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Department of Families, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

SFCS 2004 - 2008 Evaluation

Progress To Date

CfC Forum

7-8 November 2007

Wendy Mouat

Improving the lives of Australians



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Purpose of Session

- Update on the evaluation's progress
- What's coming up in the future?



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Caretaker Conventions

- **Significant limitations during Caretaker in discussions of:**
 - **Policy**
 - **New data**
 - **Committing the incoming government**
- **Value of the Forum to members - decision to proceed**



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SFCS 2004-2008

- **greater focus on early childhood initiatives and resources**
- **aims to achieve better outcomes for children, their families and communities in the key areas:**
 - **Health**
 - **Family supports**
 - **Early learning and care**
 - **Child-friendly communities**
 - **Services working together (CfC)**



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Evaluation Framework

- Timeframe for the evaluation – 2005 to mid 2008
- Proceeding with activities as per Evaluation Framework and timeframes
- More information at www.facsia.gov.au



What is the Evaluation measuring overall?

Key Evaluation Questions for SFCS Evaluation as a whole:

- Have outcomes for children/families in the four priority areas improved?
- What are the lessons learnt on how to achieve and sustain better outcomes?
- Is early investment effective in terms of cost and outcomes, and for whom?
- What aspects of the model are effective?

Key Evaluation Questions for Communities for Children (CfC):

- Do services in CfC sites work more effectively as a system?
- Are CfC communities more child-friendly?
- How successful has the FP model been in bringing about these changes?



Evaluation Progress (slide 1)

Evaluation of outcomes for participants:

1. SFIA

- field work wave 1 and 2 undertaken

2. Outcomes Indicators (ABS, AIHW)

- Due to be collected early 2008

3. Progress Reports (PRT)

- Outcomes, Learnings, Case studies
- Jul-Dec 2006, Jan-Jun 2007



Evaluation Progress (slide 2)

Process Evaluation :

1. Demographic Profiles (provided in 2005-06 to CfC sites)
2. Baseline information and data collected and reported in the baseline report
 - Service mapping
 - Service coordination study – strategic & operational snapshots
 - Partnership model study
3. Promising Practice Profiles
4. Progress Report analysis



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What's happening?

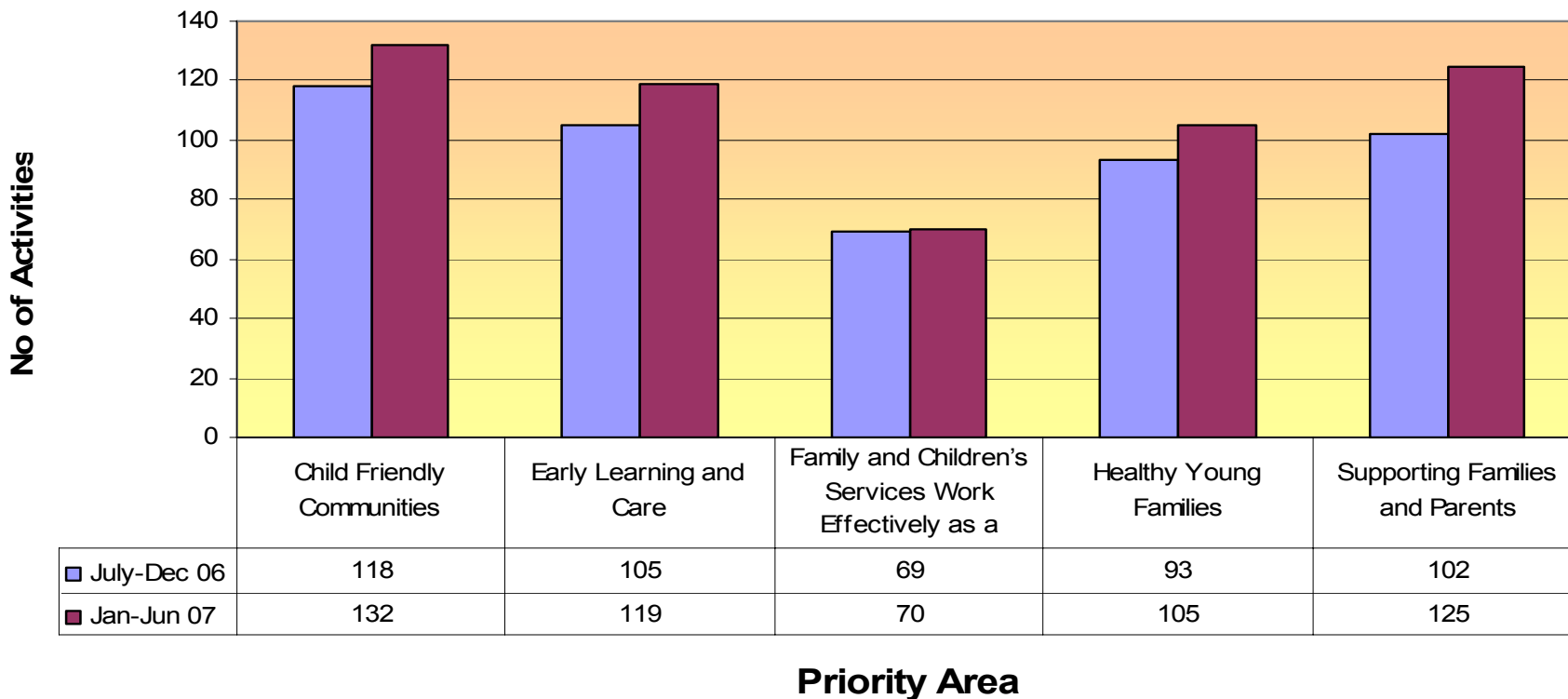
A lot of activity happening in the sites

