

## DCP practice approach as at 9 October 2019

The DCP practice approach provides an integrated and contemporary framework for practice that supports the vision for all children and young people to grow up well cared for, connected and empowered to reach their full potential. It is unique to South Australia's legislative and cultural context. The approach has been developed in partnership with DCP staff, young people, families, carers and service providers. Many Aboriginal people also generously shared their experiences and knowledge to collaboratively build an approach that strives to be culturally safe.

The DCP practice approach supports DCP staff and other stakeholders to work together to ensure safety and best outcomes for children and young people. The approach promotes building strong relationships with children and young people, families, carers and service providers. Skilful assessment, timely intervention and collaborative practice are emphasised by the approach.

The DCP practice approach is focused on children and young people's physical, emotional and cultural **safety** during all phases of work. The approach consists of practice elements and elements that support good practice.

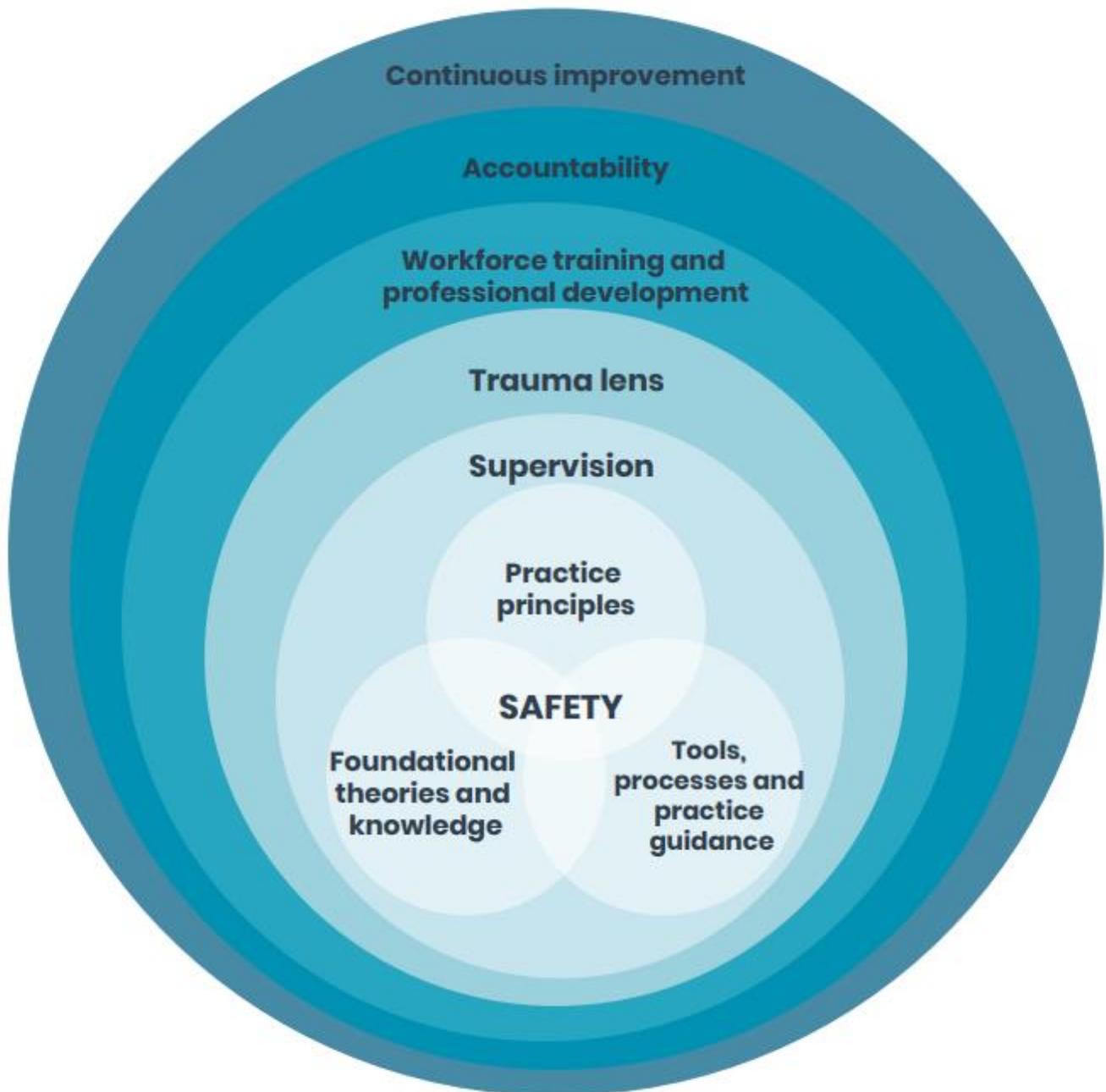
The practice elements are:

- **Practice Principles** - The DCP Practice Principles set out six key principles for practice: child centred, cultural safety, strengthening families, supporting carers, partnership and collaboration and a learning culture.
- **Foundational theories and knowledge** - The DCP practice approach is underpinned by well-established and contemporary theories and knowledge that apply to the continuum of practice. Aboriginal knowledge is recognised as underpinning culturally safe practice and genuine engagement with Aboriginal families and Communities.
- **Tools, processes and practice guidance** - DCP practitioners use a variety of tools, processes and practice guidance to drive best practice.

