



## 2.1 What would a better child protection system look like for children and young people?

*Key themes emerging from input:*

- Early intervention
- A responsive and focussed service - quicker responses, timely responses
- Child focussed – the child and their family needs at the centre
- A consistent service
- Well resourced – navigation of resources
- Voice of the child is heard – child is involved in decision making
- Provision of and access to information
- Staff supported and trained – supervision, education, emotional support
- Working together – Government and non-government sectors
- A system with a therapeutic approach that can be relied upon
- A culturally responsive system

*All input received:*

FOCUS GROUP	FEEDBACK RECEIVED
<b>Focus Group 1</b> <b>- Mount Gambier</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sense of safety for children.</li> <li>• Trauma informed approach across the board.</li> <li>• Better reporting system/service – quicker response.</li> <li>• Transition program that supports 18+.</li> <li>• Legislation supports needs of child.</li> <li>• Putting needs of child ahead of system – resources.</li> <li>• Family support (in the home) staying out of care is best option.</li> <li>• Early Intervention so kids can stay with families.</li> <li>• Consistency in Care Teams (OOHC).</li> <li>• Every child has the opportunity to live in an environment free from abuse.</li> <li>• Responsive and focussed service.</li> <li>• Adequate resources.</li> <li>• Greater resources so SW can do their jobs properly.</li> <li>• Service for every child ~ therapy, education etc.</li> <li>• Live in whole family support.</li> <li>• Voice of the child heard.</li> <li>• Education on what Child Protection is?</li> </ul>
<b>Focus Group 2</b> <b>Adelaide</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community approach.</li> <li>• Knowledge of causes: e.g. child development.</li> <li>• Resource navigation.</li> <li>• Value the safety and wellbeing of children enough to allocate adequate resources.</li> <li>• Inter-sectorial and across all Government NGO collaboration.</li> <li>• Collaborative Early Intervention.</li> <li>• Families are provided with effective support (long term) – be creative on how</li> </ul>