- **Stories emerging of changes happening on the ground**
 - Improved health and child-development outcomes
 - Greater collaboration of services
- **Evaluation work showing us details on activities across sites**
 - New and innovative ways of service delivery
 - Participation and types of activities – next slides



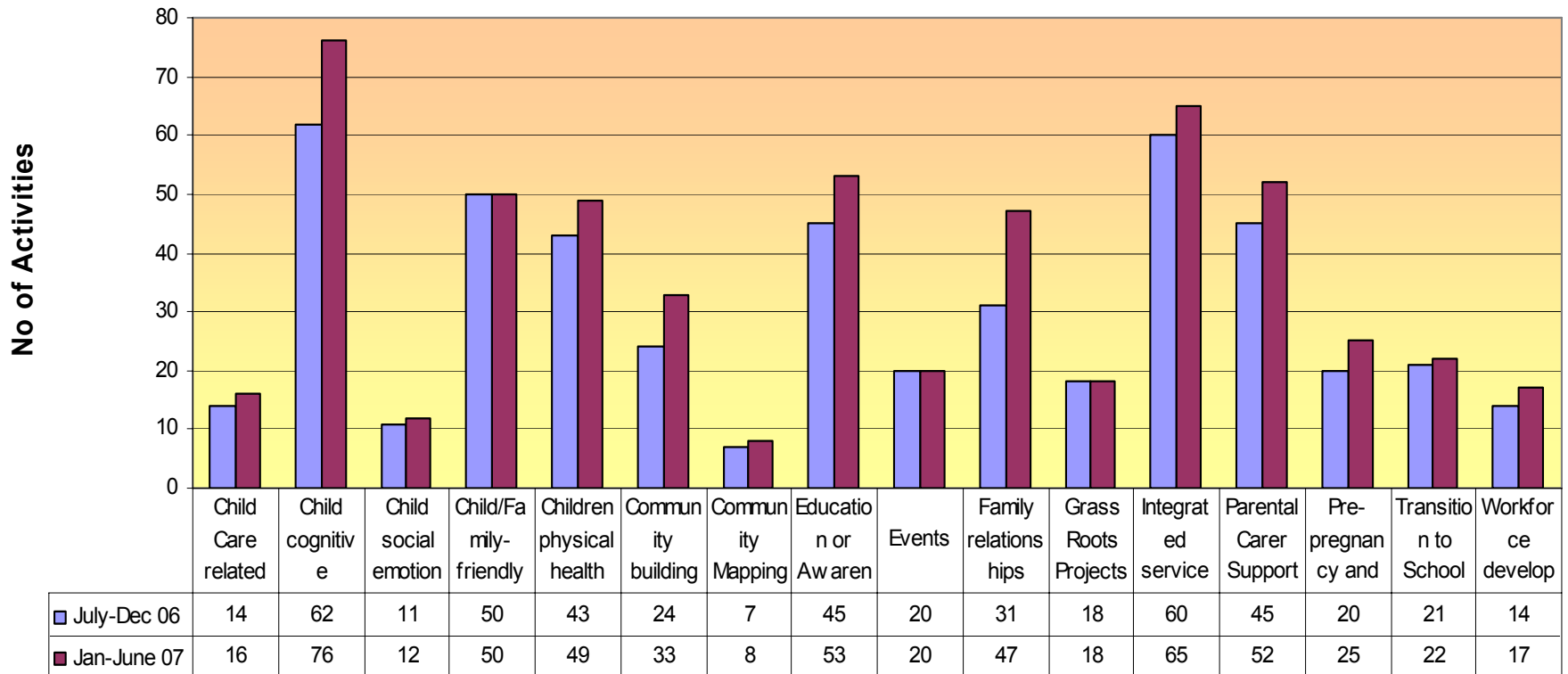