The elements that support best practice are:

- **Supervision** - DCP values professional supervision and reflective practice to ensure the provision of high quality services and worker wellbeing.
- **Trauma lens** - The DCP practice approach is responsive to the impacts of trauma for children and young people, families, and carers, and staff. It considers the traumatic experiences of children and young people, the trauma experienced by families (including domestic and family violence) and intergenerational trauma experienced by Aboriginal families who continue to suffer in impacts of colonisation, dispossession of land, loss of land and culture, and other past government policies and practices, including the Stolen Generations. Personal challenges such as mental health difficulties, substance abuse and other maladaptive coping strategies through a trauma lens. Healing from trauma is supported and active efforts are made to prevent traumatisation at all levels of the child protection system, including vicarious trauma for carers and staff.
- **Workforce training and professional development** - DCP is committed to ongoing professional development and actively encourages all staff to engage in learning opportunities to improve their practice to strive for better outcomes for children and young people.
- **Accountability** - DCP is accountable for its decisions and actions. It is accountable to the communities it serves and particularly to Aboriginal Communities given the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in care. Both DCP and DCP staff are accountable for professional development and for building an organisational culture that supports staff and partners to work together to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people.
- **Continuous improvement** - DCP is committed to continuous improvement in the pursuit of better outcomes for children and young people, their families and Communities.

# Practice approach conceptualisation



## Practice Principles



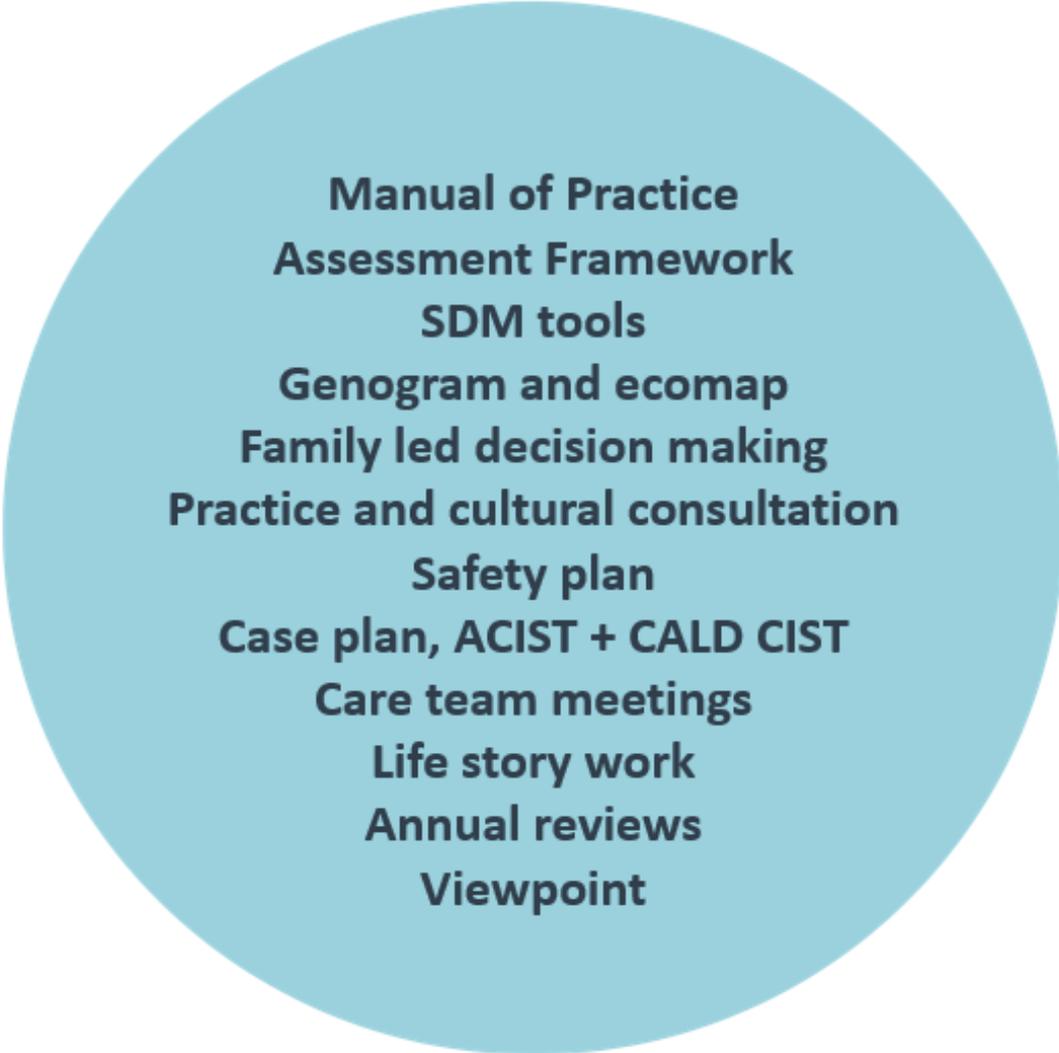
**Child centred**  
**Cultural safety**  
**Strengthening families**  
**Supporting carers**  
**Partnership and  
collaboration**  
**Learning culture**

## Foundational theories and knowledge



**The Aboriginal child placement principle**  
**Relationship based practice**  
**Strengths based practice**  
**Systems theory**  
**Domestic and family violence informed practice**  
**Child and adolescent development**  
**Attachment**  
**Trauma**  
**Permanency Planning**  
**Working with cultural and other diversity**  
**Change theory**

## Tools, processes and practice guidance



**Manual of Practice**  
**Assessment Framework**  
**SDM tools**  
**Genogram and ecomap**  
**Family led decision making**  
**Practice and cultural consultation**  
**Safety plan**  
**Case plan, ACIST + CALD CIST**  
**Care team meetings**  
**Life story work**  
**Annual reviews**  
**Viewpoint**