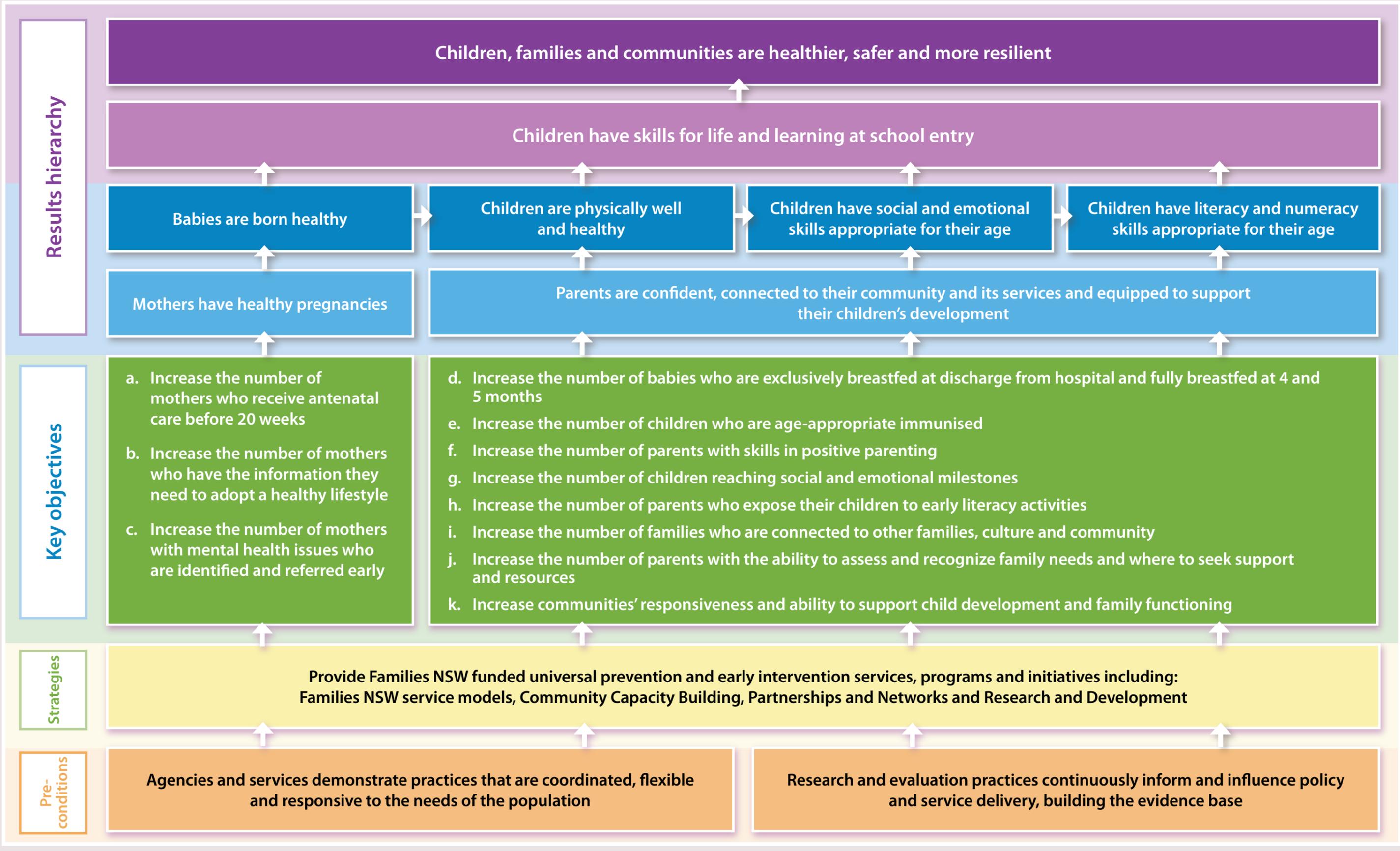


FAMILIES NSW: RESULTS LOGIC DIAGRAM

A map of what we do according to the results that we are aiming to achieve for children, families and the community



Families NSW Results Logic Diagram

This narrative provides background information and an explanation of the statements set out in the Families NSW Results Logic Diagram.

