amongst external stakeholders.

The Research Agenda builds on the Research Agenda 2005/06 and reflects the policy and program priorities that DoCS has established for the three year period 2006-2009. It is oriented towards preparing DoCS for the future, reflecting an emphasis on providing a strong evidence base that will assist coherence of DoCS' strategic objectives.

DoCS is approached on a regular basis by external researchers seeking its involvement as an industry partner on various research projects. Whilst a number of these research proposals are worthwhile and have some fit with DoCS core business, they are not necessarily 'high priority' proposals. DoCS' Research Agenda identifies current and future research priorities and areas of research interest for the Department so as to encourage collaboration with other researchers on issues of priority.

It is hoped that the implementation of the Research Agenda in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders will highlight the value of research and build and enhance a culture of research within DoCS and the sector more widely.

2. Corporate context of the Research Agenda

DoCS is currently going through a significant period of reform with the allocation of an additional \$1.2 billion funding package. To guide this reform process, DoCS has produced a Results Logic Framework that maps out the results the Department aims to achieve for children, young people, their families and the community. Key result areas are as follows:

- the interaction between young people, their families and communities is positive
- the incidence and severity of violence against women and families declines
- children have a good start to life
- the need for intensive or crisis responses is reduced
- children and families at risk are managed without further involvement in the child protection system and children have normal development by age of starting school
- children who require statutory intervention are safe at home
- children are successfully restored to their family where appropriate
- children are in a safe, well functioning and stable environment

DoCS has also identified a series of objectives over the reform period to assist achievement of these results, one of which is policy making and service delivery based on sound research and analysis.

In line with this objective, DoCS' Research Agenda aims to provide the evidence base that will assist the Department in achieving its key results.

3. Scope of the Research Agenda

A focus on high quality, relevant research

DoCS' Research Agenda is underpinned by a commitment to high quality and locally relevant research that improves our knowledge about the factors that influence outcomes for children, young people, their families and local communities. In order to build the evidence base for priority areas outlined in the Research Agenda, it is essential that research be of a high academic quality, including the application of rigorous methodologies appropriate to the particular research topic or question.

DoCS' Research Agenda provides a framework to guide research efforts that will inform policy, practice and service delivery in areas relating to the Department's core business. It identifies an overarching research question and three interrelated focus areas for research. Within each of these focus areas for research, specific issues for investigation are identified along with priority research questions and other areas of interest.

DoCS also has other specialist branches which undertake work on evaluation of its major programs and economic evaluation of program and policy proposals in line with DoCS' Evaluation Agenda. It is intended that this work and the Research Agenda are complementary, with the Research Agenda largely focusing on key research questions relating to client outcomes, effectiveness of interventions, nature of the DoCS client base and characteristics of resilient communities.

The issues and key research questions identified in the Research Agenda are not intended to be limiting and there is the capacity to consider other topics or issues that are relevant to the work of DoCS.

A focus on collaboration

The Research Agenda is also intended to be a key tool to facilitate collaboration with researchers and research institutions. It supports and provides guidance to DoCS' Collaborative Research Program which provides funding for Post Doctoral Fellowships and PhD Scholarships in partnership with universities and other research institutions.

In addition to encouraging collaboration across research institutions and across disciplines, DoCS' Research Agenda provides a platform for collaboration with other jurisdictions around shared areas of research interest. Opportunities for research collaboration at a national and international level can also be explored.

4. Focus areas for research

The overarching focus of the DoCS' Research Agenda is to answer the following question:

What interventions and practice approaches lead to the desired results for clients of DoCS and in what context or circumstances?

This overarching research focus requires gaining better knowledge and understanding of three interrelated areas of research at a number of different levels of detail. These are:

1. Knowledge about the outcomes and relative effectiveness of interventions across a continuum of practice areas:

- how to effectively support children, families and communities to be well functioning, safe and stable?
- how to effectively support children & families where there is risk of maltreatment?
- how to maintain children at home while ensuring safety?
- how to effectively support children and young people who are placed in out-of-home care?
- how to achieve successful restoration with parent(s) or timely placement with permanence where restoration is not possible?

