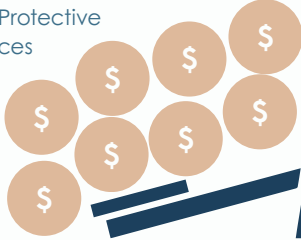


# What If the Smartest Dollar Was Spent Earlier?

## The Case for Investment in Early Intervention and Prevention

**We need to rebalance the scale.**

Out-of-home Care and Protective Services



Family Support Services including Early Intervention

(2026) Report on Government Services 2026. Available at: <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/community-services/child-protection/>

**For every \$8.20 that the NSW Government spent on reacting to harm last financial year, it only spent \$1 on preventing it from occurring in the first place.**

## Alternatively, the NSW Government could spend this on things like...



Family Strengthening



Counselling



Supported Playgroups



Parenting Programs



Mentoring & Peer Support



Skills and Knowledge

**For every \$1 invested, this could look like:**

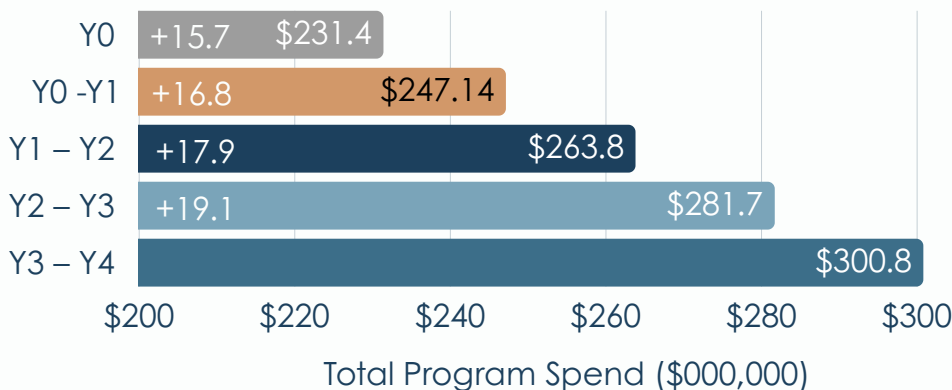
Item	Benefit
Avoided Costs of OOHC Entries - Diversion	\$1.39
Avoided Costs of OOHC - Restoration	\$0.54
Avoided Costs of ROSH Reports	\$0.41
Healing and Thriving	\$0.35
Avoided Costs to Other Government Services	\$0.28

**Total social and economic benefits**

**\$2.97**

(Fams & Lumenia, 2026)

## What could the right investment look like?



**To realise our evidence-based aspiration, we need to uplift CAFS funding by 30% and transition 40% of service delivery to ACCOs (in addition to indexation).**