

LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS

Life Without Barriers

Voices of Innovation: Reshaping Care Models - What We Heard



The artwork is a complex, colorful composition. It features several large, concentric circles in shades of orange, yellow, and green, some with internal patterns like dots or lines. A prominent rainbow with thick, curved bands of red, orange, yellow, and green arcs across the center. Stylized human figures, some with multiple heads or faces, are integrated into the design, rendered in teal, orange, and white. The background is a mix of dark and light colors with various geometric patterns, including dots and zig-zags.

Acknowledgement of Country

Life Without Barriers acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country and their connection to land, water and community.

We pay our respects to them, their cultures and customs and to their Elders, past and present, and the continuation of knowledge and culture. We believe that reconciliation must live in the hearts and minds of all Australians.

We are committed to an ongoing journey towards truth telling and reconciliation. We recognise and value the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees, carers, people we support, peak bodies, organisations, their leaders, and communities across Australia as we continue our reconciliation journey together.

'Empowered Voices' artwork created by
Keisha Leon, Lisa Sorbie Martin and Gilimbaa.

Project Background

Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) providers across Australian jurisdictions face ongoing challenges in navigating a decline in foster care options for children and young people, which have resulted in increasing rates of residential care placements in many settings.

As a large provider of OOHHC, Life Without Barriers (LWB) is uniquely positioned to drive innovation through the design of new family-based care models that better meet the needs of children, young people and their families. The Voices of Innovation project is focused on developing and implementing markedly different care approaches aligned to LWB's commitment to CARE.

Innovation Process to Date

The joint LWB and Lumenia project team has undertaken a range of engagements to support the project's generation of innovative prototype care options, including through:

- **Delivery of a series of innovation workshops:** Two innovation workshops were facilitated by the team in Ipswich and Newcastle, bringing together individuals with diverse expertise, including lived experience of young people with care experiences, carers and parents alongside the LWB team, Peak body representatives and adjacent service practitioners to design new and innovative models of home-based care. During the innovation workshops, a number of care prototypes were developed by participants to transform the way out of home care is delivered in LWB.
- **Interviews and listening sessions:** Interviews were undertaken with a range of local and international practice leaders to explore best practice approaches in service design, and novel and innovative approaches to empowering children and families through reconceptualised approaches to care
- **Reviewing published and grey literature** to inform the design process and highlight areas of innovation across settings.

Through thematic synthesis of key themes emerging from literature, interviews and design sessions, a number of areas of opportunity were identified. These include opportunities in: shared parenting and co-parenting, relationship-centred approaches, strengthening kinship care, trauma-informed and professionalised care approaches, place-based hub models, approaches to enable independence for young people in care, and care models integrating housing. These themes are discussed further overleaf.

Innovation Workshop Outcomes





Emerging Themes

Themes which emerged across the approaches developed by participants in the Innovation Workshops included:

Family Inclusion and Prioritisation of Relationships

Numerous prototypes focused on prioritising family inclusion, connection and relational continuity for children and young people. These prototypes included elements of increasing support for families to ensure children and young people remain connected to their birth families and maximise chances of reunification, building approaches that enable family inputs into care decision making, and supporting relationship building between carers and parents.

Enhanced Supports for Carers

Suggested prototypes highlighted opportunities to provide carers, particularly kinship carers, with innovative support, training, and resources to enable them to provide care and to work effectively with families to support children.

Systemic Integration and Cultural-Centring

Many prototypes integrate a focus on community-driven initiatives which included partnership with other existing services, and local community and cultural leaders to provide more responsive care focused on the needs of families, children and young people, and ensure holistic service linkages.

Empowering Children and Young People

Some prototypes focused on opportunities for enabling autonomy and normalcy for children and young people in care, supporting their wellbeing in care and their transitions from care to independence, and centring approaches in their voices and aspirations.

Next Steps

Five distinct prototypes are now being explored by the project team and will be built on in the months ahead through:

Further Prototype Development: To consider specifics of each prototype, building details on their proposed approach, implementation and operational considerations

Determining Implementation Specifics: Identifying the prototypes to be implemented in the shorter-term, consulting within LWB and across the sector to consider implementation details

Implementing the New Approaches: Implementing the prototype(s), monitoring and refining the new approaches to ensure that they meet the needs of children and their families and carers.

LWB and Lumenia thank participants in this project for sharing their insights and expertise, which will innovate the way LWB supports children, young people and their families and carers into the future.

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Partnering with people to change lives for the better

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 **Lumenia**

Lighting the way, together.