



SNAICC

National Voice for Our Children

Community
engagement
findings and
recommendations:

A South Australian
Peak Body for
Aboriginal Children
and Families

Where have we been and who have we heard from?

- We listened to the findings from Commissioner Lawrie's consultations with over 450 people across South Australia in 2019 and 2021.
- Community and sector leaders identified locations for workshops to drill down into these findings. These sites were: Port Adelaide, Southern Adelaide (Onkaparinga), Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Ceduna, Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge.
 - 98 people participated in the targeted workshops.
 - 81 of these were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, from 33 nations across every state (including 63 people from 15 South Australian Aboriginal nations).
- We have also spoken with the key Aboriginal peaks and ACCOs across the state and invited their input to the model design.

Some key messages we heard

COMMUNITY VOICE

Community members from all regions must have a strong voice through the peak – not only ACCOs

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

Families need support to navigate the child and family welfare system and break down barriers to accessing supports

OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The peak must monitor and hold government agencies to account for improving outcomes

INDEPENDENCE

The peak must be led by community and have independence from government. DCP (and other departments) must not influence/take credit

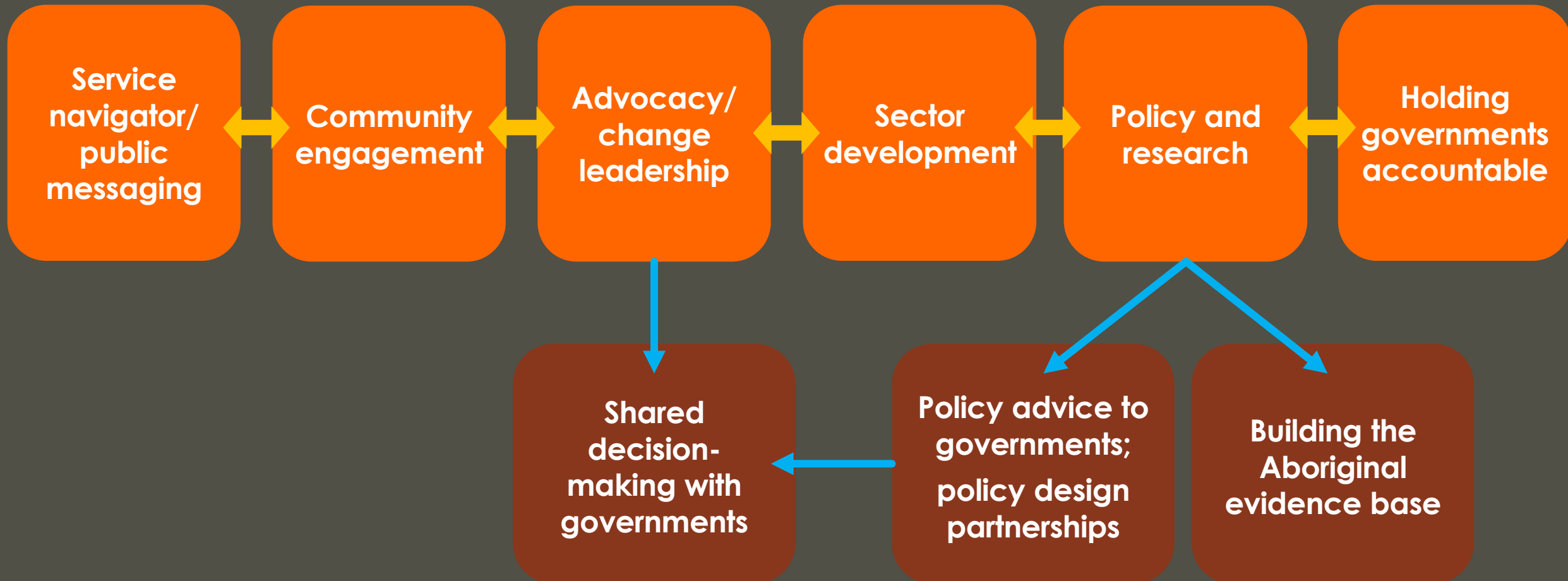
**Consultations
confirmed the
five key
themes of
effective
peak bodies**