2. Knowledge about the nature and characteristics of DoCS' client base (strengths and needs):

- children and young people characteristics
- family and parenting characteristics
- cultural characteristics.

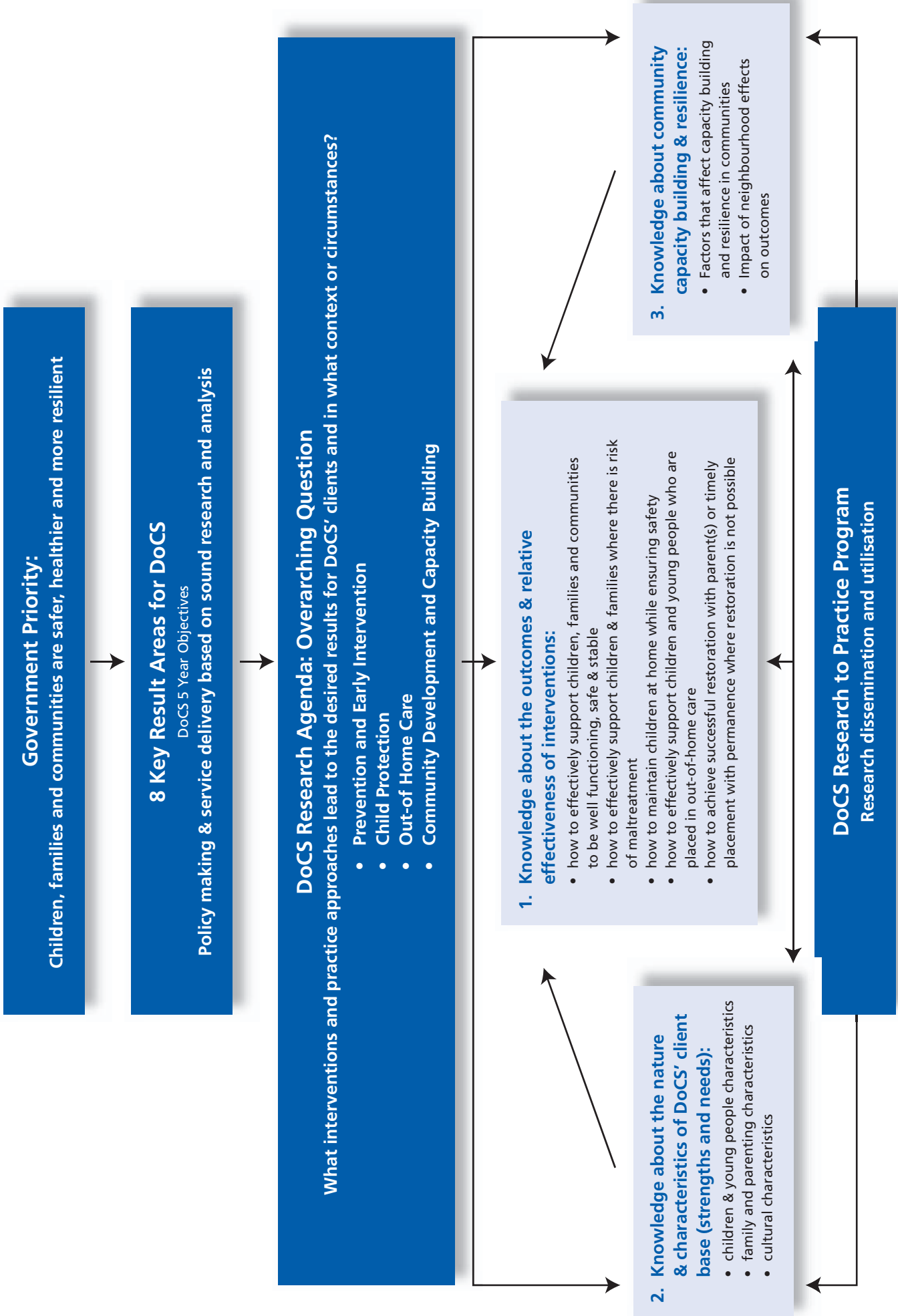
3. Knowledge about community capacity building and resilience:

- factors that affect capacity building and the level of resilience within communities
- the impact of neighbourhood effects on opportunities and outcomes for children, young people and their families.

