

Question	The response
<p>What is your reflection on what you are seeing in South Australian in regards to the pace of the reform?</p>	<p>Paul Nixon: If you want to create lasting changes, you have to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take people with you • Use the expertise and wisdom of children and their families, the community, indigenous people, and NGO’s. <p>There is an inherent risk around the classification of work in child protection and the management of risk and safety being a priority. This can ‘skew’ our behaviours and make us risk adverse, anxiety driven, and focus on short term apparent risks.</p> <p>Need to think long term for children and find that balance, looking at long term outcomes.</p> <p>Involve children, families, and indigenous people, NGO’s from the outset to shape the changes.</p> <p>We must provide good education, environments, support, supervision, time and workload to practitioners</p>
<p>How do we develop a shared framework for practice across agencies and community?</p>	<p>Rob Martin: The way we practice in environments is different. There are different case models. Need to ask, what does good case management look like?</p> <p>The tools are only as good as the practitioners who use them and the culture of the agencies. There also needs to be mutual respect between the non-government sector and government. Until we get the culture right between non-government support agencies and government, no practice tools will support a shared approach.</p> <p>Paul Nixon: In NZ it was about building a consensus on what it should look like - getting out to the business and Aboriginal practitioners, listening to children and family members. Family practice achieves this.</p> <p>Also being reflective, listening and responding. Biggest complaint around consultation is, people ask what they think and then don’t listen and do something different. That reinforces the sense of powerlessness. There needs to be integrity in the approach and finding the right leaders. Leaders are everywhere, not just at the top of the organisation. These things can’t be achieved with a quick fix, it does take time and is a long term gain.</p>

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<p>What can we do in the short term to support foster and kinship carers?</p>	<p>Cathy Taylor: One of the great challenges is for carers not to reflect on something that has ‘just happened’ through the Royal Commission.</p> <p>The issue between the systems i.e. rational and relationship systems. These need to be brought together.</p> <p>Let’s talk about children. I am ‘struck’ about how many children are not in family based care. We need to build our capacity to provide safe, quality, therapeutic environments and working together. We cannot do this without others.</p> <p>The danger is that we think child protection starts and ends with a standalone department. The most productive we will be, is when we realise, it’s because of everyone else, that we will get the outcomes - our partnerships.</p>
<p>How did you actively grown your Maori kinship carer base?</p> <p>Follow on question: When we are doing family care meetings or engaging families in the out of</p>	<p>Paul Nixon: They didn’t grow it, it was there already. They needed to find ways to engage families in a way they felt safe in working with the State. The families were already there, there was failure to engage with them effectively. Need to build confidence, trust and collaborate.</p> <p>Indigenous families have a lack of trust with government and that takes time to change. Working together will change that. There’s a lot to occur in changing behaviour and building trust.</p> <p>Craig Rigney: If you can get it right for Aboriginal people, you will get it right for everyone.</p> <p>Cathy Taylor: What does it mean to put family no matter their culture, at the driving seat of how we work? Family led decision making and resourcing that. We need to engage ALL families. Common language and co-design. It’s about restoring family.</p> <p>Paul Nixon: At every point, begin at the earliest possible opportunity, and sustain it over time. A mistake would be to use it late when a whole series of interventions have occurred.</p>

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home care system, at what point in your system is that occurring?	<p>Family will always be connected to the child and need to be involved.</p> <p>There's a trap of saying 'which families will this work with'. It must go to the wider network and see what comes forward.</p>
Every different worker spoken to gives a different story. How are we supposed to engage?	<p>Cathy Taylor: It's the department's responsibility to engage you, not up to you to navigate our systems.</p> <p>We should be engaging and setting the pattern early. We need to work differently internally on how we facilitate this.</p>
Which principles are needed to make a difference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (noting that the Maori success story in New Zealand doesn't translate neatly to Australia given Australian Aboriginal culture and history)?	<p>Craig Rigney: What NZ has done does translate for Aboriginal families in South Australia. I am heartened by what NZ does across the board. The co-design highlights that it is culturally safe for families to have the conversation. Aboriginal people are engaged at a 'point of crisis', so we do need to have some common language and kinship. Acknowledge the differences of Aboriginal community background.</p> <p>Don't be afraid to ask Aboriginal people questions.</p> <p>Two important points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don't assume 2. Always ask.
Given that the child protection systems have responded to royal commissions the same way for 40 years, how will the Department for Child Protection executive and the Minister respond outside of the known orthodoxies?	<p>Cathy Taylor: We must do active learning and reflection at every point in our system</p> <p>It's not just about public reporting, it's about an ongoing cycle of evaluation, reporting, what's working and what's not. It's about impact as well as outcomes.</p> <p>Rob Martin: Slow down, we understand from a non-government perspective, the political pressures.</p>