



promoting the interests of families

MEDIA RELEASE

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COAG LEADERSHIP ON CHILD PROTECTION WELCOMED

Families Australia welcomed today's COAG commitment to devise a National Child Protection Framework by the end of 2008 as a major landmark in efforts to tackle Australia's crisis in child abuse and neglect.

"Recent child abuse, neglect and death tragedies underline the importance of developing a concerted national response which properly safeguards all children," said Brian Babington, Chief Executive Officer of Families Australia.

"The crisis in child protection has long demanded a truly concerted national response. COAG has responded to this issue and has made a commitment to developing Australia's first national framework on child protection by the end of 2008."

"It will now be crucial for Governments to work in close partnership with the non-government community sector, which plays a critical role in this area, to produce a robust and comprehensive national response," Mr Babington said.

A national plan of action is urgently needed in light of the alarming increase in the number of occasions where authorities found that a child either was or was likely to be harmed, abused or neglected – a massive 45% increase from 40,416 in 2002-03 to 58,563 in 2006-07."

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**Families Australia is the national, independent, non-government organisation
dedicated to promoting the interests of families**

www.familiesaustralia.org.au