



Media Release

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\$200 MILLION IN NSW CHILD PROTECTION FUNDING IS A GREAT STEP

The NSW Government's \$200 million investment into the state's out-of-home care (OOHC) system is a desperately needed step to address years of chronic underfunding in Out-Of-Home care.

That's the verdict from Fams, the peak body for family and children's services.

Fams Acting Chief Executive Officer Lauren Stracey said the funding will help the increasing number of children and families requiring support in NSW, including those in emergency care.

"There are too many kids stuck in emergency care and other similar arrangements in this state. It is a wicked problem in every sense of the term," Ms Stracey said.

"The kind of funding announced today will make a significant impact, and will start to turn the ship on cumulative years of inadequate investment in out-of-home care.

"That's why we are pleased to see this funding commitment. It is a good step, but as many of our members have pointed out, more needs to be done."

Ms Stracey called for a 25 per cent increase in funding to early intervention and prevention programs which focus on keeping families together and breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect.

"Historically we've seen NSW prioritise crisis-end services – and while extremely important, we need more effort at stopping kids entering the child protection system in the first place," she said.

"We want to see more investment in evidence-based intervention and prevention programs in Premier Minns' first Budget – that will help to break the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage and move our child protection system to one of supporting rather than reporting.

"A child's upbringing influences their long-term development and sets them on a path to good health, education and employment prospects – so we cannot afford to leave children behind. All children deserve to feel safe and supported."

"Beyond that, there are a number of low-cost, high-impact initiatives that can be progressed relatively quickly to support children and families in NSW. There is no time to delay.

The recently released [2023 Australian Child Maltreatment Study](#) shows that child abuse is associated with severe mental health problems and behavioural harms, both in childhood and adulthood.

Adults who experienced child maltreatment are 2.8 times more likely to have a mental health disorder than adults who have no experienced child maltreatment.

People who experienced child maltreatment were 4.5 times more likely to have attempted suicide and 3.9 times more likely to have self-harmed.

For more information about Fams go to www.fams.asn.au

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About Fams

Fams is a NSW peak body that supports the not-for-profit sector to build capacity and capability. We also advocate for improved policies for children, families, communities and services. Our Vision is that Children thrive within safe, strong and supportive families and communities.

Fams is committed to:

- Children and families receiving the support they need
- Evidence-informed and outcomes-based service delivery
- Government and sector accountability
- Influencing policy

Fams works collaboratively with:

- Government
- Policy and decision-makers
- Non-government organisations
- Academic organisations
- Peak bodies
- Family and community services sector
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations
- Organisations working with diverse communities