



REILY
FOUNDATION

THE REILY FOUNDATION

IMPACT 2025 STATEMENT

Transforming Outcomes for Families in
the Child Protection System



TRANSFORMING LIVES AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

At The Reily Foundation, our goal is to equip parents with the knowledge, confidence, and support they need to navigate the child protection system and play an active role in decisions affecting their families.

Through **early intervention, practical education, and personalised support**, we help families stay connected and where safe to do so, support children to return home safely.

Our work focuses on three critical outcomes:

- **Accelerating parental engagement with the child protection system**
- **Strengthening parental capacity and safer family environments**
- **Enabling faster, safer pathways to family reunification**

The stories in this report highlight what becomes possible when families are met with understanding, practical support, and the opportunity to build on their strengths.

With each year, Reily's work affirms a simple truth: **When parents are supported to engage early and demonstrate meaningful change, children can return home sooner and families have a stronger chance of staying together.**

In 2025, we strengthened our impact by **expanding our team, increasing our capacity, and opening a new space designed to better support families during this critical time. This progress has been made possible through the dedication of our staff, the leadership of our Board, and the commitment of the partners and supporters who believe in this work.**

These outcomes show that when parents are supported early, families can rebuild and children can come home."

Nadia Berginetti, CEO



70

70 children reunified with their parents



43

43 children reunified from Kinship Care



\$14.2m

Estimated **\$14.2M** in avoided out of home care costs



12

12 children reunified from Foster Care



15

15 children reunified from Residential Care



KEY OUTCOMES

A YEAR OF STABILISATION, CONNECTION & MEASURABLE CHANGE

In South Australia, the annual cost of residential care exceeds **\$600,000 per child per year**, highlighting the profound social and economic value of interventions that strengthen families and reduce reliance on out-of-home care.

During 2025, The Reily Foundation worked to improved outcomes by helping parents engage constructively with statutory processes, and build the capacity required to provide safe and stable care. As a result of this work, **70 children were reunified with their families**, which included **15 children returning home from residential care and 12 from foster care placements**.

CLIENT ENGAGEMENT



836

individuals have reached out to Reily



490

parents were supported by Reily's services



221

parents received 1:1 family case management



70

parents attended free educational workshops



70

children were able to safely return home to their parents.

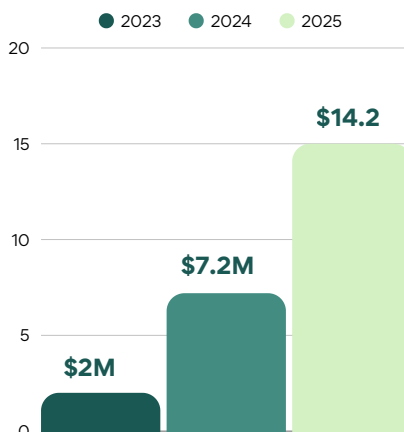
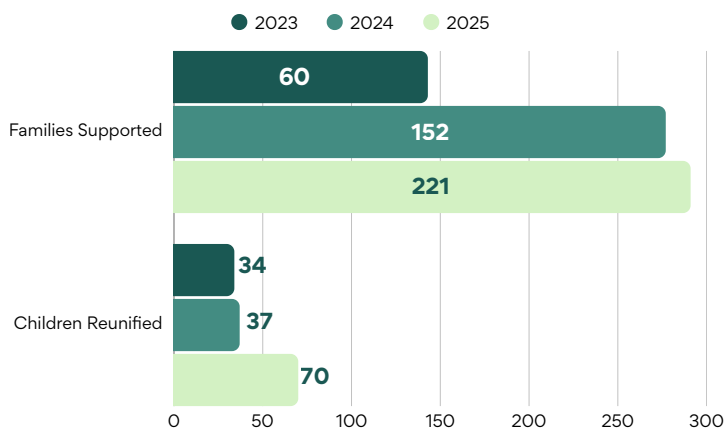


64

parents accessed both 1:1 family casework and workshops

OUR IMPACT SINCE 2023

711 parents and families were strengthened through Reily support and **141 children** safely reunified with their families



*estimated saving per year from children no longer living in residential care

Since 2023, Reily's impact has continued to grow significantly. In 2025 alone, our work contributed to an estimated **\$14.2 million in avoided residential care costs**.



