> This solution is a **game changer for child protection** agencies, in keeping children and vulnerable people who cross multiple jurisdictions safe.
>
> **Briony Foster,** Executive District Director, Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Northern Sydney Districts, Department of Communities and Justice

ORGANISATION

NSW Department of Communities and Justice on behalf of all Australian State and Territory child protection agencies

INDUSTRY

State Government

SOLUTION

Objective REACH

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

Enables vital early action. Through improved access to information, Objective Reach provides timely access for all State agencies to critical information – improving prevention and early intervention.

Assists coordination between organisations. Objective Reach helps to improve outcomes for children with a child protection history by assisting government to improve coordination, enabling them to respond appropriately.

Informs critical decision making. Improving the ability to keep children and young people safe from harm, Objective Reach is designed to quickly find, link and match vital information to enable critical decisions to be made with all relevant information on-hand.

GREAT GOVERNANCE ›››
BETTER BUSINESS

Objective Reach: The innovative platform protecting vulnerable children in Australia

The number and rates of children not living with parents for child protection reasons has continued to rise since 2015. Each state and territory of Australia has their own child protection agency, all using different technology systems for managing their records and there can be an information gap when an at-risk child moves across borders. A recommendation was made to improve the way information is shared across jurisdictions to enable them to better work together. Objective (formerly Itree), was contracted to take on the project and deliver a solution to provide visibility across all jurisdictions.

Everyday child protection workers operate within a high-pressure environment and are required to make immediate assessments on children-at-risk without the timely access they need to historical information in another jurisdiction. Existing agreements and protocols rely on time consuming manual processes and precious time can be wasted.

THE NEED FOR A UNIFYING SOLUTION TO INFORMATION SHARING

In 2016, Australia's Third Action Plan 2016-2019 of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children provided a recommendation "to investigate the sharing of information across jurisdictions to enable services to better work together to support women and their children." The desired outcome would be to create a solution which would connect all Australian child protection jurisdictions in near real-time.

The NSW Department of Communities and Justice has been the lead agency on this initiative. Objective was awarded the project under the Australian Government Business Research and Innovation Initiative. As a result, the cloud-based solution Objective Reach was developed, and in October 2019, with funding support from the Australian Department of Social Services, a five-year contract was established to provide Objective Reach to all Australian child protection agencies.

Objective

A UNIQUE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION IS BORN

Objective Reach is a unique technology solution that enables agencies to 'Reach out' for rapid and secure record matching across multiple systems, to better support critical aspects of the decision-making processes needed to keep families safe. It is a secure, robust integrated software solution enabling State and Territory child protection agencies to share vital information in a timely manner.

Objective Reach has the ability to use advanced search and matching technology, finding relevant records within seconds through known information across States and Territories, in near real time. Proactive subscription notifications alert authorised users when new information becomes available.

The solution delivers access to timely, shared information allowing agencies to make faster, more informed decisions that can lead to improved outcomes, such as early intervention, and prevention of further harm or risk. The Objective Reach technology also has the ability to link together discovered information. Matched records are returned with weighted rating score, providing the confidence that matches are accurate. This will also improve over time, through embedded machine learning technology.

Objective Reach caters for the sensitivities such as the cultural background of children, and is controlled by a rigorous permissions-based access process, with a comprehensive audit history of all access, views and searches. It integrates with existing systems, removing any dependency on costly replacement platforms.

By utilising the Objective Reach solution, it is the first time that the more than 200,000 children that come into contact with Australia's child protection system each year will now be visible across state boundaries.

Objective acknowledge the dedication and experience of child safety professionals across Australia from all State and Territorial agencies, who have worked so hard to turn an innovation challenge into a reality for better protecting vulnerable children's well-being and safety.

The challenge of not easily being able to share data across agencies in different jurisdictions is an issue across many levels of government. Other government agencies could benefit from the powerful search and sharing capabilities of Objective Reach. The Objective Reach team is involved in discussions with agencies such as Police, Health, Justice, Education, Transport, Fisheries and Primary Industries and Intelligence and how they could benefit from Objective Reach
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ABOUT OBJECTIVE CORPORATION

Objective Corporation (ASX:OCL) creates information and process governance solutions that are effortless to use and enable organisations to confidently advance their own digital transformation.

Designed for regulated industries, these solutions turn the imperative of compliance, accountability and governance into an opportunity to streamline business processes and deliver the innovative services that customers expect.

With a heritage in Enterprise Content Management (ECM), Objective's expanded solutions extend governance across the spectrum of the modern workplace; underpinning information, processes and collaborative work-spaces.

Through a brilliant user experience, people access the information they need to progress processes from wherever they choose to work.

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