

MEDIA RELEASE

Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children

Australian Government Moves on National Child Protection Plan Welcomed

The Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children met yesterday with the Australian Government Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, The Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, in the first step to develop Australia's National Child Protection Framework.

Coalition spokesperson Brian Babington said that "the Coalition representatives were greatly encouraged by the expeditious way in which the Rudd Government has moved on its election commitment to devise and implement a National Child Protection Framework."

"The Minister has given a strong commitment to the Commonwealth working collaboratively with the States and Territories, as well as the community sector, to find both practical short and long term ways to tackle the child protection crisis in Australia".

"The Coalition representatives who met Minister Macklin in Melbourne were advised that an extensive consultation process would now be commenced", he said.

The release last week of a report by the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare on child protection highlighted the alarming plight of many Australian children who are victims of abuse and neglect.

The Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children was established in November 2007 to work with governments to develop the National Child Protection Framework. The Coalition represents the majority of organisations which provide services to vulnerable children, young people and families on the ground across Australia, as well as many key researchers. There are 51 members in the Coalition.

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31 January 2008