‘Mission statement’ of the peak body

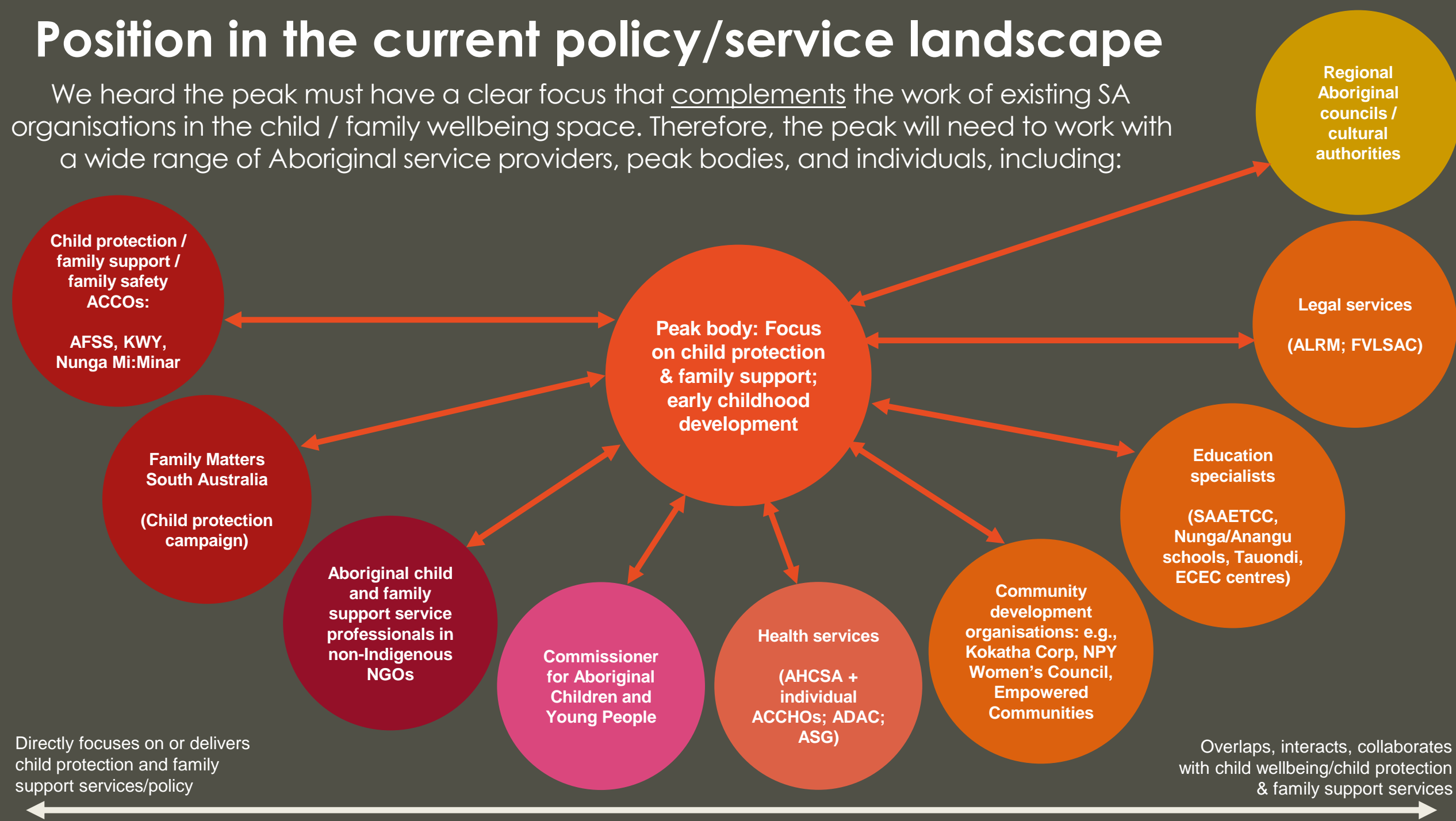
‘To be a community voice for Aboriginal children in South Australia, working to ensure that they grow up strong in their families and connected to community, culture and Country.’