What is a results logic diagram?

A results logic diagram is an analytical tool used to show the causal linkages between program components and intended results. A Results Logic Diagram includes a results hierarchy in which lower order results are preconditions for achieving higher order results.

What is the Families NSW Strategy?

Families NSW is a whole of government universal prevention and early intervention strategy for families expecting a baby or with children aged 0 to 8 years.

The strategy is underpinned by a strong body of evidence demonstrating the importance of the early years in a child's development and the long term effectiveness of supporting parents and children during these years. Families NSW recognises that all families need support and assistance and that some need additional support because of their circumstances.

Families NSW is also based on evidence that targeted efforts work best within universal programs. Research indicates that the most successful early years strategies provide services within a universal context.

Families NSW is jointly implemented by partner agencies NSW Health, the Departments of Education and Training, Community Services, Housing, Ageing, Disability and Home Care, together with local government and community organisations.

Families NSW acknowledge that no one agency can improve outcomes for children aged up to 8 years and their families. The implementation of prevention and early intervention initiatives requires cross agency collaboration that responds to local community needs.

Why develop a Results Logic Diagram for Families NSW?

The conceptual framework for Results Logic, which was developed subsequent to the inception of Families NSW, has been progressively introduced into NSW Government agencies over recent years. Ideally a Results Logic Diagram is developed before a program commences in order to clarify the context, logic and purposes of the program.

Since Families NSW began there have been a number of changes to the Strategy including the shift to results based planning, development of revised planning guidelines and changes in governance arrangements. As a result, it became apparent that the results and objectives of the Strategy needed to be articulated more clearly.

Purpose of a Results Logic Diagram for Families NSW

The Families NSW Results Logic Diagram will inform Families NSW planning and evaluation activities and provide a clear and consistent understanding of the Strategy's results and objectives more broadly. The Results Logic Diagram also includes the most meaningful elements or components of Families NSW such as responsibilities under the State Plan and Families NSW Headline Indicators.

Explanation of statements in the Families NSW Results Logic Diagram

Results

The Results Based Accountability (RBA) Framework developed by Mark Friedman defines results as **conditions of well being** for children, adults, families and communities.

Children, families and communities are healthier, safer and more resilient

This is the overarching higher order result sought from Families NSW.

Children have skills for life and learning at school entry

This result closely reflects the NSW State Plan priority F6 Increased proportion of children with skills for life and learning at school entry under the State Plan goal of Early Intervention to Tackle Disadvantage.

Assisting children in NSW to develop to their full potential is a key priority for the NSW State Plan. The State Plan outlines the benefits for increasing the proportion of children with skills for life and learning including:

- The individual benefits both socially and economically
- The nation benefits from increased skill and productivity in the future workforce
- The state benefits from decreased need for intervention by police, health services, child protection services and special education services
- The local community benefits from decreased juvenile and adult crime

Babies are born healthy

Babies that are born healthy have significantly better health outcomes in later life than babies born prematurely or with a low birth weight. Before birth, babies that haven't grown as expected have an increased risk of a range of poor health outcomes including poor mental health, general health and academic performance in both the short and long term.

There are a range of indicators found to be associated with the health and wellbeing of newborns included in the Families NSW Headline Indicators such as birth weight and prematurity.

Children are physically well and healthy

The foundations of adult health and wellbeing are laid in early childhood. Poor physical health in early childhood is known to affect health outcomes in later life. Slow growth and poor emotional support are associated with poor physical health and reduce physical, cognitive and emotional functioning in adulthood.

The Families NSW Headline Indicators include population level indicators for the health and wellbeing of children including breastfeeding, immunisation and maternal health and wellbeing.