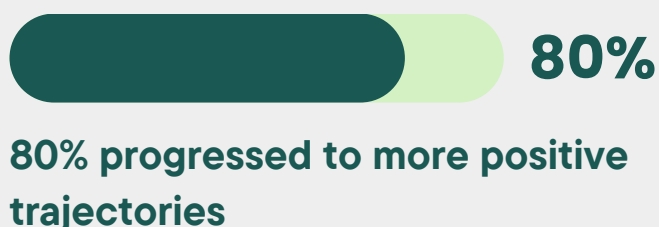
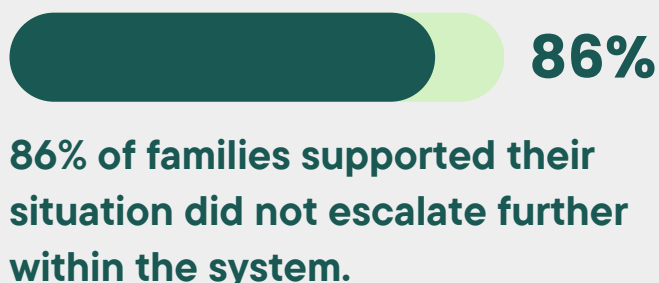
2025 OUTCOME SUMMARY

In 2025, The Reily Foundation played an important stabilising role for parents navigating the child protection system. For **86% of families supported**, their situation did not escalate further within the system, indicating that Reily's support helped maintain stability during periods of significant stress and complexity.

Among parents subject to 3 month Assessment Orders, **80% progressed to more positive trajectories**, including clearer assessment outcomes or pathways toward reunification.

Parents consistently reported a stronger understanding of the child protection system, increased preparedness for meetings, and a greater ability to remain calm and regulated during highly stressful interactions.

Reily's work also helped families maintain critical foundations for stability. Most families preserve housing, essential needs, and strong parent child relationships, even while navigating significant statutory pressures.



For families already on longer term or higher intensity orders, Reily's contribution was reflected in stabilisation, advocacy, and sustained family connection, rather than immediate legal change.

Reily works alongside parents to strengthen readiness, participation, and family stability; however, decisions about whether a child can safely return home are ultimately made by the relevant statutory authorities and, where applicable, the Court



“This foundation is a blessing for families who have lost hope.

They don't just help, they care, they listen, and they stand beside parents in their hardest moments.

Because of them, families find the courage to keep going.”

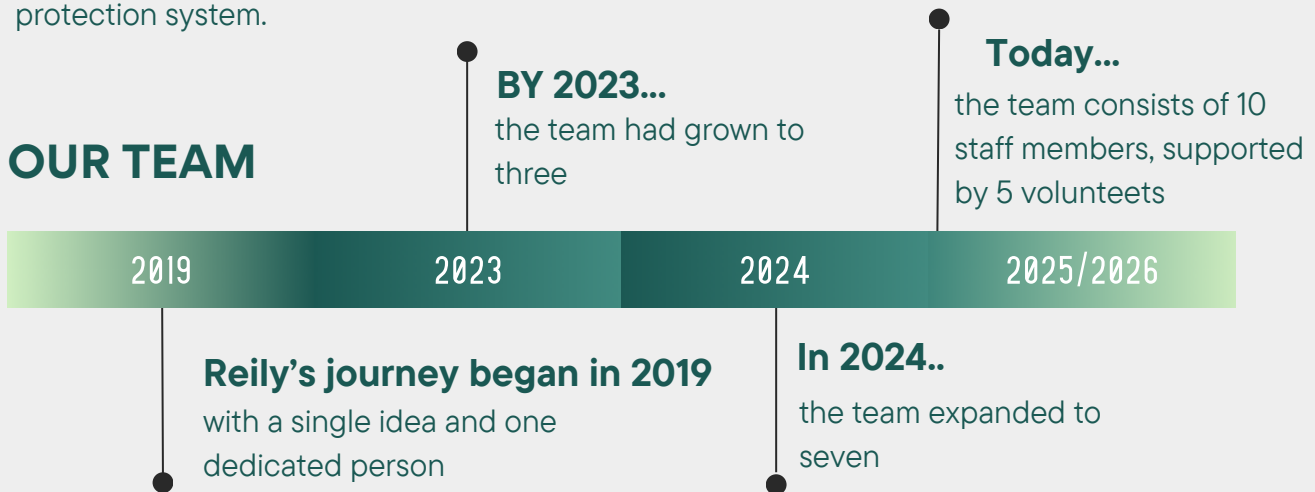
PARENT, SUPPORTED BY REILY



REILY'S GROWTH IN 2025

Reily's journey began in 2019 with a single idea and one dedicated individual. By 2023 the organisation had grown to a team of three, expanding to seven staff in 2024. Today, Reily proudly operates with a team of 10 staff members supported by five committed volunteers. Alongside this growth, we have continued to strengthen our service by developing additional programs and resources that complement our core support for parents navigating the child protection system.