Roles and functions of the peak body



Position in the current policy/service landscape

We heard the peak must have a clear focus that complements the work of existing SA organisations in the child / family wellbeing space. Therefore, the peak will need to work with a wide range of Aboriginal service providers, peak bodies, and individuals, including:



Initially established as a standalone body

We heard that the peak must stand alone as an organisation. If it was auspiced by an existing ACCO or peak, it would risk compromising independent representation for community and the sector.



Governance structure – what are the components?

Members

- Elects board members
- Promotes accountability
- Builds support and buy-in

Board & Council

- Strategic direction
- Key decisions
- Corporate governance – legal, financial, KPI oversight

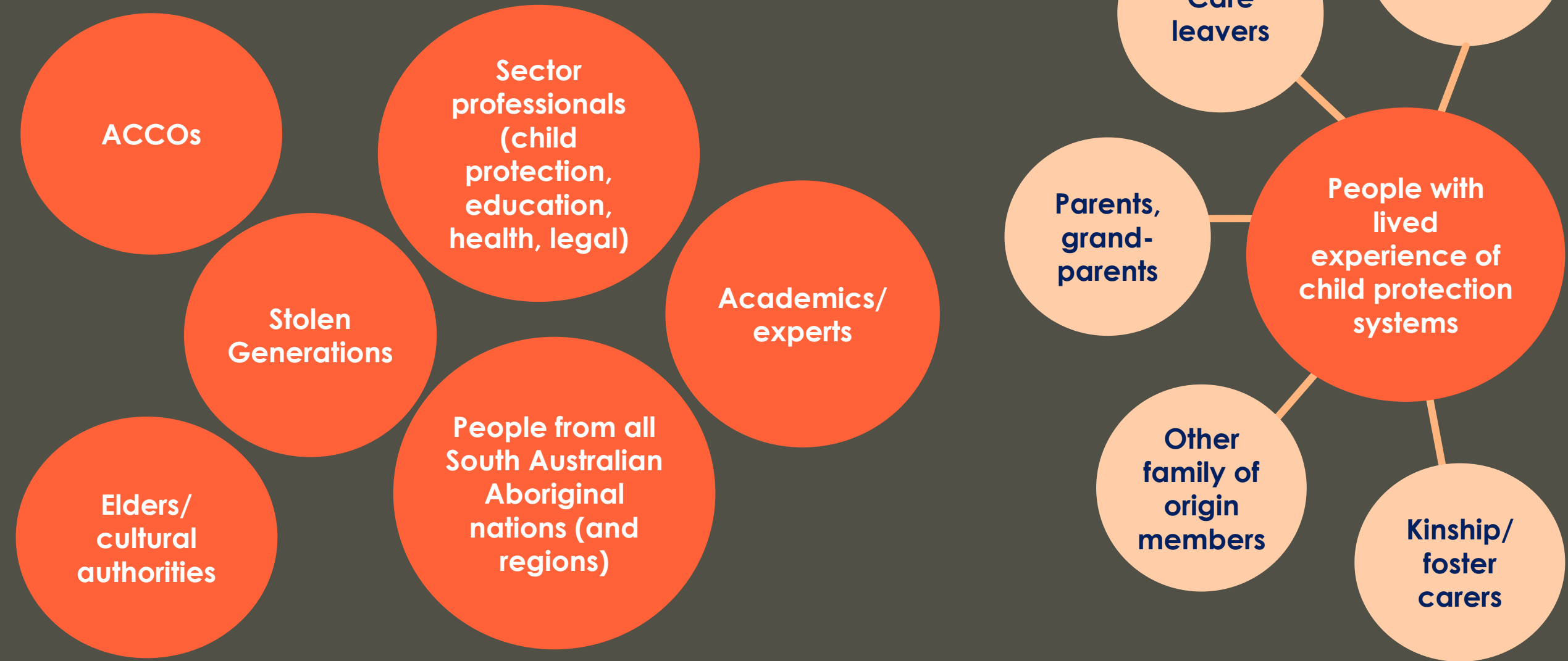
Committees

- Advisory role to the board and organisation (and potentially oversight of output under some functions)

Membership – models considered

Organisational members model	Community membership model	<u>Preferred: Mixed model</u>
Membership of the peak is only open to Aboriginal service provider organisations	Membership of the peak is open only to Aboriginal community members	The organisation is open to different classes of membership (organisations and individuals) – but <u>should only include Aboriginal community members and organisations</u>

Who will the membership be made up of?



Board composition – models considered

Representative model	Expert advisory model	<u>Preferred: Mixed model</u>
