**Child and Family Services Sector Industry Plan**

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare (the Centre) is coordinating the development of an Industry Plan for the child and family services sector. This activity is being funded by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Over the next four years, the plan will provide a framework for child and family services, working together, to provide appropriately resourced, evidence-informed programs and practice to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

The purpose of the plan is to:

* Enable a coordinated approach to planning for change
* Identify current challenges and emerging trends
* Promote the value of the sector and acknowledge the contributions, social and economic, of our workforce to the wider community
* Provide the government with the information needed to prioritise and evaluate investment.

**Why is an Industry Plan needed?**

The child and family services sector is undergoing significant change.  The various legislative and policy reforms have far-reaching implications for our workforce, organisations and sector more broadly. There are also a range of external factors affecting the lives of children, young people, families and our service system, such as population growth and growing inequality. The sector needs to be better equipped to intervene early, meet future demand, and meet the needs of children, young people and families with high, multiple and complex needs.

As a sector we need to make sure children, young people and families benefit from changes to the way in which we deliver services. The plan will provide a framework to support the sector as we address current and future challenges and strengthen the evidence base that underpins our practice.

**What will be included in the Industry Plan?**

* A shared vision statement
* An overview of the evolving context in which we work
* Current state of the sector, including sector description and workforce profile
* Current and emerging challenges facing the sector
* Key priorities for change to achieve our vision
* Outcomes for measuring progress
* Overview of what is needed in order to achieve these outcomes
* Action plan

**How will the Industry Plan be developed?**

The Centre is gathering information for the plan via a review of relevant literature, analysis of existing data and consultations with a wide range of key stakeholder groups.

It is anticipated that the Industry Plan will be released in late March 2018.

We invite your input into the development of this plan. To find out how you can contribute, please visit: <https://www.cfecfw.asn.au/sector-industry-plan/>. You can also contact Kelly Bowey on 9094 3555 or at kelly.bowey@cfecfw.asn.au to find out more.