OUR TEAM



WE MOVED...

As demand for our programs and services continues to rise, we have recently relocated to new premises in the city to support this growth.



RAISE PROGRAMME PEER TO PEER SUPPORT

The Reily Foundation, in collaboration with Julia Farr McLeod, is proud to introduce RAISE, a peer-led program supporting parents with disability, grounded in the values of community, culture, and collective strength.



Our evolution reflects a positive shift within the child protection sector and a growing recognition that children are best supported within their families whenever it is safe and possible. This principle sits at the heart of Reily's work and continues to guide our commitment to strengthening families and enabling safe reunification.

This progress has been made possible through the generosity of our **philanthropic and corporate partners**, the dedication of our **passionate staff**, and the strong leadership of **the Reily Board**.

While significant challenges remain within the child protection system, the progress achieved demonstrates that when parents are supported, families can stabilise and children can return home safely.

REUNIFICATION



Supporting reunification begins with strengthening parents’ ability to actively participate in the process that shapes their family’s future. The Reily Foundation equips parents with the clarity, confidence, and practical support they need to navigate the child protection system and demonstrate meaningful progress. By helping parents **understand expectations, prepare for meetings, and translate case plan requirements into achievable actions**, Reily ensures parents’ efforts are visible and recognised by the professionals making decisions about their children.

Sustained reunification is a critical measure of success. Nationally, the Productivity Commission reported that **97.1% of children who exited out-of-home care in 2023–24 did not return to the child protection system** within the reporting period. Reily’s own outcomes indicate that the vast majority of children reunified with support from Reily have remained at home, reinforcing the value of early, relational, and practical support for families.

REUNIFICATION NUMBERS & COST SAVINGS

By applying the most up-to-date cost benchmarks, the financial impact of **safely reunifying these 70 children** with their family is significant, with the following estimated annual savings estimated for South Australia.

PLACEMENT TYPE	CHILDREN	ASSUMED ANNUAL COST/CHILD	AVOIDED COST
KINSHIP (HOME-BASED)	43	\$78,718	\$3,384,874
FOSTER (HOME-BASED)	12	\$78,718	\$944,616
RESIDENTIAL CARE	15	\$659,665	\$9,894,975

*Data Source, Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2025

TOTAL

70
CHILDREN
REUNIFIED

OVER \$14.2M

ESTIMATED SAVINGS FOR THE
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

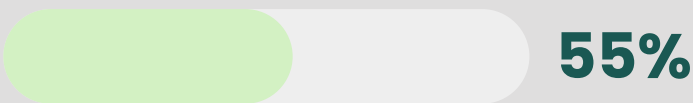


WORKING TOWARDS REUNIFICATION

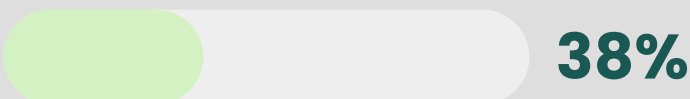


At the beginning of 2026 Reily continues to **actively work with 82 parents.**

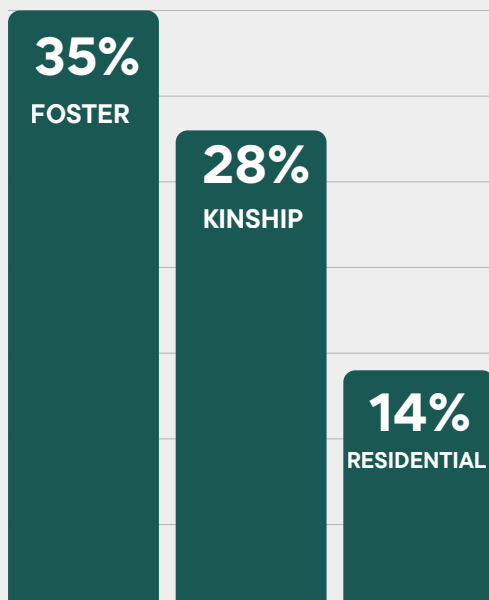
Over half of these families remained on a reunification pathway.