Board Directors are elected representatives of members (Aboriginal service delivery organisations and/or Aboriginal community members)	Board Directors are appointed, independent Aboriginal experts (in fields such as child and family services and early childhood, and/or individuals with legal, financial or corporate governance experience)	<p>Board Directors are primarily elected representatives of members (including both ACCO representatives <i>and</i> Aboriginal community representatives) but can also appoint ex-officio members for specialist expertise.</p> <p>60% of Directors should be community representatives.</p>

Election of Board Directors – models considered

Direct Board Election

- Board Directors are directly elected by, and from, members of the peak.
- The Board could include 3–4 ACCO representatives and 3–4 community representatives.
- Multiple remote/regional areas must be represented.
- Elected members can also appoint ex-officio expertise positions – if and when needed.

Preferred: Two-tier Board and Council structure

- Members elect a Council (representing each region of South Australia) that appoints a smaller Board. Regions will be identified by an establishment steering committee.
- The Council includes 1 ACCO rep and 1 Community rep (both must be Aboriginal) per region. It represents regional priorities and sets the overarching strategic direction.
- The Council selects 6–8 of its members to also become Board Directors based on their expertise. The Board governs the peak's day-to-day management.
- The Council could also appoint ex-officio expertise positions to the Board if needed.

How would a Board and Council work together?

**Council: 1 ACCO rep + 1
Community rep from each region**

*Represents regional priorities and sets
strategic direction*

**Board: 6–8 Directors chosen from Council Representatives,
with ex-officio expertise positions appointed if needed**

*Provides governance (financial, legal) and management (appoints CEO,
oversees output, etc.)*