CfC ACTIVITIES IN EACH PRIORITY AREA

Jul-Dec 2006 & Jan-Jun 2007 *(Preliminary data only)*





CfC Number of activities in each activity type Jul-Dec 2006 & Jan-Jun 2007 (Prelim data only)





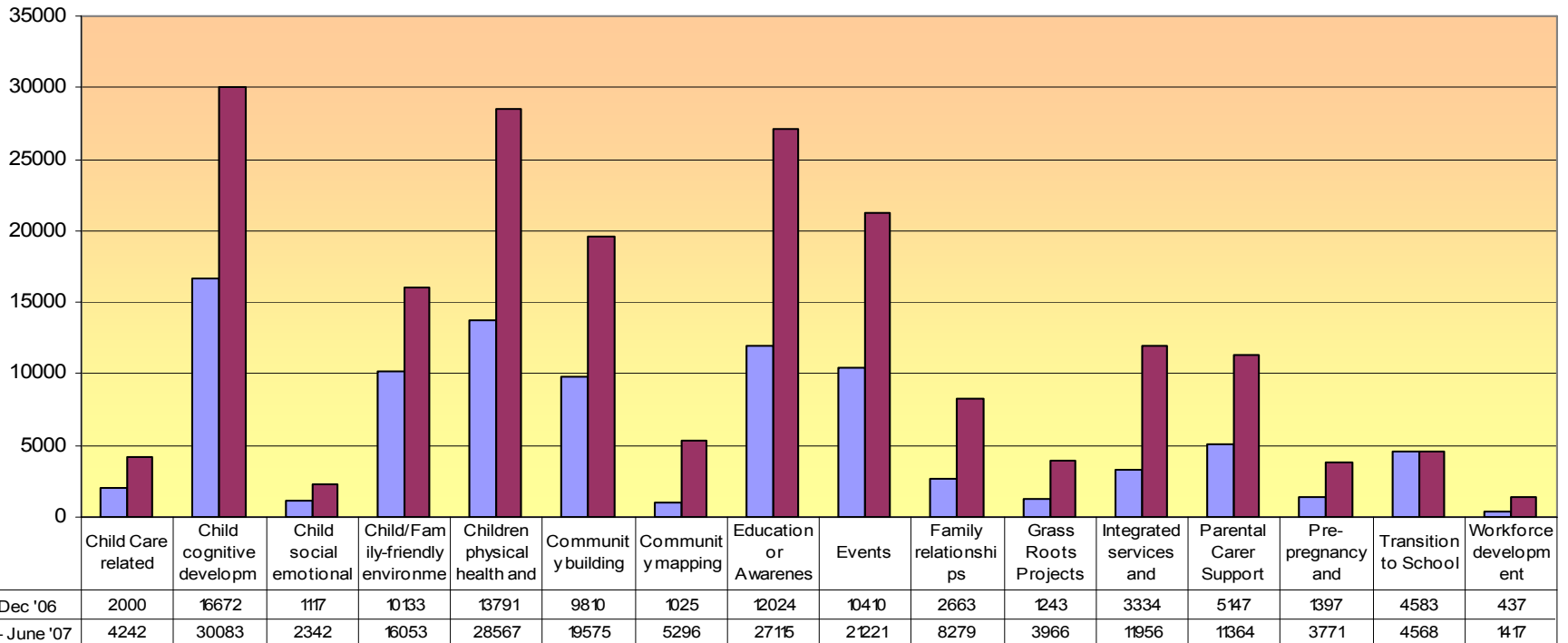
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CfC PARTICIPATION IN EACH ACTIVITY TYPE