For the **38% of families** who were already on long-term orders and did not have a pathway for reunification, Reily shifted its focus toward supporting parents to **maintain meaningful and positive connections with their children**, helping them remain present and engaged in their children's lives wherever possible.



79% OF CHILDREN WERE LIVING IN OUT OF HOME CARE (OOHC)
(Foster, Kinship or Residential Care).



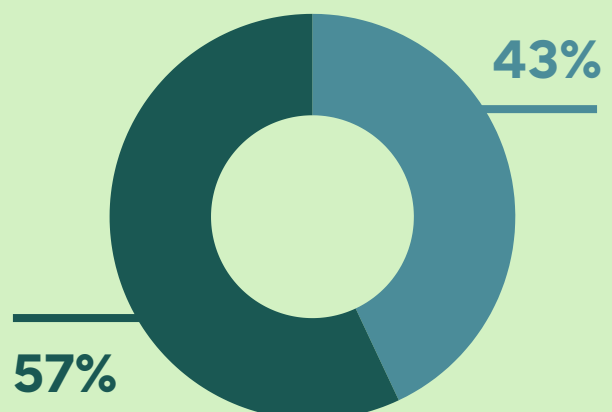
Only 16% of children on protection orders were able to **remain living at home** with a parent (either through safety planning or reunification.)

LONG-TERM GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS (ORDERS LASTING UNTIL AGE 18)

Of the 82 parents actively supported by Reily at the end of 2025, **29 had children were already subject to long-term 18-year orders.**

For families facing long-term care arrangements, Reily's role remains critically important to, **maintain safe, meaningful relationships between parents and their children.** Working alongside parents to help them remain positively involved in their children's lives, maintain healthy contact, and strengthen family relationships wherever possible.

Recognising the unique challenges faced by families on long-term orders, Reily has developed a dedicated program, exploring pathways to reunification for children on long-term care arrangements. This work supports parents to build stability, demonstrate progress over time, and work toward reunification where circumstances change and safe opportunities emerge.



PARENT CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS



SYSTEM LITERACY

Increased Understanding of the child protection system



MEETING PREPAREDNESS

Better prepared for court appearances, and case planning discussions



DEMONSTRATE PROGRESS

Ability to demonstrate compliance with case plan requirements



EMOTIONAL REGULATION

Ability to remain calm during system interactions

ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION



Parents demonstrated greater confidence advocating for themselves and participating in decisions affecting their families.

Showing Up for Your Kids workshop participants demonstrated:

- **Positive contact with their children**
- **Greater confidence** navigating legal processes
- **Better emotional** readiness
- **Meaningful and constructive** engagement with DCP

STABILISATION OUTCOMES



Families sustained **bonds and connection** with children.



Maintained **housing** and **essential living** stability.



For longterm orders: Reily delivered **advocacy, clarity, and stabilisation**, even when legal outcomes couldn't change.

HEADLINE METRICS



Majority of the families Reily Supported **maintained housing and essential living stability** throughout intervention.

86%

86% of families **avoided escalation** in child protection orders.

80%

80% of parents on **3 Month Assessment Orders** progressed toward **more favourable pathways**.

REILY WORKSHOPS



In 2025 Reily ran **10 workshops** for parents navigating the child protection system.

70 parents attended workshops, demonstrating commitment to the wellbeing of **180** children

Pre and post-workshop surveys demonstrated increased understanding, confidence, and coping ability among parents participating in the workshops

Pre-workshop

Post-workshop

31% → 73%

Parents reported feeling significantly more prepared for meetings with child protection services.

38% → 80%

Parents demonstrated stronger understanding of legal and court processes affecting their families

56% → 93%

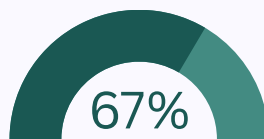
Parents reported greater confidence in managing the challenges associated with their child protection matter.