These three research areas are clearly interrelated. For example, the effectiveness of interventions and practice approaches depends on the nature and characteristics of DoCS' client base. The kind of neighbourhoods and communities in which children grow up will have an influence on their nature and characteristics.

Furthermore, the particular neighbourhoods and the community context may influence the delivery of interventions and the outcomes achieved. Consequently, in undertaking research in any one area, the implications of the other areas need to be considered.

The diagram on the next page indicates the interrelationships between these three areas of research focus and the links to DoCS' objectives and priorities.



4.1 Focus Area 1: Knowledge about the outcomes and relative effectiveness of interventions

Within this area of research focus there are five main areas of investigation:

1. How to effectively support children, families and communities to be well functioning, safe and stable?
2. How to effectively support children & families where there is risk of maltreatment?
3. How to maintain children at home while ensuring safety?
4. How to effectively support children and young people in out-of-home care placements?
5. How to achieve successful restoration with parent(s) or timely placement with permanence where restoration is not possible?

4.1.1 How to effectively support children, families and communities to be well functioning, safe and stable

Priority research questions:

- What are the perceptions, attitudes, awareness and behaviour of the general community in relation to child welfare, parenting and abuse prevention?
- What are effective strategies for promoting early childhood development within a prevention focus?

Other areas of interest:

- What are effective strategies and service models for supporting young people to meet their developmental needs?

DoCS current or planned research projects

| Project | Researchers | Timeframe |
|---|--|-----------|
| • DoCS' Social Research Project | Urbis Keys Young & DoCS' Media and Communication Branch | 2006 |
| • Exploring and supporting home literacy practices in low-income families: Redfern, Waterloo, Glebe | Dr Liam Morgan & colleagues, University of Technology Sydney (UTS) | 2006-2007 |
| • Child Care Choices Longitudinal Extension Project | Assoc Prof Jennifer Bowes & colleagues, Macquarie University | 2004-2008 |
| • Child Care Choices of Indigenous Families | Assoc Prof Jennifer Bowes & colleagues, Macquarie University | 2004-2008 |

4.1.2 How to effectively support children and families where there is risk of maltreatment

Priority research questions:

- What early intervention strategies work for whom, in what context? Comparative Studies of Early Intervention Strategies could include effective components of home visiting, child care and parenting programs.
- What early intervention strategies are effective with children and families from Indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities?

Other areas of interest:

- What are effective strategies and interventions for working with families with identified vulnerabilities including mental illness, significant learning difficulties/intellectual disabilities, children with significant behaviour management problems, domestic violence, drug and alcohol problems?
- What are the most effective ways to prevent or identify early emotional disturbances or mental health issues of young children and to treat those issues within the context of the whole family?

DoCS current or planned research projects

| Project | Researchers | Timeframe |
|---|---|-----------|
| • Effective early intervention strategies for children and young people 8 to 14 years of age: a literature review | DoCS' Centre for Parenting & Research | 2006 |
| • Effective early intervention strategies with children and families from Indigenous communities: literature review | DoCS' Centre for Parenting & Research | 2006-2007 |
| • A comparative study of the effectiveness of parenting programs as an early intervention strategy | DoCS' Centre for Parenting & Research in conjunction with the Early Intervention Evaluation | 2006-2007 |
| • Miller Early Childhood Sustained Home Visiting Trial | Elizabeth Harris, Lynn Kemp & colleagues CHETRE, University of NSW (UNSW) | 2006-2007 |
| • Getting it Sorted: Reconstructing Services to Alleviate Aboriginal Youth Homelessness | Kelvin Knox – PhD candidate University of Western Sydney (UWS) | 2006-2007 |
| • Working together for community healing | Judy Knox – PhD candidate Southern Cross University | 2005-2008 |

4.1.3 How to maintain children at home while ensuring safety

Priority research questions:

- What are effective models and approaches to decision-making and assessment in relation to child protection?
- What are effective child protection practices and strategies within Indigenous communities?
- What are effective child protection practices and strategies within CALD communities?
- What interventions and practices improve outcomes in cases of neglect?
- What are the most effective interventions with perpetrators of domestic violence?