**CEO
+
Staff**

Members nominate and vote for Council positions

All members are Aboriginal people

Committees – models considered

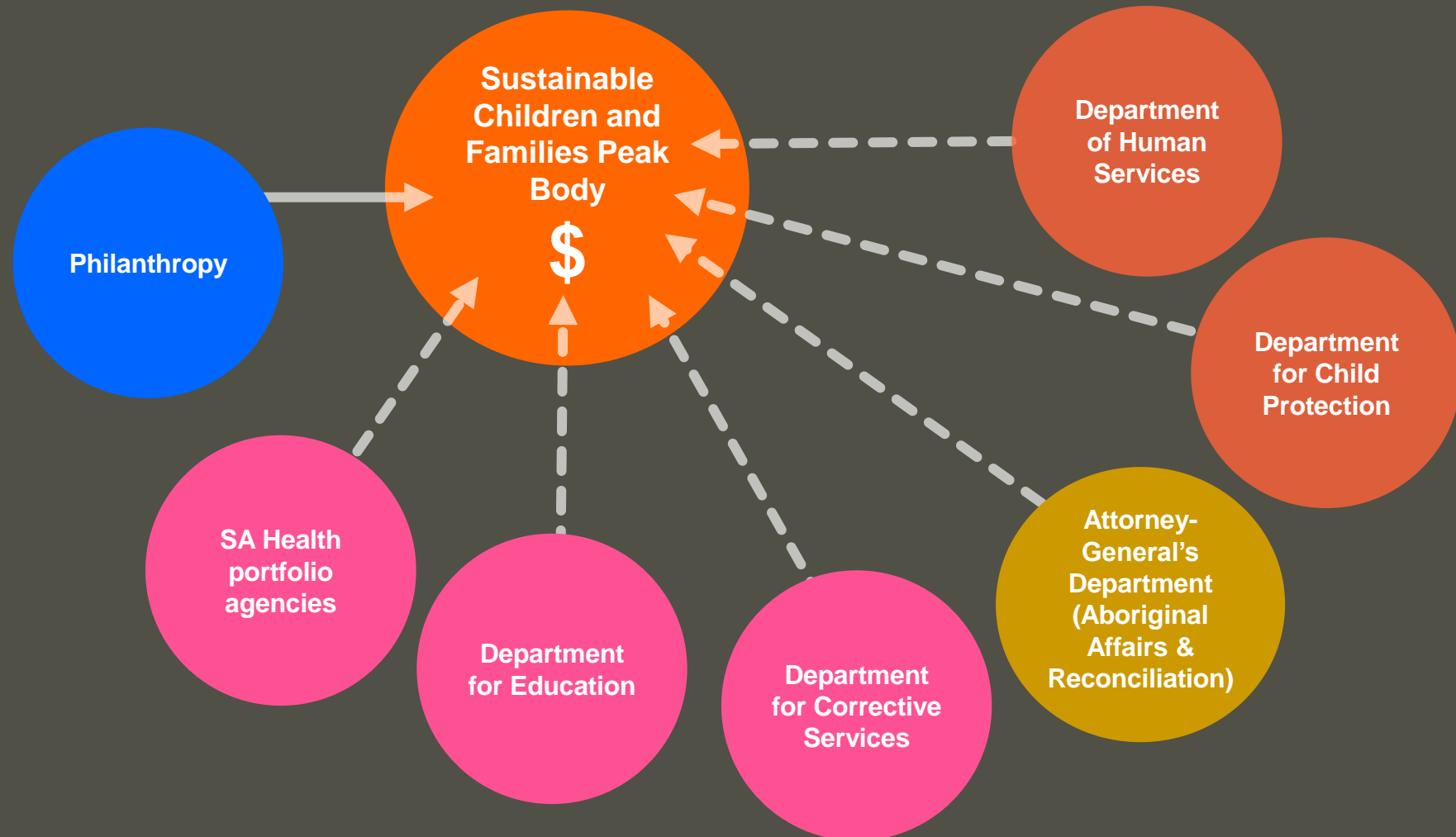
Community expert advisory model	Technical expert advisory model	Combined model
Formal Community Advisory Group is established to represent the voice and expertise of Aboriginal children, families, community groups and Elders	Formal Technical Advisory Group is established to ensure that the peak body's operation is based on Aboriginal expert input	Advisory groups are established that comprise both Aboriginal community representatives and Aboriginal technical expert advisors

No clear preferred model identified. Flexibility will be left to the peak to establish committees.

Children are everyone's responsibility: How will the peak body be funded?

We heard that the peak must have multiple funding streams to ensure adequate funding, sustainability and independence.

To reduce reporting burden, participants proposed that the peak's funding should be streamlined in a single core agreement with Premier and Cabinet, with contributions from other SA Government agencies through inter-agency MOUs.



Next steps – what needs to happen to start the establishment

An establishment steering committee: appointed independently of SA Government; SNAICC to provide secretariat support

Establishment resources: initial investment committed by DCP

Organisational development supports

Legal work and corporate governance



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