

Right Support. Right Time.

2019 Better Chances Regional Forum

#betterchances2019
#positivesocialchange



Social Futures
Communities for Children
Lismore & Murwillumbah



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Better Chances Forum

Bring together skills and expertise from organisations across the Northern Rivers to:

- explore service system challenges, gaps and opportunities
- identify and share information about what's working well and what's not in our services and communities
- consider how BCF members can work better alongside communities.

We are working to reduce the number of C&YP in out of home care (OOHC) in our region.



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Recent BCF activities

- **Working Together** as joint initiative of the Better Chances Forum and NSW Department of Education (Public Schools) connecting schools in the Northern Rivers Region with community service providers.
- Started in 2017 with networking events connecting BCF members with NSW Department of Education Schools Services staff in Tweed Shire, and later in Lismore and Clarence Valley.
- In 2019 we progressed to hosting events connecting school principals directly with local and regional services. So far this year they have hosted events across the Lennox Coast, Lismore and Richmond principals' networks connecting over 60 principals with community services and programs.



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Recent BCF activities

Supporting Aboriginal early childhood workers

- The first Aboriginal early childhood workers' strengthening day, was held in Ballina on 31 May, less than two weeks ago, supported by the Better Chances Forum, YWCA and Northcott.
- 28 workers from across the North Coast came together for a day of healing and peer support, acknowledging they are often the first people families come to for support when their children are at risk of removal.
- This was also an opportunity to talk about what Aboriginal early childhood workers would like the rest of the sector to do to work more supportively alongside them. You'll be hearing more about this after lunch.



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Pop result: Reduce number of C&YP in OOHC

Population (usual residents)

- 41,261 families with children (26,932 couple families; 14,329 one parent families)
- 78,748 0-25 year olds (32,273 0-9 year olds; 33,845 10-19 year olds)
- 4746 children and young people in Risk Of Significant Harm (ROSH) reports in 2016-17

Number of C&YP in Out of Home Care (OOHC)

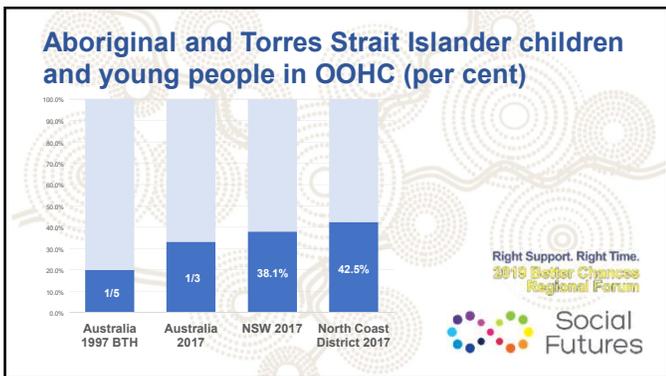
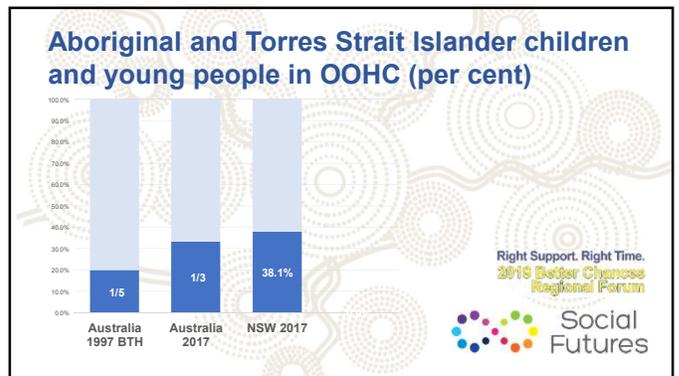
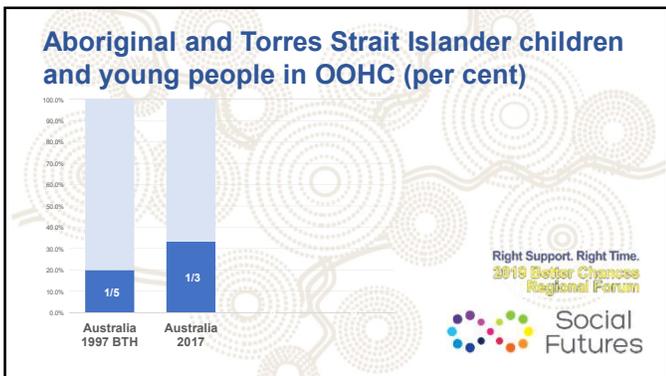
- Decreased from over 1000 in 2014 to 877 in 2015
- Increased again to 963 C&YP in OOHC in 2017

Results framework under development to guide our work towards preventing kids entering OOHC – informed by discussion today.



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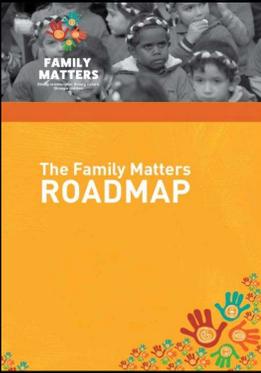
Bringing Them Home 20 years on:
an action plan for healing

“Despite progress in some areas, there has never been a collaborative and systematic attempt to address the recommendations the report made. Most have never been implemented” (The Healing Foundation 2017) p6).

The Healing Foundation’s report presents an action plan for healing:

1. a comprehensive response for Stolen Generations
2. healing intergenerational trauma
3. creating an environment for change.

Image source: BTH 20 years on report cover page.



Family Matters has set a target to **eliminate over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 2040**

- Campaign is led by SNAICC*
- Sub targets will inform the BCF results framework www.familymatters.org.au

*(Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care – national voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children)

Image source: family matters roadmap cover page.

Shared framework for more trauma responsive practice and systems

- We are hearing a clear message in the BCF steering group that we do have C&YP and their families slipping through the gaps.
- Training in trauma-informed practice does not seem to be enough.
- 22 BCF member organisations put our name to a submission on the Their Futures Matter access system review...
- presents a shared practice framework, across sectors, supported by performance measures and contracts.

socialfutures.org.au/development/better-chances-forum → go to program resources



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Shared framework for more trauma responsive practice and systems

1. Training in trauma informed practice is universal and supported by regular practice supervision.
2. Everyone understands what success looks like and is accountable for their contribution and performance.
3. Everyone who approaches a program or service needs to be connected in at least some way with support or a pathway.
4. Connected, coordinated and collaborative services and supports – supported by leadership and resources.
5. Strong, supportive communities help connect people with formal supports.



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So what does all this mean for us here today?

How can you, how can we, contribute to creating an environment for change?

- **What makes it possible** to have the time to listen, to offer consistency, validation and true connection? *What gets in the way?*
- What support do you need to be truly trauma responsive in your work?
- How can you, and we, work more supportively alongside Aboriginal workers communities and organisations?



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BCF work plan and results framework

Today is an opportunity for reflection and connection, to challenge ourselves and each other:

- What can you do in your work? Small, noticeable changes?
- What needs organisational support?
- What do we need from our systems?

Your contributions today, including through the workshops this afternoon can inform our forum report, our plan to work together and the information and advice we will offer to decision-makers.



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Have a fantastic, challenging day.

Thank you



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