Other areas of interest:

- What interventions and practices are effective in supporting parent-infant attachment?
- What models of parent education are effective in child protection cases?
- How effective is respite care/short term care as a child protection strategy?
- How effective are intensive family preservation services in keeping families together?
- What is the nature of the relationship that a caseworker builds with a child and family? Does this differ across models of case management? Does the type of relationship have an impact on outcomes for children and families in the child protection system?

DoCS current or planned research projects

| Project | Researchers | Timeframe |
|---|--|-----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective Child Protection Strategies for Working with Young People – What do DoCS’ staff perceive to be effective child protection strategies for young people and their families? | DoCS’ Centre for Parenting & Research | 2006 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome Study on the Use of Children’s Services as a Strategy in Child Protection | Peter Saunders, Karen Fisher, Robyn Dolby – SPRC | 2006 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence: Strategies and Interventions to Support Children and Families | DoCS’ Centre for Parenting & Research | 2006 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental Substance Misuse: Impacts, Treatments and Effective Child Protection Strategies | DoCS’ Centre for Parenting & Research | 2006 |

4.1.4 How to effectively support children and young people in out-of-home care placements

Priority research questions:

- What interventions and practices influence outcomes (i.e. placement stability, educational outcomes) for children and young people in out-of-home care?
- What are the most appropriate models of out-of-home care for children from Indigenous and CALD communities?
- What are the outcomes for children in kinship care? Is there a difference in outcomes for children in kinship care between long-term versus short-term placement?
- What are the experiences of Indigenous foster, relative and kinship carers (including grandparents)? How can these carers be best supported?
- What are the most effective interventions and strategies in working with high needs children and young people?

Other areas of interest:

- How effective are residential care or intensive foster care for children with high and complex needs and how do these compare?
- What is the effectiveness of wrap-around services for children in out-of-home care?

DoCS current or planned research projects

| Project | Researchers | Timeframe |
|---|---|-----------------|
| • Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Adolescents who are in Foster Care: Placement Stability, Social Support and other Psychopathology | Belinda Edwards– PhD candidate University of Newcastle | 2006-2007 |
| • Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People with High and Complex Needs in Out-of-Home Care | DoCS' Centre for Parenting & Research | 2006-2007 |
| • Educational Outcomes for Children in Out-of-Home Care | Michelle Townsend – PhD scholarship, Southern Cross University | 2005-2008 |
| • Longitudinal study of children and young people in out-of-home care in NSW | External consortium in collaboration with DoCS' Centre for Parenting & Research | 2006/07-2010/11 |

4.1.5 How to achieve successful restoration with parent(s) or timely placement with permanence where restoration is not possible

Priority research questions:

- What are the critical child and family factors for successful restoration?
- What services are effective in supporting a safe return to the family? What is the appropriate length of reunification service?
- What interventions and practices individually and collectively promote the timely, safe achievement of permanency for children?
- What are the long-term outcomes for children returned home in terms of safety and wellbeing?

4.2 Focus Area 2: Knowledge about the nature and characteristics of DoCS' client base

Within this area of research focus there are three main areas of investigation. These are:

1. How do the characteristics of children and young people impact on outcomes?
2. How do family and parenting dynamics influence outcomes for children and young people?
3. How do community and cultural characteristics influence individual and family opportunities and shape the effectiveness of interventions?

4.2.1 How do characteristics of children and young people impact on outcomes?

Priority research questions:

- Which children are most at risk of continuing or intermittent contact with child protective services?
- What are the characteristics of children under one (including family and community characteristics) who enter out-of-home care (OOHC)? How do these differ from children under one with child protection reports who do not enter care?
- How do the nature and characteristics of children and young people in OOHC influence outcomes?

Other areas of interest:

- What services would best meet their child protection needs?
- How do risk factors and protective factors relate to one another?
- What are the characteristics of 12 to 14 year old young people who are entering OOHC in increasing numbers?

