

27 February 2025

The Hon Daniel Mookhey MP  
Treasurer

Sent via: [www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/treasurer](http://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/treasurer)

Dear Treasurer

### **Fams NSW Budget 2025-26 Submission**

I write to support the Fams request for a funding boost to early intervention and prevention programs in child protection as part of the 2025-26 NSW Budget.

Fams is the peak body representing the child protection services sector. The state's approach to child protection has far-reaching consequences for community wellbeing and the economy that last generations. There is growing evidence that children who end up in out of home care (OOHC) have poorer outcomes. They are more likely to end up in youth justice and have their education disrupted with flow-on effects like unemployment, poverty, substance abuse and contact with the justice system as adults. Child removal is a major factor in the cycle of disadvantage that disproportionately affects First Nations people.

Data from the NSW Audit Office shows that over 60 percent of the New South Wales child protection budget is spent on OOHC, while only 13 percent is spent on family support services. Funding for prevention and early intervention has largely not changed over the last decade and fails to ensure the sector can appropriately respond to growing need and case complexities.

Early, proactive, family inclusive supports to keep children at home provide significant opportunities to prevent crises and avoid costs associated with OOHC including safety and trauma. The Fams budget submission includes references to many reports that show significant budget benefits from investment in child protection and early intervention, with returns of up to \$4.90 on every dollar invested.

I support Fams' call for an investment boost in early intervention and prevention with priority given to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations are best placed to support First Nations families and help achieve our closing the gap targets. I also support the establishment of a New South Wales government taskforce to look at the interconnected and complex risks for child removal and establish a coordinated prevention response.

***Could you please strengthen funding for child protection early intervention and prevention programs in line with the Fams budget submission?***

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich  
**Member for Sydney**