	<p>this happens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More information given to children when removed from home.</li> <li>• Identify families at risk from birth. Mandated to participate in protection programs.</li> <li>• Address blame culture – supportive learning cultures in services.</li> <li>• Staff support and training.</li> <li>• Well trained staff – attachment; trauma informed.</li> <li>• Higher intensity services to work with multi problem, highly complex families.</li> <li>• Early transition planning from care into adulthood – seamless 15/16 years – 25 years.</li> <li>• Better supported staff; supervision, education, emotional.</li> <li>• Emphasis is given to early intervention services that have clear evaluated, tested and proven positive outcomes for clients and families.</li> <li>• Universal screening tool e.g. FSF.</li> <li>• Kids are assured of being given the opportunity to heal with therapeutic services.</li> <li>• A system with therapeutic approach – trauma informed practice across multiple systems.</li> <li>• Capacity to respond once screened in.</li> <li>• The Government and NGO sector join together to provide seamless support and wrap around services for families, young people and children.</li> <li>• Well trained carers (home and residential care) who have skills in trauma informed practice.</li> <li>• National data base of carers.</li> <li>• Better investment in prevention of family vulnerability.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Focus Group 3 North Adelaide</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Happy child – a welcoming safe and supportive environment – comfortable.</li> <li>• The child has a voice and involved in decisions.</li> <li>• A system that did no harm.</li> <li>• Holistic Assessment Framework.</li> <li>• Timely response.</li> <li>• Resources to support early intervention.</li> <li>• Timely supports.</li> <li>• Better transition process for OOHC</li> <li>• Stable and skilled case worker.</li> <li>• Less invasive – good communication and fast action.</li> <li>• More input at antenatal stage.</li> <li>• Culturally responsive.</li> <li>• Early intervention – holistic.</li> <li>• Entering suitable stable family placed placements within community.</li> <li>• More support for carers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Focus Group 4 Adelaide</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent children coming into care.</li> <li>• Information sharing.</li> <li>• Evidence based programs fully integrated.</li> <li>• Partnerships – NGO and Government.</li> <li>• Joined up approach.</li> <li>• Children’s needs before system.</li> <li>• No gaps – seamless system.</li> <li>• Intervene early.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Focus Group 5</b> <b>Port Augusta</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention which enables birth parents to safely care for their children.</li> <li>• Early Intervention by community (village approach) and relationships.</li> <li>• Early Intervention up-skilling families/parents to keep children in their environment.</li> <li>• More staff. More Early Intervention re: financial counselling.</li> <li>• Better carers support – DCP and NGO.</li> <li>• More wrap around services in the country regions applied with transparency.</li> <li>• Increased involvement by other agencies in responding to CP/child’s needs.</li> <li>• Greater engagement between child and case manager – smaller caseloads.</li> <li>• Resources – staff and timely responses.</li> <li>• More understanding: Why? Who? How? When?</li> <li>• Decisions made in a timely manner – quicker outcomes.</li> <li>• More proactive than reactive.</li> <li>• Safe responsive – active.</li> <li>• Timely response to risk of children.</li> <li>• Listening to the child’s voice or advocate/carer.</li> <li>• Ask the children – their voice.</li> <li>• Choice.</li> <li>• Belongs – safe and therapeutic.</li> <li>• Children understanding the system and hearing their voice.</li> <li>• Placement stability.</li> <li>• Secure good quality family based placements.</li> <li>• Greater placement stability.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Focus Group 6</b> <b>Mt Barker</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandate families to engage in support services.</li> <li>• Better support and up-skilling for foster carers to retain and professionalise this/no commercial care (ongoing).</li> <li>• Skilled early intervention (not basic programs).</li> <li>• Genuinely child focussed with care teams that communicate together.</li> <li>• Prompt response.</li> <li>• All Tier 1 + Tier 2 reports investigated.</li> <li>• Multi-disciplinary (across departments – health, legal, cares) a full holistic system not weighted towards one agency.</li> <li>• Prompt medical/health services.</li> <li>• Adequate resourcing at ground level.</li> <li>• Time to build relationships – hear stories and gain trust.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Focus Group 7</b> <b>Murray Bridge</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to focus on families not just the child.</li> <li>• Someone has my back and my safety is a priority.</li> <li>• Long term involvement with embedded funding as core business not reliant on the political process.</li> <li>• If I’m not safe, someone will take action. Shouldn’t have to rely on one group – whole community.</li> <li>• Values, safety and family.</li> <li>• Families at the centre in everything we do. Values, safety and family.</li> <li>• Stronger in child focus.</li> <li>• I can trust the people I go to really understand my trauma.</li> <li>• Child’s voice heard.</li> <li>• Consider/ask child what they want.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensive multi-agency home support for parents rather than removal from my family.</li> <li>• Intentional placement.</li> <li>• Training across the state on the value of children.</li> <li>• Aware of past policies/injustices of Aboriginal children and young people.</li> <li>• Need to be able to develop trust with people.</li> <li>• A safe place to go when needed – drop-in centre.</li> <li>• I will be believed and people will listen and won't need to keep repeating my story.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Focus Group 8</b> <b>Southern</b> <b>Adelaide</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linking birth families and getting them involved in day to day decisions.</li> <li>• Better support services so that parents can get help they need.</li> <li>• Continuity of care – i.e. social workers, carers.</li> <li>• A system they can rely on – quickly and effectively.</li> <li>• To keep me safe – all areas.</li> <li>• Having needs met – emotional, safety and physical.</li> <li>• Early Intervention – prevention.</li> <li>• To help me earlier.</li> <li>• More support for parents (Early Intervention).</li> <li>• Prevention of removal – supports for parents. Resources into the home.</li> <li>• Consistency with Care Teams (SW Carers services).</li> <li>• Consistent primary carer close to community who can put my needs first.</li> <li>• I am heard.</li> <li>• Voice of child.</li> <li>• Be involved in decision making.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Focus Group 9</b> <b>Western</b> <b>Adelaide</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child focus.</li> <li>• Permanency – stability.</li> <li>• Transparent decisions.</li> <li>• If they have to be in emergency OOHC or residential care then make it more appropriated for the child.</li> <li>• Funding and services to meet the social determinates of health and wellbeing for families and children.</li> <li>• Information sharing across agencies.</li> <li>• Trauma informed.</li> <li>• Consistent worker/continuity of service.</li> <li>• Ensuring that all children get a timely response.</li> <li>• Meaningful intervention.</li> <li>• Prevention universal.</li> <li>• Aboriginal people to self-govern.</li> <li>• Stability in placement.</li> <li>• Early Intervention for families and children.</li> <li>• Value the carers.</li> <li>• Community based Family Support Services (no stigma).</li> <li>• Responsive.</li> <li>• Coordinated child focused.</li> <li>• Child focus – best practice for individual child.</li> <li>• Early Intervention – home visiting for all children from point of pregnancy.</li> <li>• Keeping children safe at home – have a voice.</li> </ul>