4.2.1 How do family and parenting dynamics influence outcomes?

Priority research questions:

- How can we best measure changes in parenting capacity, parent-child relationships, family functioning and child outcomes?
- What parent and family characteristics facilitate reunification for children in OOHC?

Other areas of interest:

- What is the relationship between presenting report (type of maltreatment), family and child characteristics, service utilisation and outcomes for children and families?
- Which risk and protective factors within families are changeable and should be targeted in assessment and intervention?
- What families would fare better without a CPS intervention?

4.2.3 How do cultural characteristics influence individual and family opportunities and outcomes?

Priority research questions:

- What is the meaning of parenting and culturally appropriate parenting practices within indigenous and CALD communities (this would include an exploration of discipline practices)?
- What is the level of knowledge about child protection issues which constitute child abuse or neglect among Indigenous and CALD parents and families?

Other areas of interest:

- What is the relevance of attachment theories to communal child rearing, shared parenting within a kinship group and indigenous child rearing practices?
- What is the relationship between trauma and inter-generational trauma on child abuse and neglect within Indigenous and CALD families?
- What is the nature of the link between young people's connection to community and outcomes for them?

DoCS Current or Planned Research Projects – A number of current or planned research projects identified above are addressing key research questions in this Focus Area of research such as the Longitudinal Study of Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care, the Child Care Choices Indigenous Study and others.

4.3 Focus Area 3:

Knowledge about community capacity building and resilience

The community context and characteristics within which interventions take place has a direct influence on effectiveness of the intervention. This Research Focus Area seeks to develop a better understanding of the dynamics of neighbourhood conditions on outcomes for children and young people and to investigate the effectiveness of community level interventions to build community capacity and resilience and to deliver sustainable outcomes. This includes a consideration of the following:

- factors that affect capacity building and the level of resilience within communities
- the impact of neighbourhood effects on opportunities and outcomes for children and young people.

4.3.1 What are the key factors that affect capacity building and resilience within communities?

Priority areas of research:

- What is the current state of knowledge about building community capacity and resilience?
- What are effective strategies for building community capacity and resilience in Indigenous communities?
- What are the most effective strategies for reducing violence in families and communities?

Other areas of interest:

- What community level factors lead to effective support for children and families?
- What are effective approaches to engaging children, young people and families from Indigenous and CALD communities within a community development framework?
- What strategies and interventions are effective in community development?

4.3.2 What is the impact of neighbourhood effects on opportunities and outcomes for children and young people?

- What is the current state of knowledge about the impact of community or neighbourhood effects on opportunities and outcomes for children and young people?
- What are effective strategies for ameliorating adverse neighbourhood effects for children, young people and their families?

DoCS current or planned research projects

| Project | Researchers | Timeframe |
|---|--|-----------|
| Community Strengths Indicators Study | Urbis Keys Young in collaboration with DoCS' Communities Division | 2006 |
| Consultation and participatory review of youth development in South East Sydney | Centre for Advancement of Adolescent Health in collaboration with DoCS' Communities Division | 2006/07 |

DoCS' Research Agenda 2006-2007

| Project | Brief Description | Timeframe | Researchers & Partners |
|--|--|------------------|--|
| <p>Program Area 1: Prevention and Early Intervention (Note: Research in this program area will need to be considered together with the work undertaken through the evaluation of DoCS' Early Intervention Program)</p> | | | |
| <p>Effective Intervention Strategies for Children and Young People 8 to 14 Years of Age: A Literature Review</p> | <p>The aim of this project is to undertake a comprehensive review of the literature on effective prevention and early intervention strategies and their effectiveness for children and young people 8 to 14 years. This will include a review of literature related to indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) children, families and communities.</p> | <p>Dec 2006</p> | <p>Child Protection & Early Intervention (CPEI) Directorate, Communities Division</p> |
| <p>A Study of the Effectiveness of Parenting Programs as an Early Intervention Strategy</p> | <p>This study will compare the impact of parenting programs (for example, Triple P, TIPS and Parenting under Pressure) on parenting skills, family functioning, parent-child relationships etc as an early intervention strategy for parents at risk of entering the child protection system.</p> | <p>2006-2008</p> | <p>Other branches of RFBA, CPEI Directorate, Communities Division Potential postdoctoral fellow</p> |
| <p>Early Intervention: What works for whom in what context?</p> | <p>This study will follow up a sample of families 12 months after exit from the Early Intervention Program as part of the Evaluation of the Program. A comparison sample will also be included.</p> | <p>2006-2009</p> | <p>Other branches of RFBA, Early Intervention evaluation consortium, CPEI Directorate, Communities Division Potential postdoctoral fellow and/or ARC Linkage Grant</p> |
| <p>Effective Early Intervention Strategies for Children, Young People and Families within Indigenous Communities</p> | <p>This study will examine the literature related to effective prevention and early intervention strategies within Indigenous communities. International literature will also be examined, as appropriate.</p> | <p>Dec 2006</p> | <p>Aboriginal Services Branch, Communities Division</p> |

