

**National Evaluation of the Stronger Families and  
Communities Strategy**

**CfC Baseline**

CfC Forum, 7 November 2007

Dr Kristy Muir, Social Policy Research Centre

## Outline

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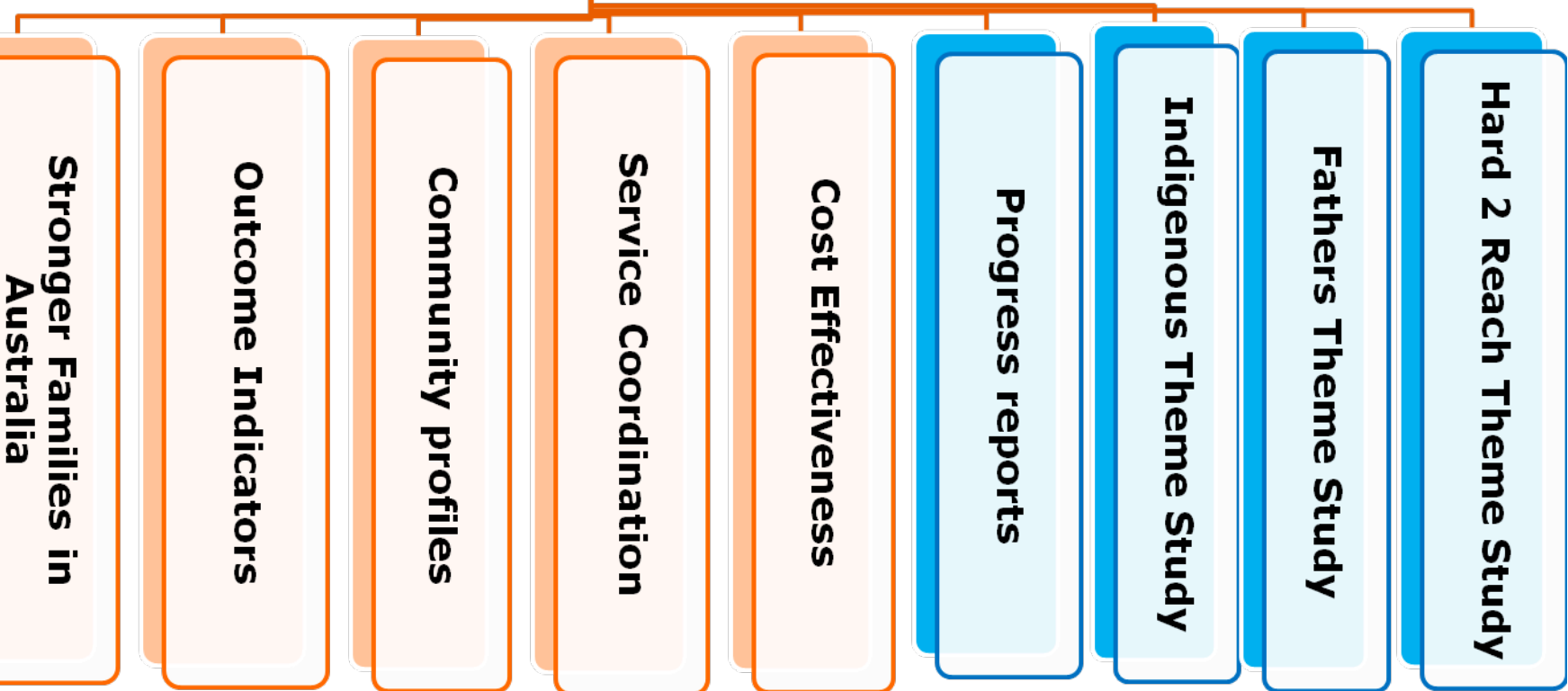
- ◆ Overview of National Evaluation components
- ◆ CfC Baseline includes
  - ❖ Demographic Profiles
  - ❖ Service Mapping
  - ❖ Service Coordination Study
  - ❖ Fieldwork – Service Coordination Study and Partnership Model Study
- ◆ Where to from here?

