



**Children's
Centres**
for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting



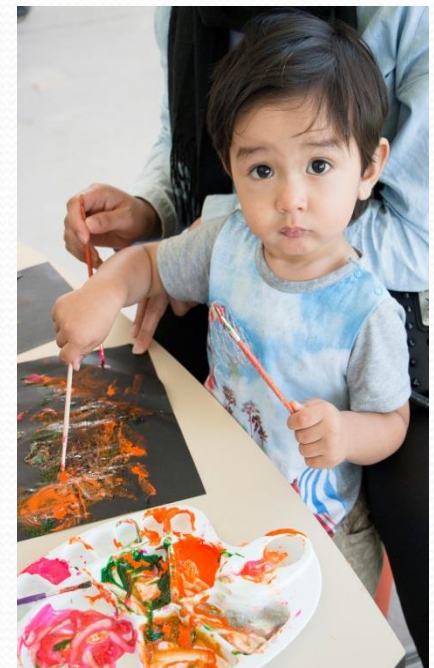
**Government
of South Australia**



**Presenter: Heather Ward
Manager Children's Centres**

Multidisciplinary teams

Meeting the needs of families through Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development & Parenting



Children's Centres

- 42 Children's Centres across metropolitan and regional South Australia
- 5 more Children's Centres are planned to open within the next 2 years



4 Children and Family Centres

- Established through the National Partnership for Indigenous Early Childhood Development
- Focusing on supporting Aboriginal families to have the best possible start in life





Vision

Children's Centres support children and families achieve:

- the best possible learning
- health and wellbeing outcomes

in a universal setting with targeted responses for families who may require additional support.

Population Outcomes

- Children have optimal health, development & learning
- Parents provide strong foundations for their children's healthy development and wellbeing
- Communities are child and family friendly
- Aboriginal children are safe, healthy, culturally strong and confident



Taikurrendi Children & Family Centre



Children's Centre Model

- Early learning and care programs
- Family and community programs
- Child health



Multidisciplinary Teams

- Educators (Director, teachers, care providers, para professional staff)
- Community Development Coordinator
- Family Services Coordinator
- Allied Health
- Child & Family Health staff
- Antenatal support
- NGOs



Educators



Community Development Coordinators

- Work in partnership with other agencies to facilitate a range of programs and services.
- Collect, input and analyse AEDC and local data
- Coordinate the delivery of services
- Connect with local agencies



Family Services Coordinators

- Support vulnerable families
- Help strengthen family and community capacity in responding to children
- Provide parenting programs focusing on relationships and well being.



Allied Health

Speech Pathologists *Occupational Therapists*

- Assist children to develop play and social skills, language and movement.
- Support centre staff to identify children at risk of developmental delay
- Promote children's development



CAFHS, Antenatal & NGOs

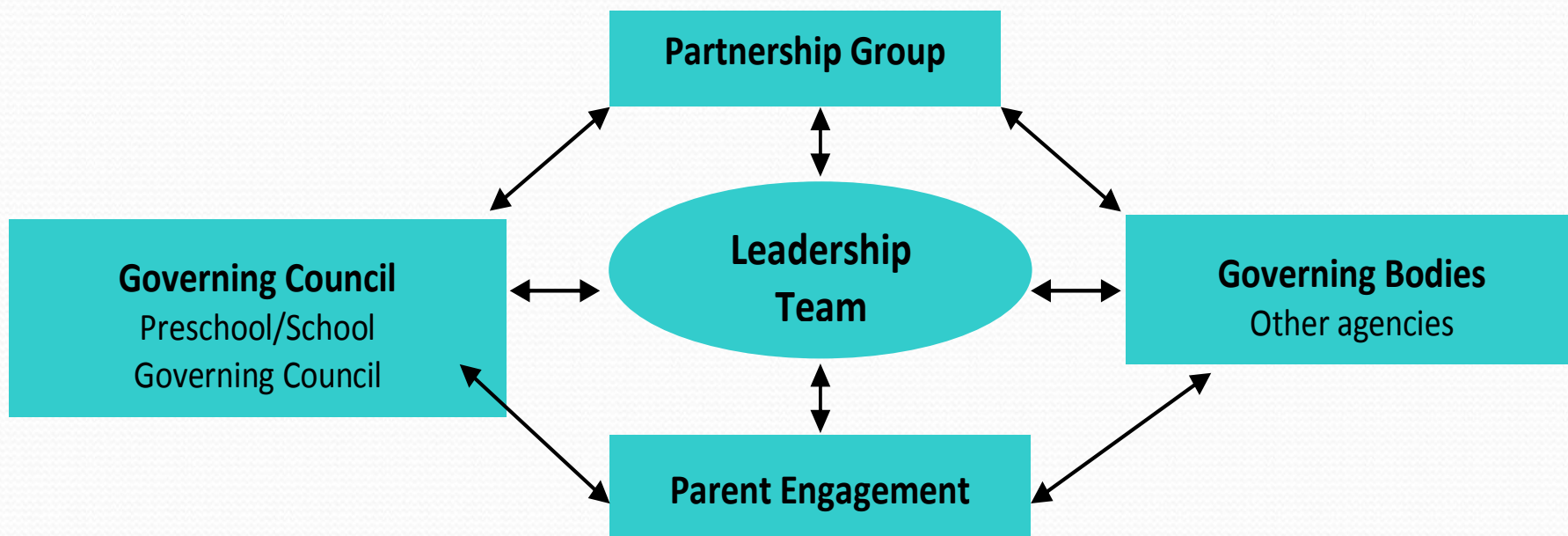


 **UnitingCare**
Wesley Port Adelaide

**Communities
for Children**



Governance Structure



Partnership Group

- Coordinates agency activities
- Develops a centre vision
- Monitors family and community consultation
- Has a rep on the Governing Council
- Brings together agencies/partners with shared responsibility for young children and families from across the community



Leadership Team

- Contributes to the development of a CC vision
- Provides advice to the Partnership and Governing Council on services and programs
- Develops strategies for encouraging broad community participation and engagement based on advice from the Parent Engagement Group
- Monitors service outcomes and provides advice to continuously improve services

Parent Engagement Group

Assist and influence decision making across the centre:

- Supporting families to be actively engaged in services, programs and identification of community needs
- Providing advice to the Leadership Team and Partnership Group on programs and services needed in or through the Centres



Good News Stories



What have we learnt?

When a multidisciplinary team addresses a need in the community, it will be able to achieve outcomes that would otherwise not be possible or not as readily achieved with a number of different organisations working separately

(Press, Sumsion & Wong, 2010)

We know. . .

- Director's role
- Cohesive multidisciplinary teams
- Local line management
- Prioritising programs
- Accountability & reporting
- Data collection & analysis
- Governance structure



Comments & questions