| Project | Brief Description | Timeframe | Researchers & Partners |
|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| Program Area 1: | Prevention and Early Intervention (continued) | | |
| External Projects | | | |
| Child Care Choices Extension Project | This project examines the relationship between aspects of child care and children's developmental progress from birth to 8 years. This new research will assess the long-term impact of child care as children make the transition to school and progress in the early years of primary school. | Aug 2004- Dec 2008 | Outsourced to Research Consortium: Macquarie University, Charles Sturt University, Australian Institute of Family Studies. Leader: Dr Jennifer Bowes |
| Child Care Choices of Indigenous Families – Nested Study | This project aims to provide evidence to inform the provision of quality children's services and family support services in Indigenous communities. The project will address children's early years experiences and outcomes prior to, during the transition and upon entry to school, Indigenous communities use of formal and informal child care and influences on child care choices. | Dec 2004- Dec 2008 | Outsourced to Research Consortium: Macquarie University, Charles Sturt University, Australian Institute of Family Studies. Leader: Dr Jennifer Bowes |
| Miller Early Childhood Sustained Home Visiting Trial | This project is the first Australian randomised control trial of sustained nurse home visiting in a population group living in an area of profound socioeconomic disadvantage. The home visiting intervention commences antenatally with at risk mothers and continues until the child is two years old. The trial will measure the impact of home visiting on outcomes including household environment and health, development and well being of the family, mother and child. | 2004-2007 | University of NSW – Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation. Investigators include: Elizabeth Harris, Dr Lynn Kemp & others Linkage partners include: DoCS, NSW Health, Families First and Community Solutions. |
| Exploring and supporting home literacy practices in low income families (Redfern, Waterloo and Glebe) | This project is an exploratory pilot study of how interagency collaborations can support children's early literacy development among low income families with pre-school aged children. The study will explore the theme home literacy practices of families in Redfern, Waterloo and Glebe, with a particular focus on both indigenous and non-English speaking background families and effective interagency collaborations. It will also investigate the ways interagency collaborations can reach and engage with hard-to-reach families to support early literacy development. | March 2007 | Professor Liam Morgan, Centre for Language and Literacy, UTS |

| Project | | Brief Description | Timeframe | Researchers & Partners |
|---|---|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| Program Area 2: Child Protection | | | | |
| Parental Substance Misuse: Impacts, Treatments and Effective Child Protection Strategies: A Review of the Literature | The purpose of this study is to analyse and critique the extant literature on parental drug misuse and the implications for policy and practice in child protection. In particular, this literature review will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine the impact of parental drug misuse on parenting capacity • identify effective treatments and interventions for drug dependence and abuse in order to inform casework practice • examine strategies for effective casework practice with children and families. | Dec 2006 | CPEI Directorate, Drug Summit Unit | |
| A Study of Child Neglect in NSW | This prospective study aims to examine the risk factors, assessment issues and the services that specifically target neglecting families and their children. | 2006-2008 | Other branches in RFBA, CPEI Directorate | |
| A Study of the Effectiveness of Parenting Programs as a Child Protection Strategy | This study will compare the impact of parenting education programs (for example, Triple P, TIPS and Parenting under Pressure) on parenting skills, family functioning, parent-child relationships etc as a child protection strategy. Will be linked to study of parents in early intervention. | 2006-2008 | Other branches of RFBA, CPEI Directorate, Communities Division NSW Health Potential postdoctoral fellow | |
| Effective Child Protection Strategies in the context of Parental Mental illness: A Review of the Literature | The purpose of this study is to review the literature on the impact of parental mental illness on children and families and to identify effective strategies and interventions for children and families. | Dec 2006 | CPEI Directorate | |

