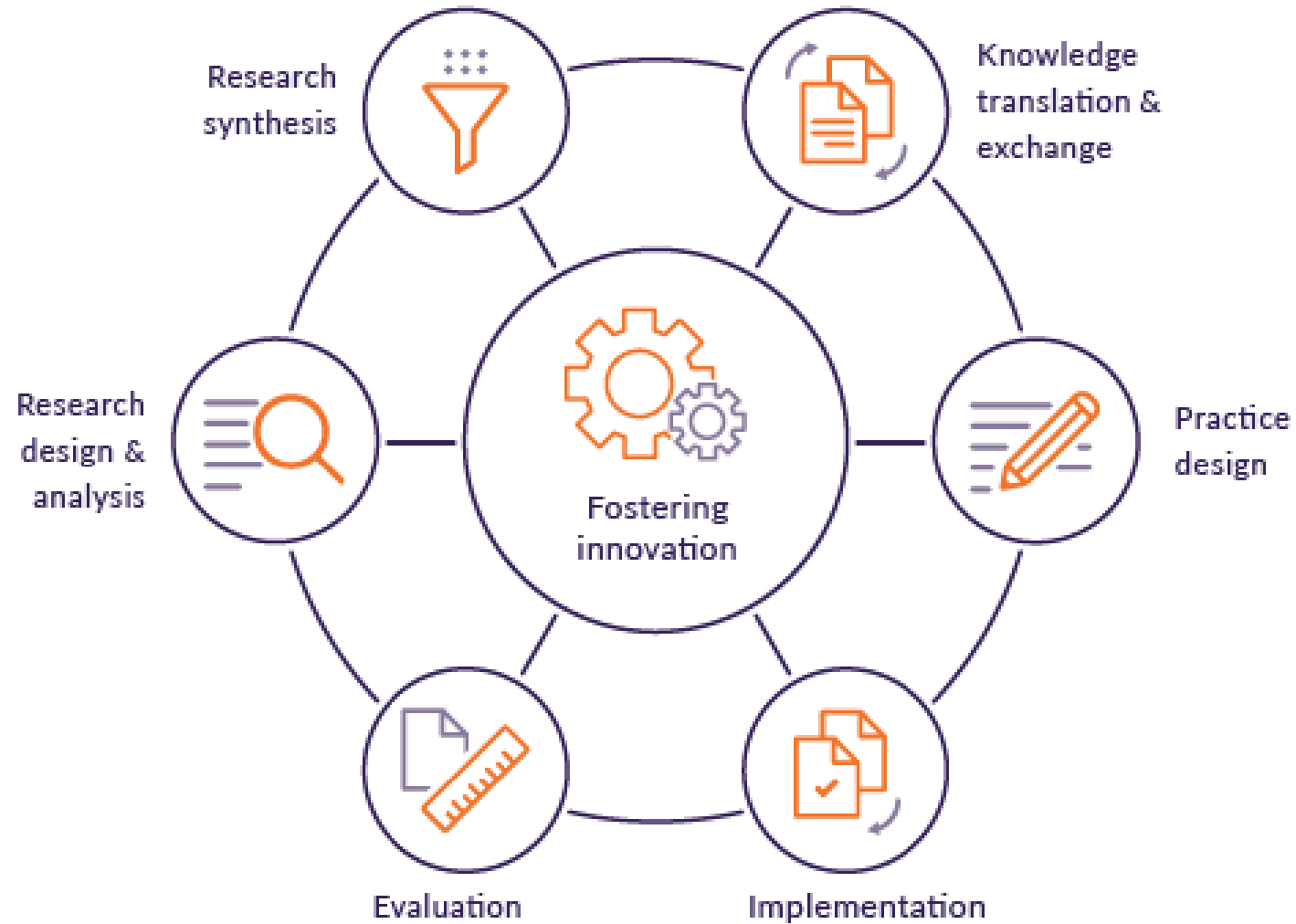We help children thrive by driving new and better ways to support families in their parenting.

Research synthesis

Knowledge translation & exchange

Research design & analysis

Practice design

Evaluation

Implementation

Fostering innovation

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Research Synthesis

Mine existing knowledge to answer questions using rigorous methodology

- Systematic Reviews

- Rapid Evidence Assessments

- Scoping Reviews

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EVIDENCE SUMMARY

Evidence for out-of-home care

KEY FINDINGS

- Compared with residential or group care, treatment foster care results in better outcomes for children and young people with difficult behaviour problems.

- Kinship care is as good as, or no worse than, non-related foster care.

- There is little evidence that independent living skills programs help young people leaving foster care.

Interventions for children and youth in out-of-home care: which ones are supported by the evidence?

This evidence summary draws on a rapid evidence assessment undertaken in 2013 by the University of Melbourne and the Parenting Research Centre on behalf of the Community Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory Government.

CONTEXT

Out-of-home care (OOHC) is provided for children and young people who can't live with their parents because of maltreatment or behavioural issues.

Arrangements can include foster care, kinship care, or placement in a staffed centre, a residential treatment centre or a children's home.

There were almost 40,000 children and young people in OOHC in Australia in 2011–12.

Knowledge translation & exchange

- Making evidence meaningful
- Removing barriers to the use of evidence
- Getting knowledge and evidence into the hands of people who need it, and who can best use it

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Practice Design

- Evidence-based solutions tailored for an identified need
- Combining what we know from evidence with what makes sense on the ground
- Adapting existing approaches or devising new ones

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Wesley (NSW)

Redesign of Brighter Futures program, which focuses on building the resilience of families with younger children at risk of entering the child protection system.

Key Assets (Australia & New Zealand)

Redesigning delivery of foster care, family preservation and restoration services.

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Implementation

We help governments and organisations to install evidence-based programs, services or ways of working in a way that makes them 'stick'.

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Supporting the implementation of EBPs

Evaluation

Our evaluation approaches have a focus on the real world and continuous quality improvement

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Queensland Intensive Family Support Services

Two-part evaluation of the implementation and early impacts of the service in 24 sites within QLD

Part 1: IFS outcomes evaluation

Part 2: Longitudinal outcomes case study review

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Research design and analysis

- Generation of evidence
- Building evidence

Parenting Today in Victoria

A representative survey of 2600 VICTORIAN PARENTS

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