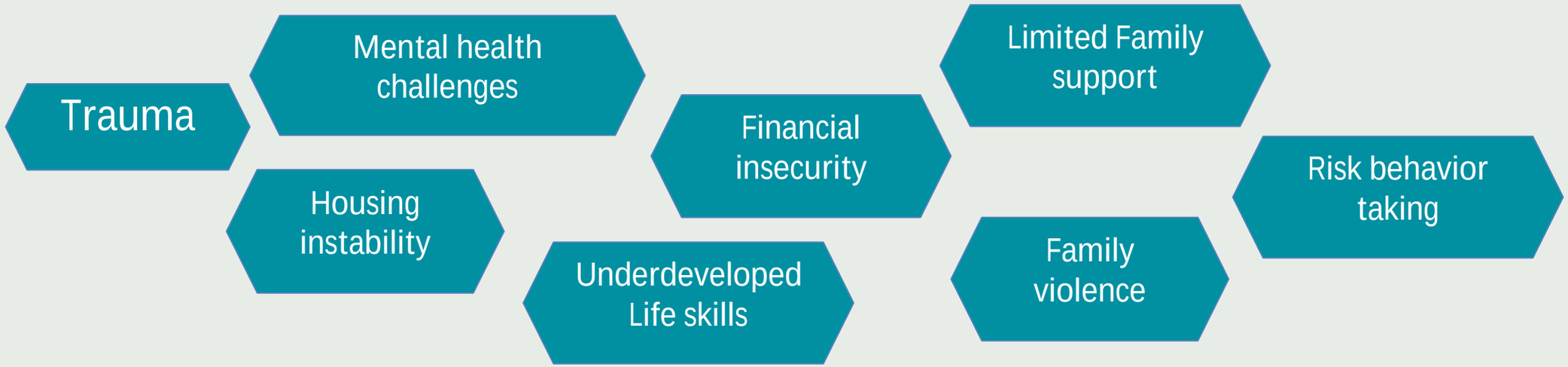
Breaking the Cycle

Supporting Care Leavers as Parents

Preventing intergenerational child protection involvement

Current Reality for Care Leavers

- Outcomes remain poor despite decades of reform
- Social isolation and weak support networks are common
- Care leavers experience systemic disadvantage:

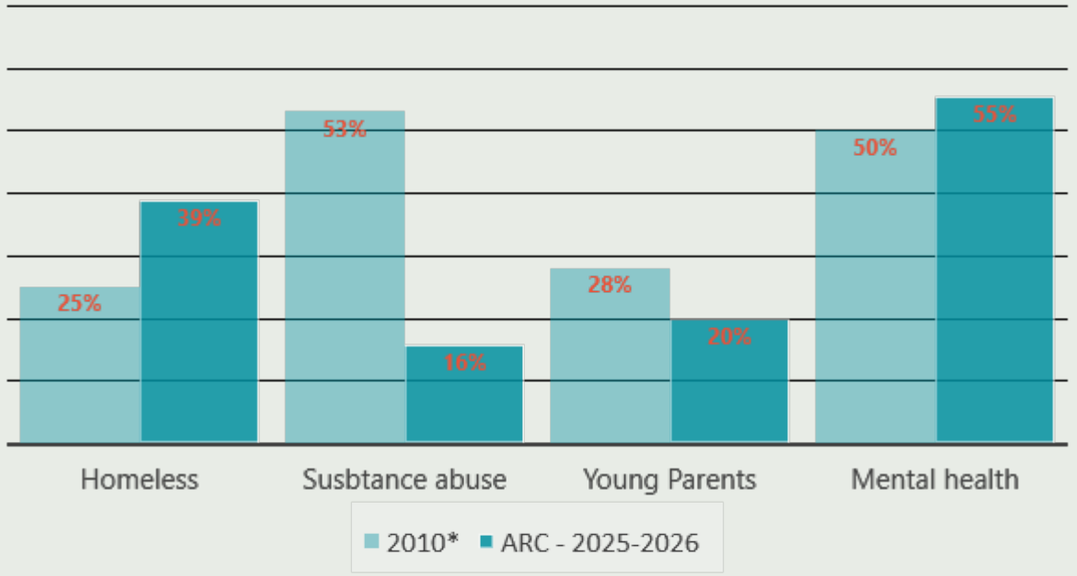


Current Reality for Care Leavers

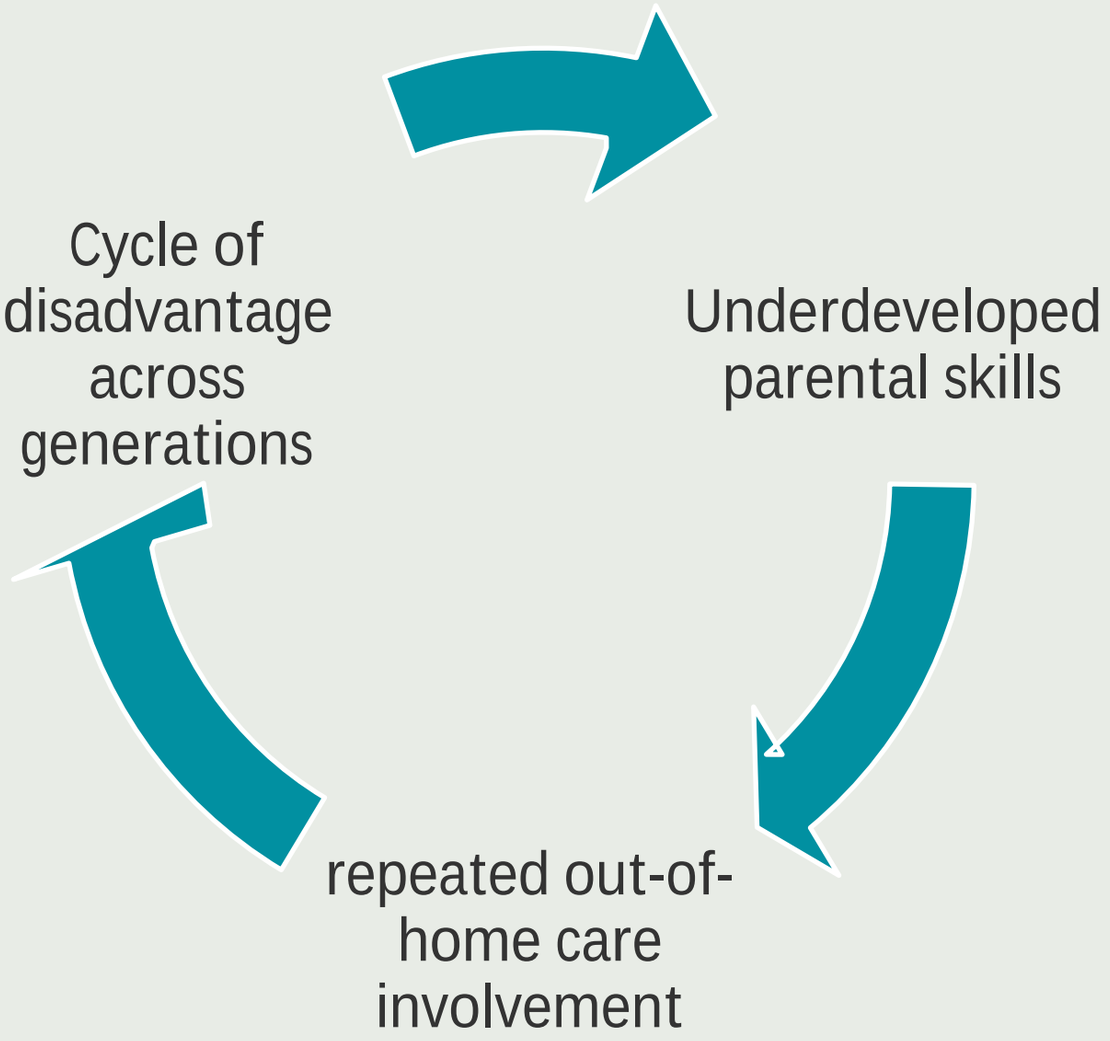
Between 2009 and 2026, NSW has undergone four major, systemic out-of-home care (OOHC) and child protection reforms

1. Keep Them Safe (2009)
2. Transition to NGO Care (2012)
3. Permanency Support Program (2017)
4. The NSW Out-of-Home Care Strategy (2025–2026)

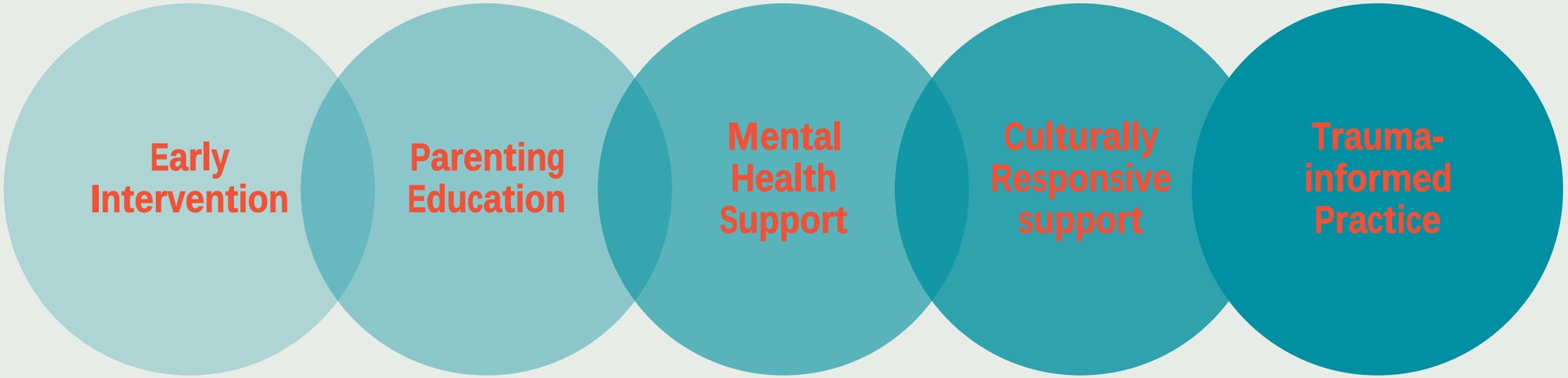
Data shows that outcomes remain poor



Intergenerational Cycle



What Works


Early Intervention
Parenting Education
Mental Health Support
Culturally Responsive support
Trauma-informed Practice

Shifting the System

Move from Surveillance to **Supportive Engagement**

Train workforce in **Trauma-Informed Practice**

Focus on s**trengths**, **capability** and **empowerment**

Call to Action

- Appropriate stable Housing and transition support
- Improved Access to Health & Mental health
- Increase investment in Prevention
- Relational Support and Community Engagement

Questions