| Project | | Brief Description | Timeframe | Researchers & Partners |
|---|--|---|------------|--|
| Program Area 3: Out-of-Home Care | | | | |
| Longitudinal Study of Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care | | <p>The purpose of this study is to improve our understanding of the key factors that impact on outcomes for children and young people in care and the relative effectiveness of different approaches to service delivery for different client groups in OOHC in NSW, in order to inform the development of the OOHC services system and casework practice. The study objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to undertake an analysis of the of the nature, characteristics and backgrounds of a sample of children in OOHC in NSW 2. to undertake an analysis of services and interventions children receive over the course of the study and their pathways through the system 3. to undertake an analysis of the extent to which the delivery of OOHC and related services varies according to geographic region 4. to determine the factors that effect outcomes. | 2006-2009 | <p>Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) Directorate, local, national and international researchers</p> <p>Potential ARC linkage grant in the future</p> <p>PhD students</p> |
| Study of Innovative Service Models for High Needs Children and Young People | | <p>The purpose of this study is to test innovative service models for high needs children and young people.</p> | 2006-2008 | <p>Other branches of RFBA, OOHC Directorate</p> |
| Assessing The Needs Of Children And Young People In Out-of-Home Care | | <p>This project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review and appraise the effectiveness, ease of use and implementation costs for a selection of assessment tools with potential application in the DoCS operating environment • identify a tool or package of tools for further piloting and in-depth evaluation • undertake pilot testing and evaluation of the tools, including economic evaluation • make recommendations on which tool or package of tools might best meet the needs and operational requirements of DoCS. | March 2007 | <p>RFBA, OOHC Directorate</p> |

| Project | | Brief Description | Timeframe | Researchers & Partners |
|---|--|-------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Program Area 3: Out-of-Home Care (continued) | | | | |
| Outcomes for children and young people placed in statutory kinship care – a review of the research evidence | The aim of this review paper is to describe the evidence available about the characteristics of kinship care and the outcomes for children placed in statutory kinship care to inform policy, practice and future research. | 2006 | Centre for Parenting & Research, other branches in RFBA, OOHHC Directorate | |
| External Projects | | | | |
| Educational Outcomes of Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care (draft title) | The Centre for Children and Young People is offering a scholarship to Michelle Townsend as a joint initiative with DoCS. The project will examine ways to improve the educational outcomes of young people in care. | June 2005- June 2008 | Michelle Townsend – PhD Candidate, Southern Cross University | |
| Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Adolescents who are in Foster Care: Placement Stability, Social Support and other Psychopathology | The aim of this project is to examine Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in adolescents in foster care. The study will examine the relationship between PTSD and gender, age at which the adolescent came into foster care, type of trauma, placement stability, social and family support and other psychopathology. | June 2005- Nov 2006 | Belinda Edwards, DoCS Psychologist – PhD candidate, University of Newcastle | |

| Project | | Brief Description | Timeframe | Researchers & Partners |
|---|---|---------------------|---|------------------------|
| Program Area 4: Community Development and Capacity Building | | | | |
| Working Together for Community Healing | This project is investigating through participatory research the potential for improvements to NSW and QLD Government services for the Aboriginal communities of Toomelah, Boggabilla and Goondiwindi. The study will examine whole-of-government service provision with a focus on domestic violence, sexual assault and drug misuse. The research addresses the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the principles of Aboriginal Community Governance that would help influence better service delivery and build resilience and resonance within individuals, families and the community? | July 2005-June 2008 | Judy Knox, PhD Candidate, Gnibi, The College of Indigenous Australian Peoples Southern Cross University | |
| Consultation and participatory review of youth development in South East Sydney | This project will involve a consultation and participatory review of youth development initiatives in South-East Sydney. | To be determined | Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health | |



New South Wales Government