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OurSPACE

Specialist Therapeutic

Outreach Support for Children

in Foster and Kinship care



Communities
& Justice

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**I live and work on Dharug land and
acknowledge all First Nations people
here today, their elders past, present
and emerging and the Aboriginal team
members of OurSPACE who work in
the context of removal**



**Australian
Childhood
Foundation**

What is the Australian Childhood Foundation?



Training and workshops



We work with approx. 1000 children per day nationally



International Childhood Trauma Conference



Web resources



Scholarships - Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma



Services in every State and Territory



Advocacy and research

Funded by DCJ and directly addresses placement instability.

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graph TD; A[Funded by DCJ and directly addresses placement instability.] --> B[Anyone can refer – No Cost  
PRM or Interim PRM  
Living in NSW and had two placements in the previous 6 months]; B --> C[Outreach counselling any where in NSW. Also resources the network of adults to support their unmet trauma needs.]; C --> D[Builds relationship permanence for children and young people];
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PRM or Interim PRM

Living in NSW and had two placements in the previous 6 months

Outreach counselling any where in NSW. Also resources the network of adults to support their unmet trauma needs.

Builds relationship permanence for children and young people

***We continue working with
the child regardless of
geographical/placement
change.***

Intake

- Cultural Consultation
- Care Team Meeting (repeated as required)
- Safety Assessment (updated as needed)

Therapeutic Support/Counselling

- Connection to Learning Plan
- Psychometrics/Assessments
- Therapeutic Connection Plan

Closure

- Closure report
- Transition Story
- Good Goodbye

Who are the Children being supported by OurSPACE?

53% Live in Foster Care

40% Live in Kinship Care

7% Live in ACA's

77% Have lived in their current placement for under 12 months

97% Were abused prior to turning 1 year old

98% had experienced Physiological abuse

62% had experienced Sexual Abuse

97% had experienced Physical Abuse

We believe that culture is key to healing

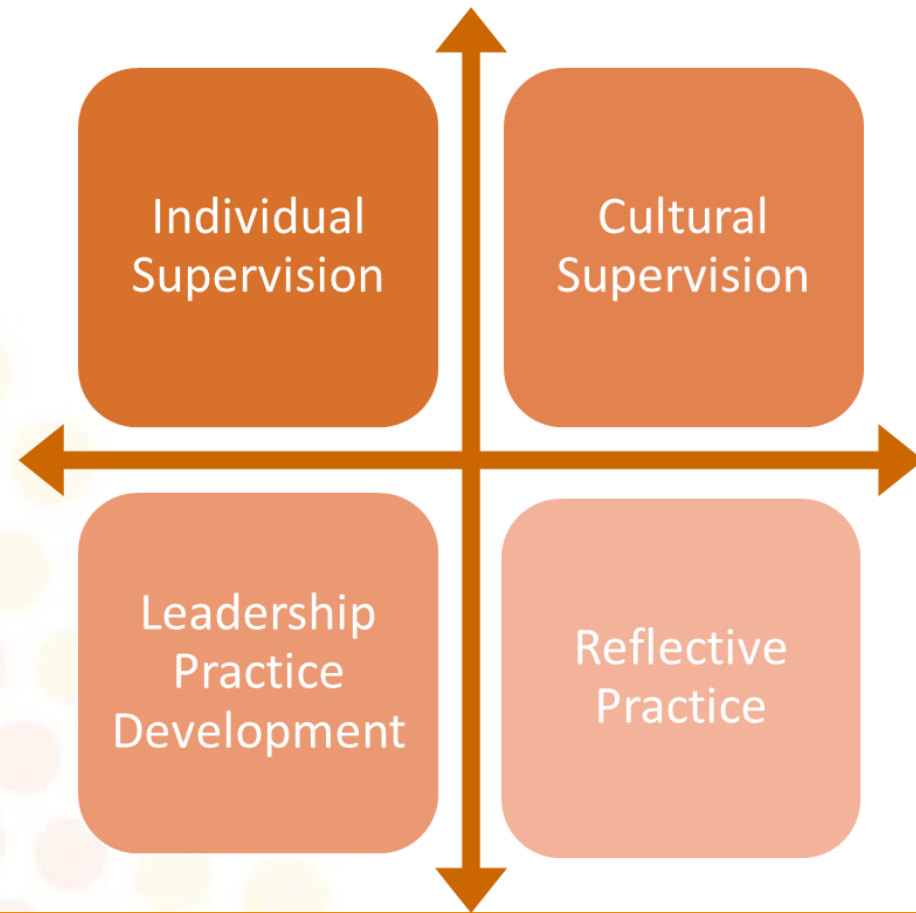
60% of our FTE are Aboriginal Therapeutic Specialists.

All Aboriginal referrals have a cultural assessment prior to engaging in therapeutic work.