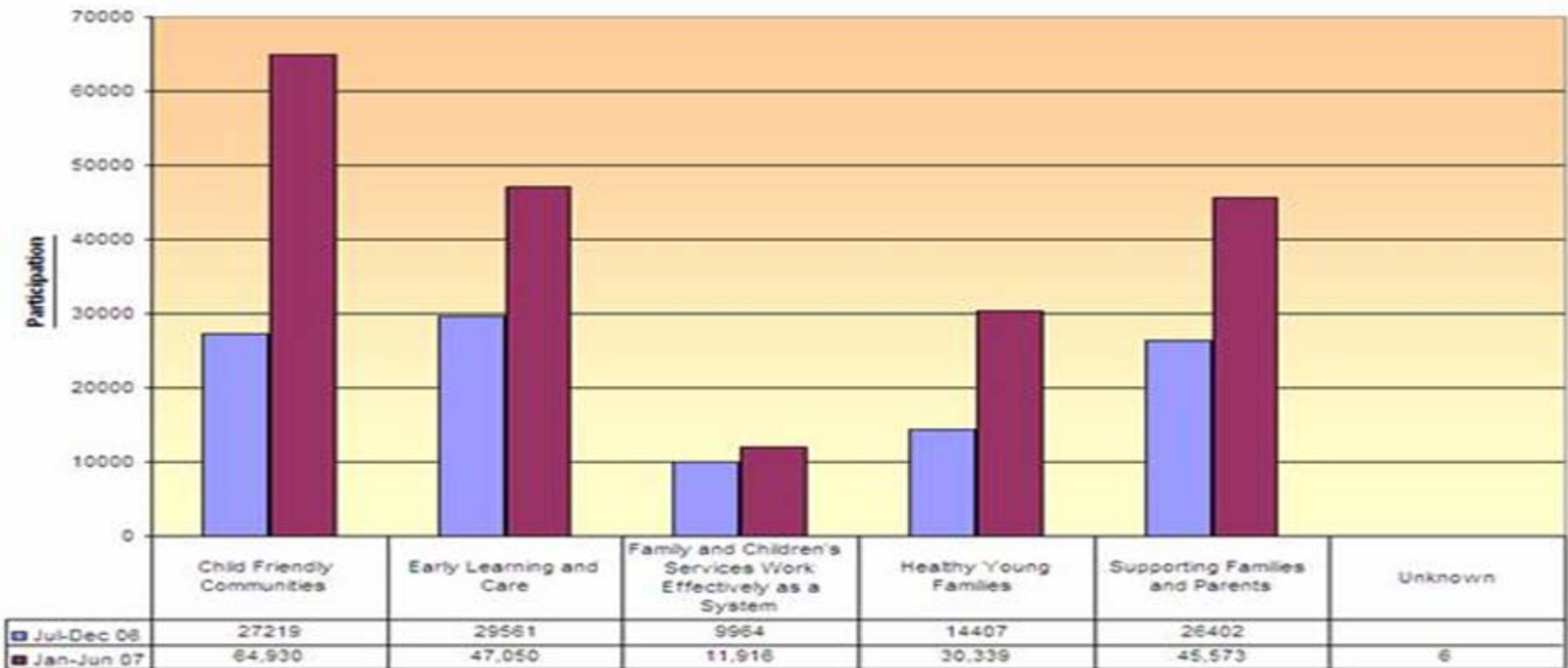
Jul-Dec 2006 & Jan-June 2007 (Prelim data only)



Activity Types



CfC INCIDENTS OF PARTICIPATION – Priority Area (Prelim data only)





What's coming up? (slide 1)

Final outputs for the evaluation:

- Draft final SFCS 2004-8 evaluation report due to FaCSIA - mid 2008
- Final SFCS evaluation report due to FaCSIA - mid 2008
- Final SFCS evaluation report includes SFIA due to FaCSIA - Aug/Sep 2008
- Other outputs due to FaCSIA:
 - Thematic papers – mid 2008
 - Newsletters – May 2008 and December 2007
- Public release takes additional time



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What's coming up? (slide 2)

- **SPRC fieldwork - Oct/Nov 2007 & Jan/Feb 2008**
- **SFIA wave 3 – Feb/Mar 2008**
- **PPP (AIFS reporting)**
- **Progress reporting – Jul to Dec 2007 (due to FaCSIA 31 Jan 2008)**



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Progress Reporting – special requests

- **CfC database being used is big and complex**
 - It is a database
- **Timeliness**
- **Outcomes for children – local data**
 - **Hospitals**
 - **Police**



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Communication

- **PRT Key messages**
 - **PRT Key Message Sheet**
 - **F1 key**
- **Contact us**
 - **1800 007 952**
 - **sfcs.evaluation@facsia.gov.au**
- **SFCS Evaluation newsletters – 6 mthly**
- **CfC Newsletters - quarterly**