Children have social and emotional skills appropriate for their age

Children with good emotional and social skills usually have good concentration, will often help other children out, are eager to try new experiences and play well with other children. Poorer emotional and social skills are associated with aggressive, anxious and often impulsive behaviour.

Children have literacy and numeracy skills appropriate for their age

Proficiency in reading, writing and mathematics is essential for day to day living, education opportunities and employment prospects. Education assists children in developing these skills so that they can participate fully and productively in society. Success in school is associated with success after school and not finishing school is associated with poorer outcomes into adulthood.

The Families NSW Headline Indicators include educational achievement as a population level indicator for basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Mothers have healthy pregnancies

Providing children with a good start in life means supporting mothers. Poor circumstances in pregnancy including smoking, maternal stress, misuse of drugs and alcohol and inadequate prenatal care are major risk factors for poorer outcomes for children and families both in the long and short term. The Headline Indicators include rate of risk factors (smoking) during pregnancy as a key indicator for maternal health and wellbeing.

Parents are confident, connected to their community and its services and equipped to support their children's development

The child's environment, largely provided by his or her parents, is vital in the maturation process. Failure of the child's environment to provide the necessary support and stimulation in the early years will most commonly be expressed in behaviour problems as the child develops. Confident parents are more able to promote their child's development and communication skills, manage their child's behaviour and emotions, and build good family relationships.

Key objectives

Objectives are what you think should happen in order for the results of the Strategy to be achieved. They are concrete statements that describe what a project is trying to achieve and need to be clear and concise, measurable, relevant and achievable.

The objectives listed in the Results Logic Diagram are the key objectives of the Families NSW Strategy and align with how the Strategy will ultimately achieve results for children, families and communities.

Strategies

A strategy is a statement of how you intend to achieve your objectives. It is how you plan to move to where you want to be. It provides a rationale for selecting the specific activities that will actually deliver your project. The process for developing a strategy is to work backwards from your project results and objectives to try to identify a route for achieving them.

To achieve its key objectives and ultimately results for all children, Families NSW funds and delivers a range of universal and targeted prevention and early intervention initiatives. Prevention and early intervention initiatives aim to influence children's, parents or family's behaviours in order to reduce the risk or ameliorate the effect of less than optimal social and physical environments.

1. Families NSW funded service models

- Universal Health Home Visiting
- Schools as Community Centres
- Supported playgroups
- Family workers
- Volunteer home visiting
- Safe Start
- Parenting Programs
- StEPS (Statewide Eyesight Preschooler Screening)

2. Community Capacity Building

Many Families NSW activities focus on community capacity building activities. Community capacity is the ability of a community to address problems or challenges from within its own resources and make informed decisions about issues which affect them.

Community capacity building is based on engaging with communities to determine their own goals and priorities and where possible identify ways of achieving them. Community capacity building activities can include:

- Support for informal networks such as playgroups, community events for families.
- Provision of information and resources.
- Support for volunteer programs.
- Support in influencing the design and delivery of services.
- Support in identifying issues for families and getting people to work together.
- Running training sessions/workshops for workers or community groups etc.

3. Partnerships and networks

A number of Families NSW activities are focused on developing a better coordinated service network and a cooperative approach to planning. Providing children with a good start in life requires an integration of planning activities and services as well as interagency collaboration to provide the range of services needed to support families. This may include activities such as training to promote best practice models, child and family interagencies and training and information sessions.

4. Research and Development

A key component of Families NSW activities involves building the evidence base for prevention and early intervention and supporting staff, non-government organisations, volunteers and community groups involved with Families NSW. This can include a range of activities such as research and evaluation, service development, conferences, training, workshops and professional development.

Preconditions

These are the necessary preconditions to the provision of universal prevention and early intervention initiatives.

The Families NSW Results Logic Diagram will be reviewed as part of the Families NSW Annual Evaluation Agenda.