**SFCS  
Evaluation**

**CfC**

**ItG**

**LA**



**Stronger Families in  
Australia**

**Outcome Indicators**

**Community profiles**

**Service Coordination**

**Cost Effectiveness**

**Progress reports**

**Indigenous Theme Study**

**Fathers Theme Study**

**Hard 2 Reach Theme Study**

### **Communities for Children Process Evaluation**

- ◆ Demographic Profiles
- ◆ Service Mapping
- ◆ Service Coordination Study
- ◆ Fieldwork – Service Coordination Study and Partnership Model Study

## Demographic Profiles: people in CfC communities

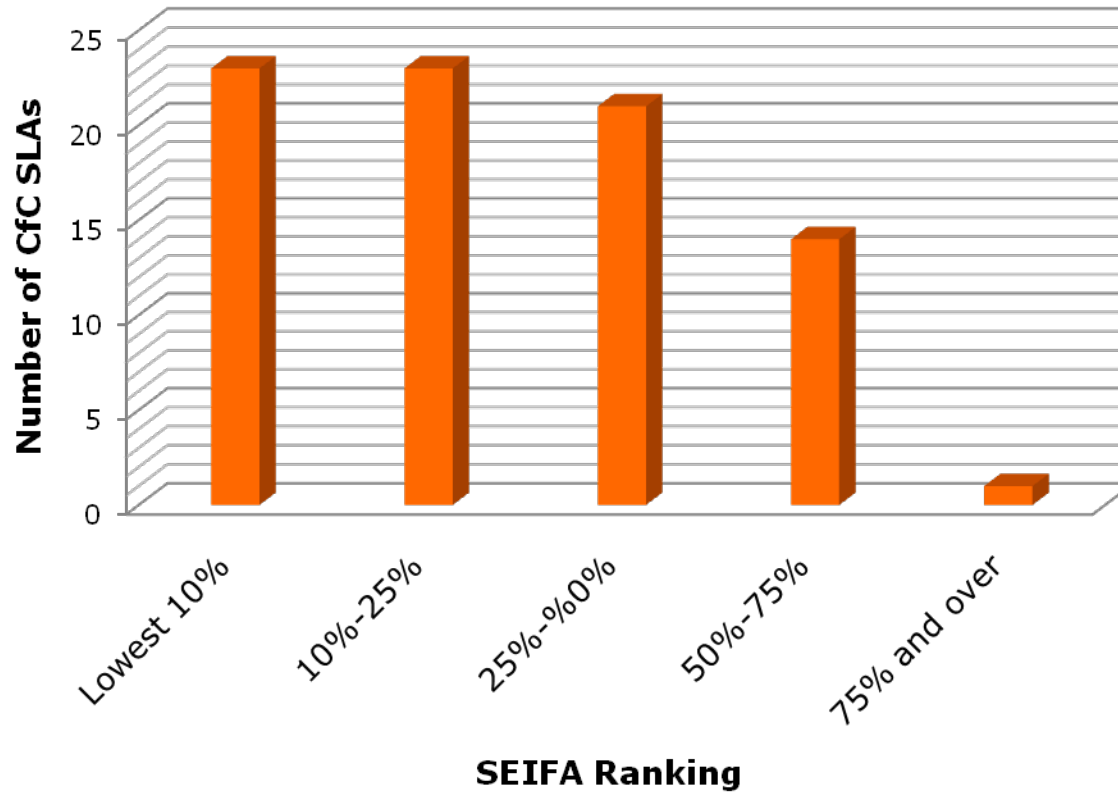


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	CfC sites (%)	Australia (%)
Proportion of population aged 0 -5	9	8
0-5 year olds who are ATSI	9	4
<b>0-5 year olds in lone parent households</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>0-5 year olds in families with weekly incomes &lt;\$500</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>
0-5 year olds with mothers who speak English 'not well' or 'not at all'	5	3
0-5 year olds with one or two parents unemployed	10	7
Households with no motor vehicle	11	10
<b>Persons aged 15 years and over who attained Year 12 or equivalent as highest level of schooling</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>38</b>
Persons born outside main English speaking countries	20	20