We use resources designed by and for Aboriginal people in NSW

- Cultural Supervision for Aboriginal Staff
- Development of Leadership Roles
- Flexible work arrangements
- Supported to engage with local and remote communities
- Continual process of adaptation and consultation to include cultural knowledge

OurSPACE Leadership and Supervision Support



We believe that all reports and assessments should be able to be read by the young person, their carers and the professionals.

No Jargon, No Blame, No Criticism.

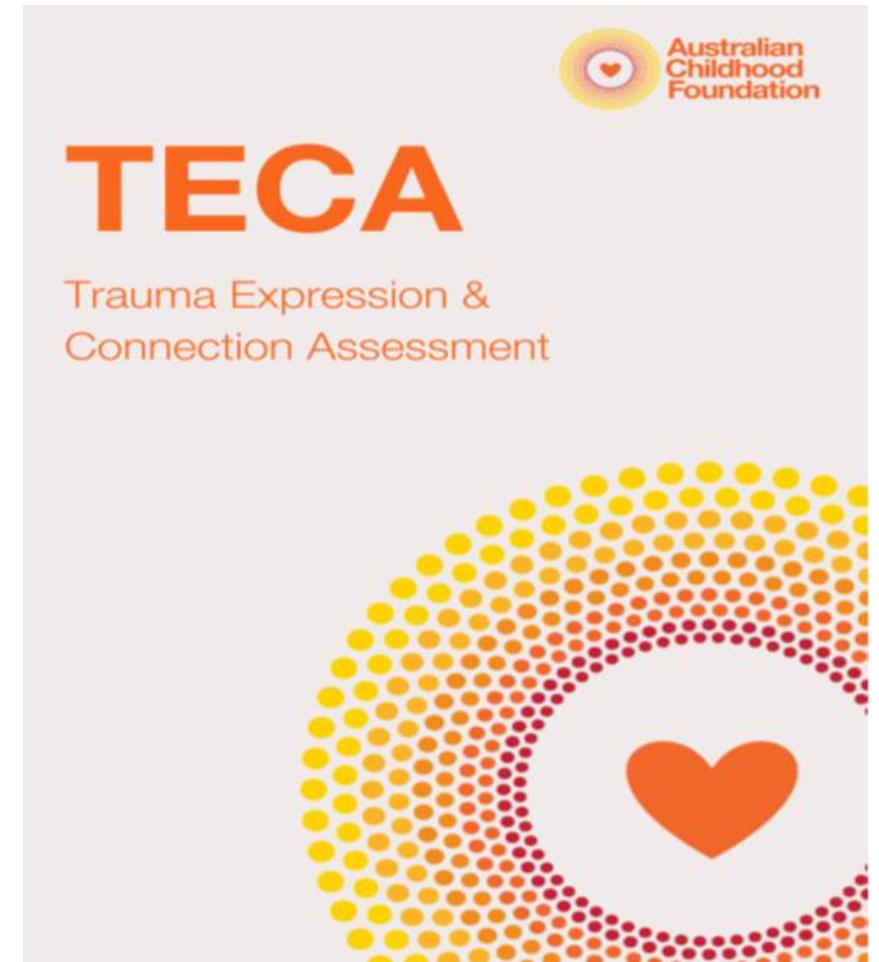
Key Findings

- **97% of the children and young people in OurSPACE program had experienced abuse and/or neglect before they turned one year old**
- **Almost 40% of the children in the research had been abused for more than five years on a continuous basis**
- **Children and young people in OurSPACE program experienced significant placement instability (more than 8 placements)**
- **10% reside in ACA's**
- **A significant proportion of children in the OurSPACE program suffered from a range of serious developmental and mental health problems.**
- **Over 75% of carers have experienced historical trauma**

**OurSPACE Outcomes Report 2021*

Adapting assessments to focus on relationship

- Keeping focus on the trauma messages the behaviour is sending
- The relationship becomes the client (Co-regulation)
- Responding with relational interventions



Outcomes

25% Of Aboriginal children referred to OurSPACE were restored to their family permanently

65% Of Aboriginal children referred to OurSPACE engaged with family for the very first time

81% Of care teams were better equipped to understand the trauma needs of children as a result of OurSPACE

75% Children showed improvement in their sibling relationships as a result of OurSPACE

85% Children showed a reduction in criminal activity if they were involved in Youth Justice at time of referral to OurSPACE

Preliminary FACSiAR data Jan 2022 - Measuring indicators of 'Home' and 'Safety' in OurSPACE program Jan 22

Sample of 184 12 months on from completion (94 of whom were Aboriginal (52%))

Aggregate of 419 ROSH reports over 12-month period prior to acceptance. (An average of 4 ROSH reports each child).

80 (44%) had no further ROSH post OurSPACE.

127 without any change of placement (70%) post OurSPACE

**Data recorded 12 months prior and then 12 months post involvement in the OurSPACE program*

“The biggest barrier to stable placements for children in OOHC is the misinterpretation of the language (behavior) of the child and how the community responds to it”

OurSPACE 2019

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