



Family &
Community
Services

FACSAR
ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

Access to administrative data

Health Data Linkage Special Interest Group Meeting

9 November 2017

FACS Research Program

- FACS is committed to using the best available research, data analysis and evaluation to inform policy, service design and local planning to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children, families and communities
- As part of this commitment to building an evidence base through research, the FACS Research Program:
 - Supports research activities that have sufficient integrity and independence to inform policy, service design and local planning
 - Makes administrative data available
 - Builds and maintains linkages and partnerships with other agencies, universities, research organisations etc to progress the evidence base in a way that informs the FACS strategic agenda and the Human Services Outcomes Framework

Assessment process

- All researchers must submit their initial research inquiry requesting support from FACS
 - Discuss research requirements with FACSAR prior to submitting application
 - FACSAR can provide advice on the design of the project, the type of support FACS can provide, the assessment process, reporting requirements and monitoring obligations
 - Application form – research project details including research aims/hypotheses, research plan, research timetable, evidence of consideration of ethical issues, alignment with the FACS Strategic Statement, and extent and scope of support required.
- Assessment
 - Clear benefits for FACS clients and/or staff
 - Ethics approval from a registered HREC and AH&MRC if required (or approval is pending)
 - High quality
 - FACS has capacity to resource the project within the timeframe

Assessment process

- Consultation
 - FACSAR will seek advice from relevant FACS business units
- Decision
 - Based on outcomes of decision and consultation
 - Notified within 6-8 weeks

Requirements

- **Research Agreement**
 - All researchers are required to sign a research agreement
- **Progress reports**
 - Regular progress reports are required
 - Researchers may be asked to present findings either during the research process or at the end of the project
- **Publication/presentation**
 - Researchers are required to provide a copy of materials for publication or presentation to the FACS for consideration prior to publication or presentation.
- **Release of administrative data**
 - Privacy/confidentiality considerations
 - Data custodian sign-off
 - Information security assessment

FACS administrative data

- FACS collects a range of administrative data in the course of providing services to clients
 - Child protection
 - Concern and risk of significant harm (ROSH) reports
 - Out-of-home care
 - Brighter Futures
 - Intensive Family Services
 - Social housing and other housing products
 - Specialist homelessness services

Administrative data – child protection

- Concern reports and ROSH reports
 - When the report occurred
 - What issues were involved
 - Who made the report
 - Who was the report about – characteristics of the child
 - What happened to the report – did it meet ROSH threshold, was it investigated, was it substantiated
 - Where was the child
- Out-of-home care
 - Who was in care – characteristics of the child
 - When was the child in OOHC
 - How long were they in care
 - What type of care – placement type, FACS/NGO, legal arrangement, statutory/supported
 - Where was there OOHC placement
 - Why did the child leave care

Things to be aware of and think about...

- Unit of collection
 - Report – children can have multiple reports, assessments can be linked to multiple reports
 - Placement – children can have multiple placements, short gaps between placements not counted as exiting care, some placements overlap (e.g. respite)
- Comparability over time
 - Different client management systems – CIS, KiDS, ChildStory
 - Legislation changes – e.g. mandatory reporters, ROSH threshold, guardianship
 - Reforms – Keep Them Safe, Safe Home For Life, Their Futures Matter
 - Practice changes – Practice First, Permanency guidelines
 - Data quality
- Understanding the variables/counting rules
 - FACS Statistics
 - Talk to FACSAR!
 - Data quality – remediation
 - How collected and why

Questions????