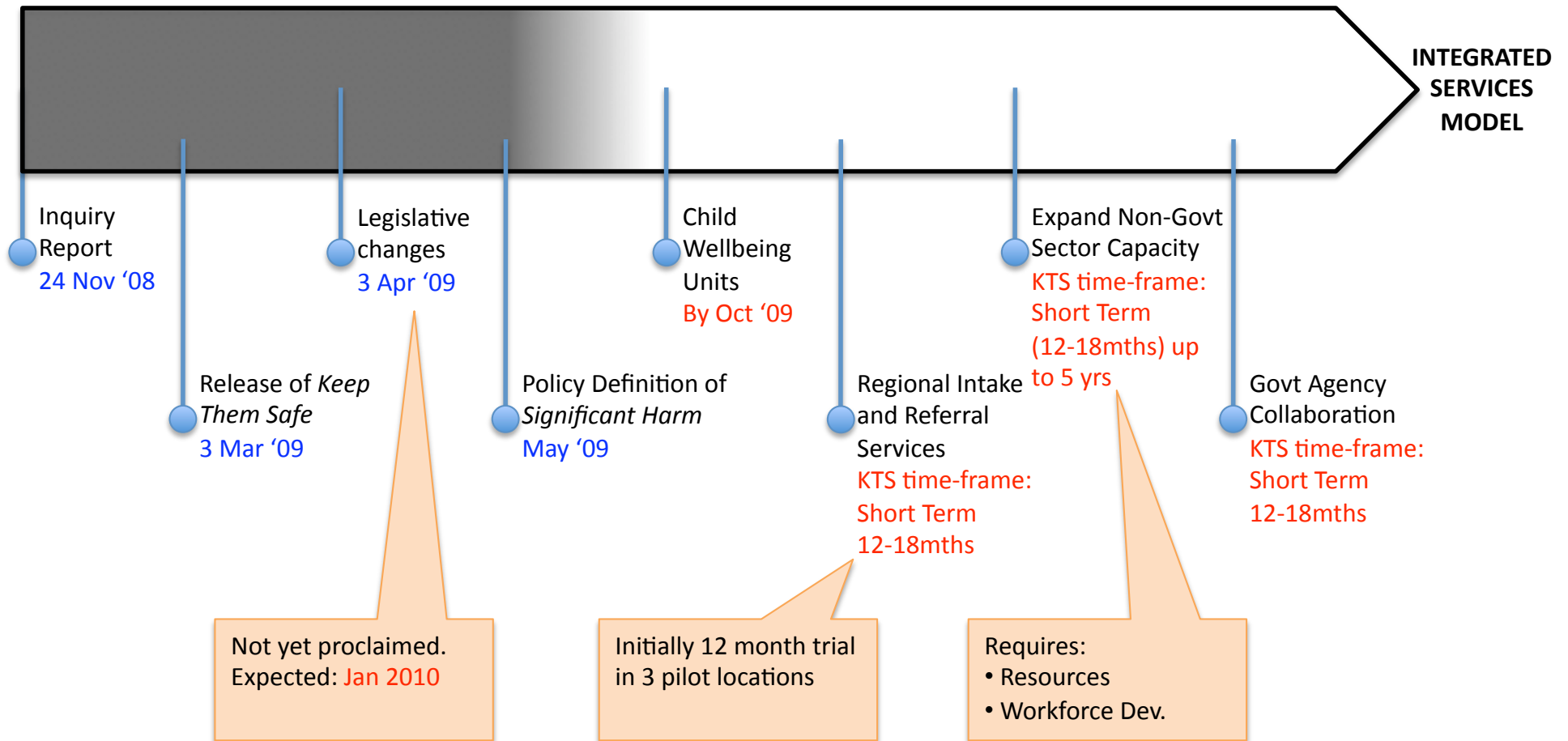


# Implementation of Reform



# Policy Definition of '*Significant Harm*'

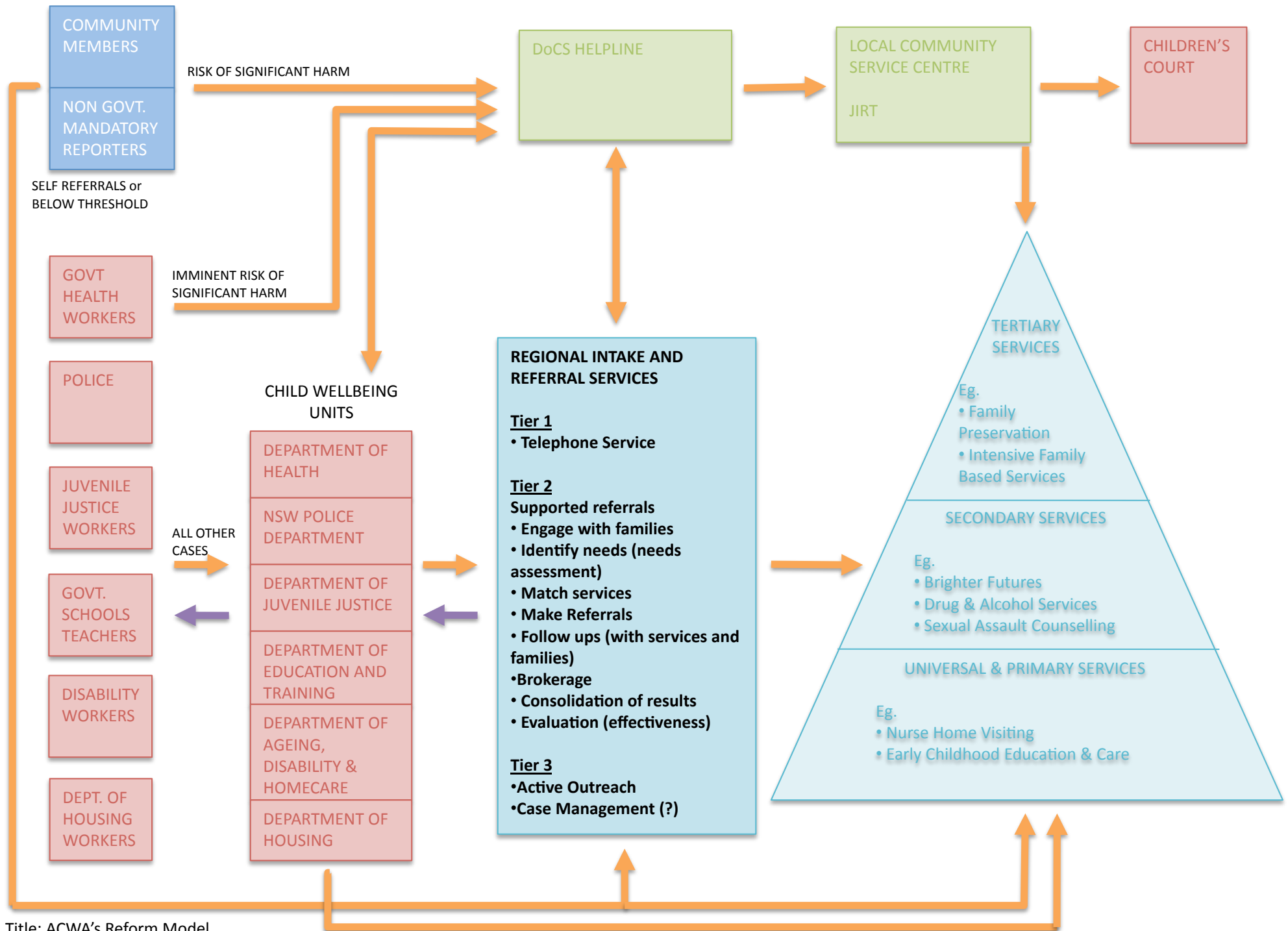
(correct as of 10 June 2009)

Significant harm may be the result of a single act or omission, or an accumulation of these.

Significant harm is harm of such a level as to warrant intervention by statutory authorities irrespective of whether the family consents.

It is harm that is not minor or trivial in that it has produced or may produce a substantial and demonstrable adverse impact on the child or young person's safety, welfare or wellbeing

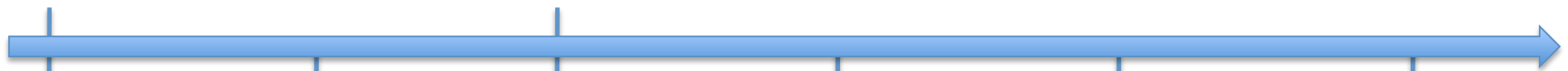
and in the case of an unborn child, can be reasonably expected to produce such impact on the child after the child's birth



Title: ACWA's Reform Model

Universal services

*Targeted universal services*



prevention

early  
intervention

secondary  
intervention

tertiary  
intervention

statutory  
intervention

Parenting programs  
Financial counseling  
Support groups  
School readiness  
programs

Nurse home  
visiting

Brighter Futures

Intensive Family Based Services

# Targeted Universal Services

## Universal services

Universal services are best understood as services made available to all members of the population designed to promote positive functioning and thereby decrease the likelihood of specific disorders developing.

## Tertiary Services

Services made available to individuals or families who have an established condition or problem and are designed to minimize the negative impact of the condition or problem.

## Targeted Universal Services

- Specific subset of universal services designed to attract and assist a cohort within the larger catchment according to prevailing need, for examples nurse home visiting for young parents.
- Services rendered preventative in nature, where the service provides additional support prior to contact with the statutory child protection system.

## Prevention Theory

- Targeting process based on causal nexus between the problems being addressed by the service and the desired outcomes.
- If we do not identify these at an earlier stage they are more likely to be missed when the children get older and the issues compound in adulthood preventing maximal productive contribution to the society.
- Able to provide intervention services before symptoms compound.

# Early Intervention

## Defining Early Intervention

- Early Childhood Australia defines early intervention as *“support for infants and young children who have developmental delays or disabilities, their families and communities, in order to promote the child's development and inclusion”*.
- Where *“developmental delay describes a young child who is not achieving new skills within the expected age range”* and *“disability is a physical, sensory, intellectual or behavioural impairment which affects development.”*

## Brighter Futures

Brighter Futures is a voluntary program providing support to targeted vulnerable children and families to prevent them from entering or escalating in the child protection system.

## Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for the program families must:

- have a child or children aged between 0 to under 9 years – priority will be given to families with children under 3 ; and
- be experiencing one of a set of identified vulnerabilities that, if not addressed, is likely to escalate and impact adversely on capacity to parent adequately and/or the wellbeing of child/ren.

Furthermore, families must be assessed as requiring sustained assistance for a period of approximately 18 months to 2 years, involving Case Management and at least two of the following funded service options – home visiting, parenting programs and quality children’s services.