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| Menu of Evidence  |
| Improving outcomes through access to evidence of what works for children and families  |
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# What is the Menu of Evidence?

The Menu of Evidence is searchable online repository of the best available evidence of what works for children and families.

The Menu is underpinned by a rigorous assessment process. Through the Menu, users can navigate key information on programs, including strength of evidence, specific outcomes it has shown to improve, implementation, cost and whether the research included Aboriginal children and families. This includes evidence for two focus areas of child maltreatment and family preservation and reunification.

## Improving outcomes for Victorians

There is an increasing demand for an evidence base on programs that work to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families.

The Menu platform contains reviewed, evidence-based practices and programs which may help you and your organisations in the design of your policies, practices and funding proposals.

Information from the Menu can support evidence-informed conversations across the sector to make decisions that are safe and responsive to the needs of children and families – wherever they are on their journey.

## How to access the portal

The Menu of Evidence lives on a purpose-built website that makes sure the information is accessible and easy to navigate.

You can access the [Menu of Evidence](https://menu.dffh.vic.gov.au/) website <menu.dffh.vic.gov.au>

## Who can access the Menu?

The Menu of Evidence can be accessed by everyone.

You don’t need to work in the children and families service sector to access it, and you don’t need a log in or an account to view the information.

## How are the programs within the Menu evaluated?

The programs in the Menu of Evidence have been reviewed against the specifications developed by the University of Melbourne and reviewed by the University of Adelaide. All programs are evaluated against these specifications to make sure the process is transparent and replicable.

Each program is assigned a rating for consistent and transparent reporting of its strength of evidence. The ratings include: Logic-informed, Emerging, Supported, Well-supported and Very well-supported.

Evidence on effectiveness – what works, for whom and under what circumstances - is important information for decision makers. This evidence, in addition to Aboriginal knowledge and client voice, is critical to support decision-making to deliver high-quality, safe and effective services.

The Menu provides impartial information on the evidence of innovative programs and interventions and is not an endorsement of programs.

# Background

Through the Roadmap for Reform, we are transforming the system to ensure this work is safe, effective, connected and person-centred, to achieve the best possible experiences and outcomes for children and families.

As part of the broader Roadmap reforms, the pathways to support model organises and connects the various parts of the child and family system to work together as a unified system that is child-centred, family-focussed and evidence-informed.

The Menu of Evidence is one of several initiatives to build an evidence-informed service system including the Outcomes Practice and Evidence Network (OPEN), Building the Aboriginal Evidence Base (BAEB) and the Family Preservation and Reunification Response.

# Next steps

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing has committed to ongoing consultation with the sector, so the Menu of Evidence is updated as new information becomes available.

This will make sure that along with published studies, service providers are also able to share emerging practices and local evaluations of programs and practices in Australia and Victoria, including how Aboriginal knowledge will be recognised on the Menu.

# Find out more

Go to the [Menu of Evidence website](https://menu.dffh.vic.gov.au/) <menu.dffh.vic.gov.au> or email the Evidence Strategy Team <menu@dffh.vic.gov.au>.

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| To receive this document in another format, email the Evidence Strategy team <menu@dffh.vic.gov.au>.Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.© State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, October 2022.In this document, ‘Aboriginal’ refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.  |