

OUR CHILDREN

our CONCERN • our RESPONSIBILITY

families
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CAMPAIGN REFERENCE GROUP MEMBERS

(as at 21 August 2003)

The following organisations support Families Australia's 'Our Children' campaign and are part of a reference group for the campaign

ADVOCATES FOR SURVIVORS OF CHILD ABUSE (ASCA)

ASCA is for all people and recognises all forms of abuse as equally abhorrent. ASCA's membership comprises those who have been neglected, and/or emotionally, sexually, spiritually, ritually or physically abused. ASCA's membership also includes therapists, health professionals, caring people as well as partners and non-offending parents of survivors of abuse.

ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA Anglicare Australia is the National Network of care and social justice agencies of the Anglican Church. Anglicare members invest over \$400 million in assistance each year to needy families, youth and children, the aged, unemployed and homeless Australians.

ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE AGENCIES (ACWA) NSW ACWA aims to support non government agencies and improve the quality of services to children and young people who need to live away from their families, as well as to improve of the quality of care available to 'at risk' dependent children and young persons who need substitute care in the state of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. ACWA's membership includes child, youth and family service agencies operating in NSW and the ACT and individuals who support the objectives of ACWA.

ASSOCIATION OF SERVICES SUPPORTING AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES (ASSAF) The Association of Services Supporting Australian Families (ASSAF) is a national body representing over 600 family support services across Australia, which aims to meet the needs of children, families and communities, especially those in disadvantaged circumstances. It seeks to keep families together and avoid entry of children into 'out of home' care. The ASSAF Board consists of members of State Family Support Peaks, elected and co-opted members. Secretarial support is provided by FSSA NSW.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS (AASW) AASW is the professional representative body of social workers in Australia. Its code of ethics contains a set of principles agreed to by all members. These principles guide all social work practice. AASW is involved in research, policy development and analysis, consultancy and management. Working with individuals, groups and communities, AASW assists them to shape and change the conditions in which they live. AASW advocates for disadvantaged members of society; works towards the elimination of structural inequalities in society to facilitate a more equitable distribution of resources; engages in research to build our knowledge base and understanding of society; and finally they analyse, challenge and develop social policies.

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE (ACOSS) ACOSS is the national peak council of the community welfare sector in Australia – the principle voice of low income and disadvantaged people in social and economic policy matters. ACOSS aims to end poverty and help build a just and inclusive society that values difference and the right of all people and communities to the social and economic resources they need to control their own lives.

AUSTRALIAN FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION (AFCA) AFCA is the only national representative body for foster carers and foster care associations throughout Australia. The membership of the Association is comprised of the peak foster care association of each Australian State or Territory and through them in excess of 12,500 Australian carer families from throughout Australia.

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AUSTRALIAN YOUTH AFFAIRS COALITION (AYAC)

AYAC is the peak youth affairs body in Australia and responsible for representing the interests of people aged between 12 and 25 years of age, and those who work with them. They actively promote the well being and aspirations of young people with particular respect to their social, political, cultural, spiritual, economic and educational development. Currently AYAC is unfunded and has no paid staff but is managed by an elected Executive Committee of volunteers. They are in the process of seeking funding so that they can provide a strong independent voice for young people and organisations that work with young people in Australia.

BARNARDOS

Barnardos is Australia's leading children's charity providing services which successfully help prevent and reverse the effects of abuse, neglect and homelessness on children and young people. Barnardos provides a range of integrated family support services that allow parents to seek help before government intervention is essential or tragedy occurs. They provide a range of flexible and individualised forms of youth support. They find permanent, safe loving substitute families for severely traumatised children removed by the Courts from their birth parents, offering training and support to those new families to cope with their needs. Barnardos is recognised as a leader in innovative child welfare practice, aimed at reducing and preventing child abuse, both nationally and internationally.

CARE LEAVERS AUSTRALIA NETWORK (CLAN)

CLAN is a support group for people brought up as state wards, foster children, or home children raised in institutions. Being raised without your family has life-long implications which require lifelong support services. Their aim is to raise community awareness of issues that affect people formerly in care and to campaign for the government to address them. They publish a bi-monthly newsletter sent to all members; help those formerly in care reconnect with their families; and have a library that provides information on dealing with issues such as abandonment, growing up without a family and the effects of institutionalisation.

CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (CAFWAA)

CAFWAA is a national body committed to meeting the needs of children and families. It has over 260 members, including the peak child and welfare bodies in each State and other community service organisations. CAFWAA represents all States and include members in regional, rural and remote areas.

CHILDREN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA (CWAV)

CWAV is the voice of the child welfare and family support sector in Victoria. CWAV provides information and liaises with media, State Government and the community to ensure children, young people and families have access to appropriate services as and when they are needed. CWAV represents community based organisations that deliver a diverse range of services for children, young people and families. CWAV membership covers small, medium and large organisations spread across the State in metropolitan and country areas.

COTA NATIONAL SENIORS

The Council on the Ageing and the National Seniors Association recently merged to offer a stronger voice for seniors nationally, and increased services and benefits for members. COTA National Seniors is the peak consumer organisation dedicated to protecting and promoting the well-being of older people. COTA National Seniors undertakes policy analysis and policy development; provides information and advice to older people on Commonwealth policies and programs; and provides information and advice to the Commonwealth Government about issues of importance to current and future generations of older people based on consultation with older people and research.

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CREATE FOUNDATION CREATE Foundation provides opportunities to children and young people who have been abused or neglected and enter the care system. CREATE provides a diverse range of services, programs and initiatives to inspire achievement and participation of children and young people in care, and those who work with and for them. For instance CREATE produces a contemporary, fun and informative magazine written for and by children and young people in care. CREATE is a charity funded through several corporate sponsors and state Governments across Australia.

EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA (ECA) ECA (formerly Australian Early Childhood Association) is the national peak non-government organisation, acting in the interests of young children aged 0-8 years of age. ECA actively promotes the provision of high quality services for all young children and their families and supports the important role of parents in caring for their children. ECA also plays an important role as the national umbrella organisation for children's services. ECA sees this task as an opportunity to support the advocacy role of the child care sector as a whole, without undermining the rights of each early childhood specialist organisation to operate and speak independently. As part of this role ECA convenes the National Children's Services Forum (NCSF).

FAMILY SERVICES AUSTRALIA (FSA) FSA is the largest national Industry Representative Body for the community based family and relationships services sector. It is funded under the Commonwealth Family Relationships Services Program (FRSP) through appropriations from Attorney General and the Department of Family and Community Services. FSA works to ensure that diverse families are able to access services which strengthen and sustain individuals, couples and families; and live within communities which contribute to the well being of all.

GOOD BEGINNINGS AUSTRALIA Good Beginnings aims to create a caring environment with families, communities, service agencies and governments working together so that all children can have a good beginning. Good Beginning provides a range of programs including volunteer home visits, parenting groups, fathering programs, assistance to parents that have been imprisoned, programs for indigenous Australian families, Family and Community Capacity Building Programs, and culturally specific programs catering for Australia's increasingly multicultural society.

LIFELINE AUSTRALIA Lifeline provides a 24 hour telephone counselling service that is free and accessible from anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local call. It also offers many other associated community services. Their core belief is that every person has the right to be heard and understood with compassion and to receive competent care in their time of need. Lifeline's focus is on assisting with problem solving to find lasting solutions.

LONE FATHERS ASSOCIATION The Lone Fathers Association, a national Peak Body, is an educational and welfare organisation devoted to the interests of lone fathers, lone mothers, their friends, relatives, grandparents, extended family, carers and children.

MIRABEL FOUNDATION The Mirabel Foundation assists children who have been orphaned or abandoned due to parental illicit drug use. Mirabel believes that these children deserve support whilst growing up, and is committed to making this a reality. Through early intervention and involvement we believe we can make a difference. The Mirabel Foundation works towards: - Supporting the children and their carers - Providing therapeutic and recreational activities - Undertaking research and aiming to break the cycle.

NAPCAN AUSTRALIA NAPCAN's vision is to prevent child abuse in all its forms and to nurture and protect children and keep them safe. NAPCAN was founded to open up the lines of communications between the different government departments, agencies, professionals and community groups working in the child protection field. Its major focus is PRIMARY PREVENTION - i.e. stopping abuse from happening in the first instance. NAPCAN works closely with governments, organisations and agencies working in the child protection field, believing that by working together we can maximise our effectiveness for the benefit of all children.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY BASED CHILDREN'S SERVICES The National Association of Community Based Children's Services is a national organisation of individuals and groups working in and for community based children's services. It lobbies for affordable child care, maintenance of professional standards and networking and sharing of resources. NACBCS monitors Government policy on children's services and provides policy options to Government. It is an advocate for the not for profit sector in the provision of children's services. NACBCS receives no government funding.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION The National Council for Adoption aims to ensure that adoption remains a viable option for children and that the rights of the child remain paramount; to promote an understanding of adoption as a legitimate family formation; and ensure the primary aim of adoption is to provide the child who cannot be cared for by his or her own parents with a permanent family.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YMCAS OF AUSTRALIA The YMCAs of Australia work together, from a base of Christian values, to provide opportunities for all people to grow in body, mind and spirit. Local YMCAs operate autonomously, but come together to form the National Council of YMCA's Australia (essentially a federation of local YMCAs). Within this structure, all YMCAs are represented in The World Alliance of YMCAs. Australian YMCAs provide a number of community programs including youth and family support services, community sport and recreation programs, child care services, education and training services (including youth leadership), and special needs programs.

PEAKCARE QLD INC PeakCare QLD is the Queensland peak body for the safety and well being of children and young people and the support of their families. Major outcomes sought by PeakCare include:

- The safety and well being of children and young people and the support of families is enhanced by the activities of PeakCare
- The needs and interest of members are met by the activities of PeakCare
- PeakCare and its staff are recognised for their leadership and in promoting effective service delivery within the child protection sector

RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA Relationships Australia is a national organisation that provides family and relationships support services throughout all states and territories in Australia. Our vision is positive and respectful relationships which enhance the lives of individuals, families and communities. Relationships Australia seeks to support a diversity of people, whatever their lifestyle or family formation. We recognise that personal relationships exist in the context of a community and our larger society and work to strengthen local communities and address issues in society that affect individuals and families.

SIDS AND KIDS SIDS and Kids is an international leader in the field of health promotion, SIDS risk reduction, and the prevention of infant sleeping accidents. SIDS and Kids' core function is to provide family support services and health promotion programs to communities throughout Australia and drive research to reduce the rate of infant mortality. SIDS and Kids is largely self-funded, receiving no government funding except for minor grants from some states. The organisation relies heavily on Red Nose Day fundraising and donations to fund its health promotion and research programs.

SECRETARIAT FOR NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHILD CARE (SNAICC) SNAICC is the recognised national non government peak body which represents the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. SNAICC incorporates the breadth of child care agencies and services, family support services and pre schools. SNAICC is governed by a national executive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people drawn from these member agencies. SNAICC has been advocating for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families for nearly two decades. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are six times more likely to be removed from home by the child welfare system but only half as likely as other children to receive assistance through child care or pre school education. SNAICC is seeking to reverse this trend.