The Reily Foundation has been an absolute lifeline during the rollercoaster of navigating the Department of Child Protection. Their support has been incredibly helpful, informative, and compassionate every step of the way. They offer clear, practical advice and truly valuable information that makes the path toward reunification with your kids feel achievable. Their advocacy is empowering, and you can tell they genuinely care about the families they help. I'm deeply grateful for their guidance and would highly recommend them to anyone needing support through this difficult process. **-Parent supported by Reily**



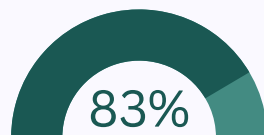
100%

Parents committed to calm consistent, well-prepared family contact



67%

67% reported feeling like they had a supportive village



83%

83% understood healthy vs unhealthy relationships

ACROSS ALL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

100%

of Parents felt respected, heard, and learnt something new



Workshop Facilitators rated 5 out of 5 by all Parents attending a workshop



WHO WE SUPPORT

Most parents supported by Reily are **aged 30–44**, representing around **two-thirds of those who engage with the organisation**. These parents are often balancing work, family responsibilities, and the pressures of navigating the child protection system while working to create safer and more stable environments for their children. Younger parents under 25 frequently benefit from additional guidance and early support, while older parents may be addressing more complex family circumstances built up over time.

AGE PROFILE

Aged 30–44

64%

Age 25–29

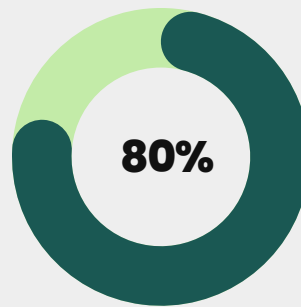
17%

Age 45 and above

13%

Age 25 and under

7%

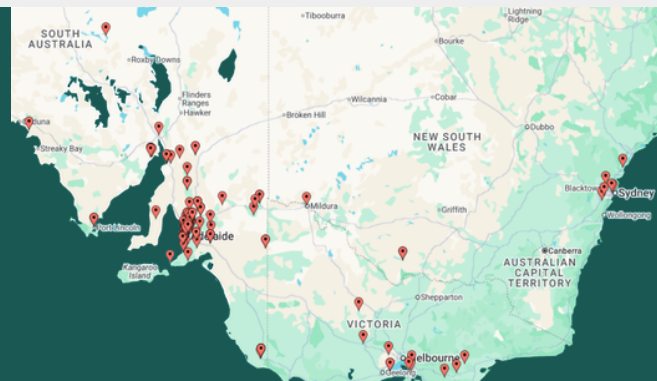


More than 80% of parents seek **one-to-one casework** support, either as their primary support or alongside Reily's **educational workshops**.

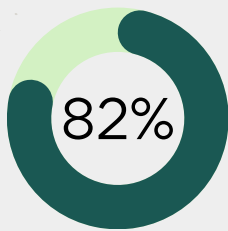
GEOGRAPHY

Most parents supported by Reily live in **Northern Adelaide**, particularly across the Elizabeth–Salisbury–Munno Para corridor, which represents the organisation's strongest concentration of families. Beyond metropolitan Adelaide, Reily also supports parents in **regional communities**, including the **Lower South East (e.g., Mount Gambier)** and pockets of the **Riverland and Mallee**. In total, families come from **89 suburbs across 66 postcodes**, reflecting both broad reach and the reality that many parents live in areas with limited access to services, making Reily's place based and outreach oriented approach especially important.

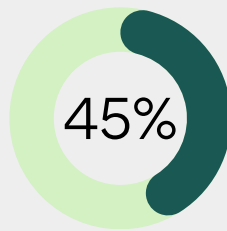
Reily have also begun to **supporting parents beyond South Australia** through our online workshops as well as one-to-one casework support.



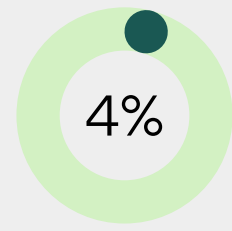
BARRIERS & CHALLENGES



Communication, expectations, and demonstrating progress identified as key challenges.



Only 45% reported having a copy of their case plan



Just 4% had participated in a Family Group Conference

Why this matters: These insights show that most parents are motivated to create change but often lack the clarity, confidence, and practical guidance needed to navigate the system effectively.

WHAT PARENTS TELL US

Parents and families who connect with Reily are highly motivated to strengthen their families and create safer futures for their children. However, many face significant challenges navigating the child protection system and understanding what steps are required to demonstrate progress.

Reily's work helps address this gap by providing parents with the guidance, clarity, and practical support needed to understand expectations, prepare for meetings, and demonstrate meaningful progress. By strengthening parents' confidence, organisation, and ability to communicate effectively with professionals, Reily supports families to participate more constructively in the process and work toward safer outcomes for their children.