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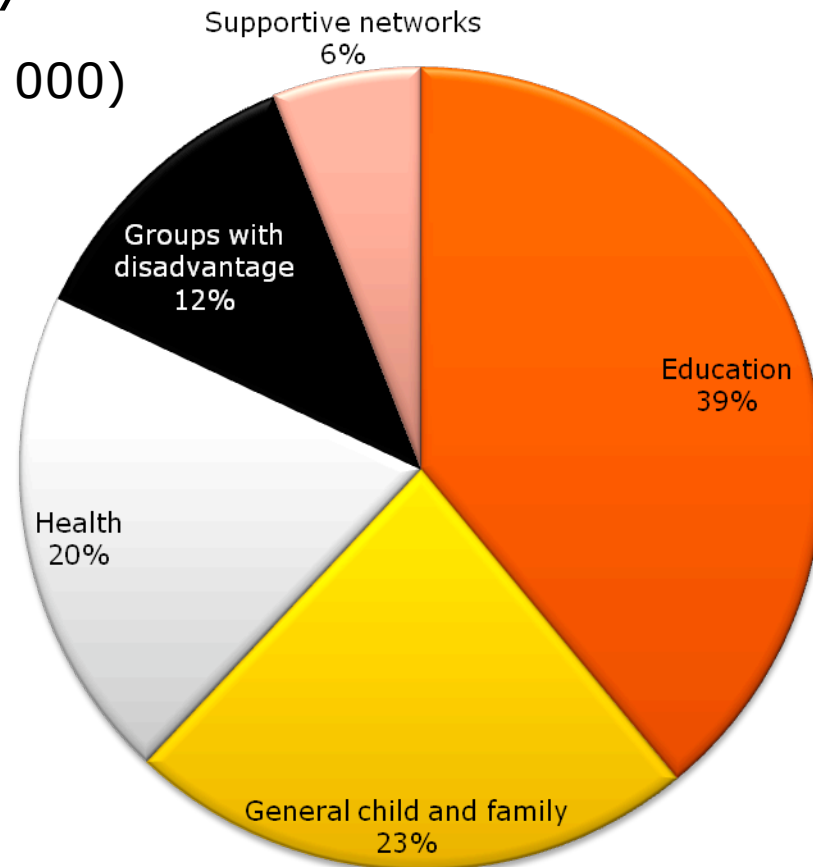
# Demographic Profiles: CfC site levels of disadvantage



Note: SEIFA Index of SLAs in the site, 2001.  
Many CfC sites are situated within multiple SLAs

## Service Mapping: service numbers and types

- ◆ Service numbers = 39-227  
(Population= 10 000 to 182 000)
- ◆ Large site variations
- ◆ Inaccuracies
- ◆ Addressing limitations



# Service Coordination Study: majority working well together

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- ◆ 482 completed surveys
- ◆ Most respondents work in partnership with other services
  - ❖ Effective partnerships promoted by
    - respect and understanding of the needs of families
    - willingness to work together
- ◆ Few felt services were well coordinated in their site
  - ❖ Effective partnerships hindered by
    - lack of integration between levels of government
    - staff problems
    - competition for funding between agencies
    - lack of senior agency staff involvement and leadership

## CfC Service Coordination and Partnership Study: interviewees

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- ◆ 10 CfC sites in late 2006
- ◆ 97 interviews conducted with:
  - ❖ FP managers
  - ❖ CfC committee members
  - ❖ Managers of CfC funded services
  - ❖ Early years contacts in governments
  - ❖ Interagency group chairpersons
  - ❖ Relevant stakeholders and community members
  - ❖ FaCSIA State and Territory Officers

# CfC Service Coordination and Partnership Study: Changes to work and attitudes as CfC evolves

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- ◆ Set up stage
  - 1-2 years needed to build networks
  - requires much skill and effort from staff
  
- ◆ Roll out/implementation stage
  - more energising and satisfying
  - engaging and directly impacting on families and children
  - CfC structures may need adjusting
  
- ◆ Sustainability stage
  - sustaining services and partnerships is the main focus
  - some CfC services may continue operating
  - likely that some continued funding will be required

# CfC Service Coordination and Partnership Study: Facilitators of better service coordination, delivery and quality

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- ◆ FP organisation's capacity and actions
  - Skills of the FP personnel
  - Support from higher levels of the FP organisation
  - Cooperation with other FPs
  - Clear and regular communication with local stakeholders
  - Transparent and equitable decision-making processes
  - Structures outside the CfC Committee
  - Support from FaCSIA personnel
  
- ◆ Local service environment
  - Existing interagency groups
  - Boundaries of the CfC site correspond to a natural community

# CfC Service Coordination and Partnership Study: Barriers to better service coordination, delivery and quality

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- ◆ Need time to:
  - Create cultural change
  - Engage the hardest to reach
  - Reduce entrenched distrust of services
  - Set up sustainable networks and services
  
- ◆ Other barriers include:
  - Lack of resources in local agencies (time and skills of staff)
  - Boundaries of CfC sites (if artificial grouping of suburbs)
  - Perceived funding restrictions

## Where we are now?

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- ◆ Wave 2 of intensive fieldwork (in SFIA sites) –currently in progress
- ◆ Service mapping wave 2 – in the field November
- ◆ Snapshots wave 2 – February/March
- ◆ Indigenous themed study – started
- ◆ Hard to reach themed study – started
- ◆ Father Engagement theme study - started
- ◆ Progress report analysis – DB1 received; DB2 Feb 08
- ◆ Outcome Indicator Framework – Completed by April (awaiting 2006 census data)

Kristy Muir

[k.muir@unsw.edu.au](mailto:k.muir@unsw.edu.au)

Ilan Katz

[ilan.katz@unsw.edu.au](mailto:ilan.katz@unsw.edu.au)

[www.sprc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au)