

**etariat Aboriginal Child,**



# This presentation will cover:

- ❖ What is the Aboriginal Child Family and Community Care State Secretariat (AbSec)
- ❖ Background – Wood Inquiry & KTS
- ❖ What is PACT & IFBS?
- ❖ Location selection and Consultation
- ❖ Local Implementation and Coordination
- ❖ What's working & lesson's learned



# What is the Aboriginal Child, Family & Community Care State Secretariat?

- ❖ Commonly referred to as 'AbSec'
- ❖ peak Aboriginal organisation which provides Child Protection and out of home care policy advice in NSW to government and NGO's
- ❖ Primary funder is Community Services (NSW)



# Keep them Safe – A shared approach to child wellbeing

Wood Inquiry Recommendation 8.5:

*NSW Government should develop a strategy to build capacity in Aboriginal organisations to enable one or more to take on a role similar to that of Lakidjeka Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice & Support Service (ACSASS). This means the service is to act as advisers to Community Services in relation to child protection matters.*



# Keep them Safe – A shared approach to child wellbeing

Wood Inquiry Recommendation 10.5 (c):

*The number and range of family preservation services provided by NGOs should be extended. This should include extending Intensive Family Based Services to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families.*



# Protecting Aboriginal Children Together (PACT)

- ❖ New ways of working in Child Protection in NSW
- ❖ KTS Project A002 – Enhance Aboriginal Consultation
  - ❖ Pilot an Aboriginal child protection model to suit the NSW context
  - ❖ Consider lesson learned from the implementation of the Victorian Lakidjeka model
  - ❖ Collaborate with Community Services and other peaks in this process
  - ❖ Evaluation



# Intensive Family Based Services (IFBS)

## The Project

- ❖ Establish and evaluate 4 new IFBS's within the Aboriginal NGO sector.
- ❖ Funded by Community Services (FaCS) through NSW Government Plan Keep Them Safe.
- ❖ Delivered in partnership between AbSec and FaCS under a MoU signed in March 2010.
- ❖ Staged roll out over 4 years concluding in June 2014.



# Intensive Family Based Services (IFBS)

What is IFBS?

- ❖ Intensive 5-20 hours face to face time with families per week.
- ❖ Time limited up to 16 weeks per family.
- ❖ Works with families in the home and the community.
- ❖ Based on the US Homebuilders Family Preservation Model.
- ❖ Is a voluntary program based on referrals from a local Community Services Centre.





# Intensive Family Based Services (IFBS)

What is the purpose of IFBS?

- ❖ To assist in addressing the disproportionately high representation of Aboriginal children and young people in OOHC (approx. 30%)
- ❖ To aim to keep Aboriginal children safe at home with their families and in their own communities
- ❖ To provide intensive support that regular Caseworkers are unable to provide



# Intensive Family Based Services (IFBS)

IFBS is for:

- ❖ Aboriginal families who are experiencing crisis and where children are at imminent risk of entering OOHC placement due to protective concerns; or
- ❖ Aboriginal families who have child/ren currently in OOHC that are due to return to the family home (restoration); or
- ❖ Carers of Aboriginal children and young people, where the placement has become unstable.



# Location Selection And Consultation

## Data analysis & service mapping:

- ❖ Number of high child protection and OOHC reports per location.
- ❖ Capacity of Aboriginal NGOs in each location to provide an IFBS/PACT service.
- ❖ Forums were held seeking location advice from Aboriginal Peak bodies, peak welfare agencies, senior executive staff of FaCS and the Aboriginal community.

## Community Services Centre (CSC) Capacity

- ❖ Important that the local CSC is able to support the new service.

## Community Infrastructure

- ❖ The local service system can adequately support an Aboriginal IFBS/PACT service.



# Location Selection And Consultation

Eligibility requirements for NGOs to manage the IFBS/PACT services are:

## Service Selection Criteria:

- ❖ Aboriginal controlled organisation.
- ❖ Capacity to sustain the program during the pilot period.
- ❖ Ability to attract and retain skilled Aboriginal staff.
- ❖ Governance and strategic planning structure in place.
- ❖ Strong connection and rapport with the local Aboriginal community.
- ❖ Appropriate cultural and local knowledge, practices and protocols in place.



# Location Selection And Consultation

- ❖ Have demonstrated links to the local child and family Interagency including the local Aboriginal Interagency.
- ❖ Willingness to receive relevant mentoring and support.
- ❖ Ability to pilot an IFBS/PACT service within the terms and conditions outlined by Community Services.
- ❖ Have demonstrated commitment to the safety of children and young people.
- ❖ Have demonstrated capacity/knowledge of the statutory role Community Services has in child protection.
- ❖ Demonstrated experience working with and providing support to high-needs Aboriginal families.



# Local Implementation To Date

## PACT

Two sites established and a third site under negotiation for PACT:

- ❖ Moree – Pius x Aboriginal Corporation
- ❖ Shellharbour – Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation/Myimbarr
- ❖ Third site and provider to be confirmed
- ❖ Local Implementation Groups are in the initial stages of development in both areas
- ❖ PACT Training will commence “Identify & Respond to children and young people at risk”  
14 & 15 December 2011



# Local Implementation To Date

## IFBS

- ❖ Four sites selected for IFBS:
  - ❖ **Wyong** – Bungree Aboriginal Association.
  - ❖ **Kempsey** – Burrun Dalai OOHC and Family Support Service.
  - ❖ **Wagga Wagga** – Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation.
  - ❖ **Clarence Valley** – To be determined.
  
- ❖ Wyong and Kempsey are functional and taking referrals. Local Implementation Groups have been established.
  
- ❖ Wagga Wagga has recruited staff, received the relevant training and are ready to commence operations.
  
- ❖ A tender selection process has been completed for Clarence Valley. A decision is pending.



# What's Worked & Lessons Learned

- ❖ Aboriginal families are responding and working very effectively with Aboriginal service providers.
- ❖ The cultural connection with Aboriginal workers and families is forming strong bonds and trust.
- ❖ Aboriginal families are more willing to engage with Aboriginal service providers.
- ❖ There are different methods in reforming the child protection system in NSW to accommodate the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal children & young people. PACT & IFBS are by no means the only solution, yet designed to be part of a system that provides specific services for Aboriginal people.





# Project Team

**Aboriginal NGOs &  
Community**



**Community Service  
Centres (CSCs)**

## **AbSec**

- ❖ Bill Pritchard, CEO
- ❖ Samantha Josephs, Operations Manager
- ❖ Angela Webb, Snr Programs Manager PACT
- ❖ Dave Tierney, Snr Programs Manager IFBS
- ❖ June Christian, Project Assistant

## **Aboriginal Services Branch**

- ❖ Kylie Coldwell, Director
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- ❖ Noeleen Timbery, Snr Project Officer PACT
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# THANK YOU

Further information call

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[www.absec.org.au](http://www.absec.org.au)