THE SYSTEMIC BARRIERS PARENTS FACE



- **82.4%: difficulty engaging with the child protection system.**
- **66.7%: low confidence advocating for themselves.**
- **55.2%: inconsistent or unclear communication from professionals.**
- **53.3%: uncertainty about what is expected of them.**
- **83.3%: high levels of stress and anxiety**
- **73.3%: feelings of isolation during the process**

RISKS & CONCERNS



Parents supported by Reily often present with a cluster of interconnected risks rather than a single issue. The most common concerns include domestic and family violence, mental health challenges, and substance use, which frequently cooccur and compound one another. These risks are often accompanied by parental capacity concerns and housing or environmental instability, creating additional layers of vulnerability. While less common, issues such as neglect, unexplained injuries, and exposure to unsafe people also appear in the cohort. This pattern highlights the complexity of the situations parents face and underscores the need for integrated,

COMMON RISKS & CONCERNS



Domestic & family violence

is one of the most frequently identified concerns.

Substance use (AOD)

commonly cooccurs with DFV and mental health issues.

Parental capacity

Parental/protective capacity concerns frequently appear alongside the major risk

Mental Health challenges

are highly prevalent and often intertwined with other risks.

Housing instability

Housing instability or stateofhome issues contribute to compounding vulnerability.

Risks rarely appear in isolation — most parents experience **multiple, interacting concerns** that increase complexity.

LESS COMMON RISKS & CONCERNS



Injury or unexplained injury

Exposure to unsafe people

Neglect

Sexual abuse / offending concerns

CASE STUDIES



1.

“Children came home & are doing excellent”

A parent in regional South Australia had children living in residential care. Working tirelessly with Reily for 2 years to address the concerns and demonstrate changes required to the the Department for Child Protection, Those children came home in 2025 and are doing excellent. Families can make the necessary changes, we just need to provide them with the support and belief that they can. When we start from a place that children are always best home with family when it is safe to do so, this is what will make the most significant change to the current system and to the positive outcomes for children.

2.

“Parent’s efforts & strengths changed the outcome”

A parent first connected with Reily after attending a workshop. They were experiencing significant stress at the time: strained family relationships, demanding shift work, multiple appointments, limited transport options, and no current contact with their children. Initially, child protection staff did not view this parent as a potential carer.

Through regular emotional support, participation in meetings, and ongoing therapeutic conversations, Reily staff reinforced the parent’s efforts and strengths. Over time, child protection staff acknowledged the parent’s progress, and the assessment outcome shifted. The parent was connected to a reunification service, continued engaging in parenting programs, rebuilt important family relationships, and ultimately the children were able to return to their parent’s care.

PARENTS IDENTIFIED THEIR STRENGTHS



- 87% reported stability in essential areas such as housing, transport, and basic living needs.
- 52% reported strengths in their health and wellbeing.
- 31% described feeling valued, loved, and safe within their relationships.
- 21% were actively engaged in education, training, or employment.

These strengths highlight the resilience many parents bring to the process and reinforce the importance of providing practical support that helps families build on these foundations as they work toward safer and more stable futures.



WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

We asked the parents who had attended a Reily workshop **“What have you learnt from attending”** and these were some of their responses:

I’m starting to understand my emotional wellbeing much better

I know how to act in my meetings with DCP

Keep positive and stay on track

What I can control and what I can’t control

Helped identify healthy relationships and also unhealthy ones too

Stay strong and positive and make sure that I celebrate the small wins

“I think the workshop and facilitators did a fantastic job and really demonstrate kindness, compassion, empathy and encouragement so it is highly appreciated and very much needed and well received and respected. Thank you

Being with other parents going through it, makes me feel less alone

“Very informative and helps prepare and build confidence to what may happen in the future”

What I have done differently since attending the workshop:

I learnt to put myself first at times

I have interacted with my children differently

Practicing box breathing

Engaging with support services

Taking more notice of my emotions

The way that I have been communicating with the DCP

Thought more about my strengths and what more I can be doing to fill my cup



”



CONCLUSION

The evidence presented throughout this report demonstrates that The Reily Foundation plays a critical stabilising role within the child protection system.

In 2025, Reily contributed to **70 children** returning home to their families, including children reunified from residential care, foster care, and kinship placements. Using national cost benchmarks from the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2025, these reunifications represent an estimated **\$14.2million** in avoided annual out-of-home care costs for South Australia.



