

Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions



TEI Recommissioning 2025

April 2024

1. What is the recommissioning approach for 2025?

Commencing April 2024, we will recommission both the Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) and Family Connect and Support (FCS) programs, with new five year contracts to commence from 1 July 2025. The TEI and FCS programs will be merged into one program from July 2025, to streamline the programs and contracts. This recommissioning process will be referred to as *TEI Recommissioning 2025*.

TEI recommissioning will be undertaken within existing District TEI program budgets. Local planning, and collaborative service system design, using evidence-informed decision-making, will help ensure resources are targeted to the greatest need across communities.

Where funding becomes available, it will be prioritised for investment with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), in order to progress towards DCJ's commitment to invest 30% of early intervention program funds with the ACCO sector.

2. Why are TEI and FCS merging and what will it look like?

Merging FCS and TEI provides an opportunity to better integrate both programs and help build a more connected early intervention sector, ensure greater flexibility and improve access for families.

FCS will become one of three program activities under the TEI Program, along with Community Strengthening and Wellbeing and Safety.

Community Strengthening and Wellbeing and Safety service types will be streamlined to reduce duplication and simplify the program structure and data reporting. However, the FCS service model will largely remain the same with only minor changes.

All current FCS service providers also deliver TEI services. No other TEI service provider will be expected to undertake FCS service delivery.

3. What is the TEI ACCO investment target percentage now, and can you explain how the 30% target will be achieved, especially without new funding in the program?

A key priority for the Department is to improve long-term outcomes for Aboriginal children, young people, their families, and communities. The Department has also committed to greater investment in culturally responsive early intervention services through a number of National and State initiatives.

Currently, 7.2% of the state-wide TEI budget is invested with ACCOs. DCJ will continue to work towards achieving the statewide target of 30% investment during recommissioning and over the next five year TEI funding cycle 2025-2030, by ensuring any funding that becomes available is prioritised towards ACCO investment.

4. Will there also be a focus on culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) families, children and young people?

The target population for the TEI program is children, young people, families, and communities within NSW who are experiencing or at risk of vulnerability. CALD families, children and young

people will continue to receive support through the TEI program. In 2021-22, 16.3% of individual clients identified from a CALD background.

The TEI program is flexible, responsive, and locally based, so that people can get the right support early. Local planning workshops will identify and agree on local needs, strengths and priorities with key stakeholders. Where CALD groups are identified as a local priority in an area, then the local service design will continue to reflect this.

5. What should we expect from local planning workshops and when will they occur?

The Department will facilitate local planning workshops, bringing together a broad range of early intervention stakeholders, commencing from April 2024. TEI sits within a broader early intervention service system and by including a wide range of stakeholders in these sessions it will support our understanding of, and planning within, the wider system.

The Department has made available to the sector local socio-economic, child protection and program data for these workshops. Local stakeholders will have an opportunity to validate the data analysis, and share local practitioner knowledge, to reach a shared understanding of local priorities, outcomes and needs, including changing or emerging needs.

From June 2024, these locally identified priorities and outcomes will be used to design the local response. This design work will look different across different parts of the state as local needs and priorities will be different. If the local needs have not changed since the last TEI recommissioning process, then there may be very little change made to the service system. However, if the need has changed or shifted then minimal or greater change may be required.

More information about the local planning process, including dates for the workshops can be obtained from District Commissioning and Planning teams.

6. How should local providers prepare for these planning workshops/sessions?

The main focus of the planning workshops is to discuss and validate the analysis of the data, using local knowledge held by TEI practitioners. Service providers and anyone else attending the planning workshops will be asked to reflect on their local knowledge of the needs and priorities and contribute to the discussion. Service providers may identify local issues that have not been identified in the initial interpretation of the data.

Service providers should familiarise themselves with their local planning data available on the TEI webpage.

7. What will the length of the contracts be in this recommissioning process?

All TEI contracts will be for a 5 year term, from 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2030.

8. Why do we need a new program name, and how can we be involved in this?

The Department has received feedback from the sector who feel strongly that the term “intervention” does not reflect the strengths based and child and family centred practices that underpin the work in TEI and FCS.

DCJ will call for new program name suggestions in an upcoming TEI Inform newsletter.

In the meantime, ideas about the new program name can be provided via the [TEI mailbox](#).

9. Is this round of recommissioning only for existing TEI service providers or will it be open to new service providers?

TEI sits within a broader early intervention service system and inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders in the planning process supports our understanding of, and planning within, the wider system.

Following local planning and service system re-design work, and approval of local recommissioning planning workshops, the Department will negotiate new 5 year contracts and commence any local procurement activities, if needed.

Where local recommissioning planning denotes no change or minimal change, consideration will be given to negotiating new contracts first with existing TEI service providers, thereby minimising disruption to the existing service system, and to families and communities.

Where local recommissioning planning denote significant change, this may involve negotiating new contracts with existing TEI service providers and/or local procurement processes. This determination will be informed by the local planning process, the scope and scale of the change, the location of the change, and local market analysis.

10. When will we see greater investment in TEI programs?

The NSW Government is committed to continuing to invest in early intervention programs that improve outcomes for vulnerable children, young people, families and communities.

Strong community wellbeing is critically important for helping children, young people and families thrive, especially when they are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, vulnerability. The presence of protective factors in families and communities can also reduce risks to children and young people's development and life outcomes. Effective early support is possibly the most promising strategy for changing the trajectories of families, children and young people.

Both the TEI and FCS evaluations are currently undergoing evaluation to better understand the programs outcomes, and economic impact. The 2025 TEI recommissioning will be undertaken within existing District TEI program budgets.