



Prenatal Assessment Framework

1. Purpose

This Prenatal Assessment Framework (the Framework) guides holistic assessment of the safety and risk of harm for unborn infants.

2. Scope

The Framework applies to Department for Child Protection (DCP) practitioners undertaking Prenatal Assessments.

3. Authority

3.1 Legislative context

- Not applicable.

3.2 DCP requirements

This Framework should be read in conjunction with the:

- [Prenatal Safety and Support Model](#)
- [Working with families of unborn infants Practice Paper](#)
- [Attempt Pre birth Intervention section in the Intake, investigation and assessment chapter of the Manual of Practice – Attempt Pre birth Intervention.](#)

3.3 DCP requirements

- Not applicable.

4. Framework requirements

Where it is determined that a Prenatal Assessment is required, DCP practitioners must attempt to obtain consent from the family to participate in the assessment. Where the family agrees to work with DCP during pregnancy, a Prenatal Assessment will be undertaken.

When undertaking a Prenatal Assessment:

- thorough consideration must be given to each domain of assessment to ensure that critical information is not overlooked
- multiple sources of information must be utilised (for example C3MS history, discussion with parents and family members, information from agencies working with the parents, information requested from other agencies such as SAPOL, SA Health).
- consideration must be given to the particular vulnerability of infants due to their physical fragility, significant developmental needs, complete dependence on caregivers and limited visibility within the community



- consider each assessment domain with respect to how the information obtained influences the capacity to provide safe care to the infant
- cultural and practice leader consultation, supervision and reflective practice are utilised to support quality assessment.

This Framework is not intended to be used as a checklist but provides practitioners with guidance to ensure that all assessment domains are considered.

Prenatal Assessments should be documented on the [Prenatal Assessment Template](#) and uploaded to the Assessment Tab in C3MS.

Refer to the 'Attempt Pre birth Intervention' section of the [Intake, investigation and assessment chapter](#) of the Manual of Practice for further information about requirements.



Assessment domain	Considerations
Cultural context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural background (for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, Nation and language group) • [Redacted] • [Redacted] • [Redacted]



Assessment domain	Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Family and environmental context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family history and relationships • • • • • • • • • • • •
Child protection history and intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • •



Assessment domain	Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • • • • •
<p>Current child protection concerns</p>	<p>The presence of multiple risk factors heightens the risk of the infant experiencing harm. Some factors may not greatly increase the risk of harm in themselves, but when combined with other risk factors, risk can significantly intensify.</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Consider risk factors relevant to unborn infants, which include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • <p>[Redacted]</p>



Assessment domain	Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • •
Family scoping for support	<p>Develop a three-generation genogram and ecomap with the aim of considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safe, stable and supportive family members, kin or other connections who can support the parent/s during pregnancy and once the infant is born • potential carers for the infant if required (include consideration of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle where relevant).

5. Related documents

Related documents, forms and templates
Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017
Prenatal Safety and Support Model
DCP Assessment Framework
Prenatal Assessment Template
Attempt Pre birth Intervention section of the Intake, investigation and assessment chapter of the Manual of Practice

Document control

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