**BUILDING
CAPACITY**



**FAMILY
STABILISATION**



**SAFE
REUNIFICATION**



**SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENT**

The impact is clear:

The Reily Foundation is making a measurable and meaningful difference by strengthening families, supporting reunification, and supporting more children to safely grow up within their families whenever possible.

While the financial implications are significant, the deeper impact lies in what these outcomes represent:

children remaining connected to their families, parents strengthening their capability, and communities benefiting from more stable family environments.

Reily's role is not simply supportive, it is preventative, stabilising, and system strengthening.





REILY
FOUNDATION

*connection · communication
collaboration · capacity*

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REILY'S PRACTICE MODEL

Our approach is built on strong relationships, understanding trauma, and using strategies that have been proven to work. It meets parents with dignity, clarity, and practical guidance. The model recognises that many parents in the child protection system face high emotional distress, unclear expectations, and complex service demands. Reily's approach aims to stabilise, translate, and empower.



RELATIONSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Reily's support begins with trust. Practitioners build safe, respectful relationships that validate parents' experiences, reduce shame, and create the emotional foundation required for change. Through consistent, non-judgemental engagement, staff help parents remain regulated and connected during the most stressful points of their child protection journey.

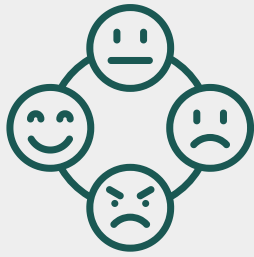
TRANSLATION & SYSTEM NAVIGATION

A central function of Reily's practice is helping parents understand and respond to what DCP expects of them. We explain complicated child protection terms in simple language and help parents know exactly what they need to do. This includes assisting with preparation for meetings and court hearings and help parents document and evidence change. This translation work reduces system confusion and strengthens parents' capacity to participate meaningfully and remain motivated.



EVIDENCE BUILDING & PRACTICAL SUPPORT

We help parents keep track of their progress and show child protection workers the changes they have made. Including preparing case materials, developing safety plans, tracking progress, and coordinating information between multiple services. Practical assistance, such as creating checklists, templates, or attending DCP meetings, helps parents demonstrate consistency, share insight, and follow through.



EMOTIONAL CONTAINMENT & REGULATION

Many parents enter the child protection system experiencing intense anxiety, fear, and shame. We help parents manage stress and stay calm during difficult moments like court or meetings. This is especially critical before and during high stakes interactions like case plan meetings, court hearings, and family contact.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & SYSTEM READINESS

Workshops such as Showing Up for Your Kids build parents' confidence and capability. Through small group learning, parents strengthen their understanding of child protection processes, develop emotional regulation tools, and learn how to present their strengths, prepare for contact, and maintain focus on child safety and wellbeing.



INTEGRATED, COORDINATED RESPONSE

Reily's practice model recognises that risks rarely occur in isolation. Staff integrate responses across mental health, AOD services, FDV supports, housing, and parenting programs, helping families coordinate multiple requirements and avoid service overwhelm. This reduces fragmentation and ensures parents' efforts are visible and aligned to statutory goals.

HOPE, DIGNITY, & ADVOCACY

Underpinning all practice is a belief in parents' capacity to change. Reily provides advocacy that is strengths based, culturally respectful, and grounded in lived experience. The model emphasises dignity, fairness, and the right of parents to participate fully in decisions about their children.





WORKSHOP DATA

Pre and post workshop survey data:

SESSION 1

31% → 73%

Parents feeling prepared for DCP appointments increased

38% → 80%

Parents feeling like they understood the court process

56% → 93%

Parents confidence in coping

SESSION 2

75% → 100%

Parents presentation confidence rose

58% → 89%

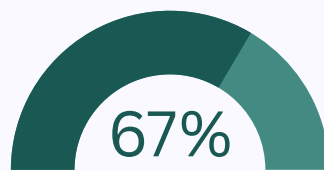
Parents self care, they felt like they'd "filled their cup up" with 89% confidence continuing

SESSION 3

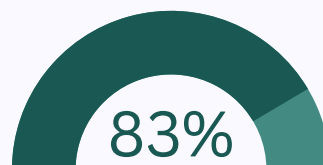
100%

Parents committed to calm consistent, well-prepared family contact

SESSION 4



67% reported feeling like they had a supportive village



understood healthy vs unhealthy relationships

ACROSS ALL SESSIONS

100%

felt respected, heard, and learnt something new; facilitators rated 5/5 by all participants