**Sector Update - 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 is the first in a series of communications to keep you up to date with the progress of the plan. For general information about the project, please contact Kelly Bowey (details below) and see the information sheet.

**The work so far**

Over the past two months, the project team has been gathering information and meeting with a wide range of people to explore their vision and priorities for the child and family services sector and how we can work together to build a brighter future for children, young people and families in Victoria.

We have:

* Met with each of the Centre’s network forums to gather input through group discussions and distribution of a questionnaire
* Invited input and promoted the questionnaire through Centre publications such as the Sector Buzz and Member Update and on our website
* Met with and scheduled meetings and phone conversations with a wide range of stakeholders and sector representatives
* Invited participation in a CEO Forum on the 29th of January 2018 [link]
* Distributed a survey to sector CEOs and collated the responses
* Prepared a preliminary summary of key themes
* Met with peak bodies to ensure alignment with other industry plans
* Collated and commenced analysis of existing data and sector trends – e.g. from the Family Services Survey and relevant literature

We are continuing to invite input and we encourage you to get in touch with us if you haven’t already. The Centre is relying on your input to ensure that the plan is accurate and useful and that it can be used to effectively advocate on behalf of the child and family services sector.

**Over the next few months**

The project team will continue to collate and summarise input as it is received and feed this into the development of the plan and its content.

We aim to distribute a draft plan in late February 2018 with discussion questions to guide responses from child and family services. We welcome all forms of feedback, whether in response to the questions or in whatever format is most suitable to you. The Centre will also facilitate a small number of consultations, metro and regional, to discuss the plan and gather feedback.

The Centre will shortly bring together members of a newly established Industry Plan Leadership Group to provide feedback on the work so far and to monitor and review ongoing implementation of the plan following its release.

For all enquiries, please **contact Kelly Bowey**, Project Coordinator - Industry Planning on 03 9094 3555 or kelly.bowey@cfecfw.asn.au