

Putting humanity over bureaucracy in child protection

What's not working



Surveillance
Investigation
Reporting

A better way



Connection
Trust
Community

Child Protection

Rules take priority; kids raised in systems constrained by red tape

Manages safety risks through surveillance and paperwork; overlooks the risk of relational deprivation

Performance measured and tracked against outputs and compliance with procedures

Careworkers bound by fixed boundaries based on clinical concepts of professional distance

Starting point is the 'system knows best' and that families, kin and carers shouldn't be trusted

Restricted careworkers; oriented to protect the system from liability through policies and regulation

Centralised government; often disconnected from children and families

Colonial system of care assumes 'power' over First Nations families & communities



Child Connection

People over paperwork

Relationships take priority; kids raised by attuned adults

Reframe risk

Protection through safe, secure relationships; balanced alongside safety risks

Measure what matters

A methodology that seeks to understand quality of relationships and what children, families and carers say is meaningful

Real relationships

No one-size-fits-all approach to relationship boundaries; flexible and responsive based on what makes sense in context

Trust in lived experience

Starting point is that family, kin, carers and attuned adults closest to the child are best placed to guide the way

Compassion-led practice

Empowered careworkers: oriented to building a child's connections, with freedom to ask 'how can I help?' and follow through

Community centred

Supported by local networks, organisations and peers that are better placed to connect children and families

First Nations agency and wisdom

First Nations communities hold the power, resources and leadership to care for their kids; Ways of knowing are like living roots that nourish and support relational care.

Myth:

Governments can protect and care for children through laws, regulations and audits. Adding more rules keeps children safe.

Reality:

Families and communities can keep kids safer through connection and real relationships. But it's messy, imperfect and often painful, because it's human.

Less red tape. More human connection.

Because kids in care need to feel safe, secure and loved.

Centre for
Relational Care