

TAKING STOCK & MOVING AHEAD

**A REPORT ON CONSULTATIVE FORUMS ON
THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S
CHILDREN 2009-2020**

AUGUST 2017

FamiliesAustralia

About Families Australia

Families Australia is a national, peak, not-for-profit organisation that strives to improve the wellbeing of Australian families, especially those experiencing the greatest vulnerability and marginalisation. Families Australia does this by providing policy advice to, and working with, the Australian Government and Parliament on behalf of more than 800 member organisations around Australia.

Since 2007, Families Australia has coordinated the National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing, a consortium of around 200 non-government community service organisations and researchers from across Australia who work closely with the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to help devise and implement the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020.

Acknowledgements

Families Australia wishes to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners of the lands on which the forums described in this report were conducted. We thank all forum participants for their assistance and insights. It was an immense privilege to hear such a vast array of experience, wisdom and passionate commitment—thanks go to every participant for their contributions. Families Australia extends its sincere appreciation to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and all State and Territory Governments for their support of the forum series. The author also gratefully acknowledges Ms Helen Bedford, Ms Stella Conroy, Ms Jennifer Horsfield, Ms Elizabeth Hunter, Mr Andrew McCallum AM, Ms Tricia Murray, Mr Paul Rajan, Mr Simon Schrapel AM, as well as the Chair and Board of Families Australia, for their invaluable assistance. Apart from participants' comments, the views contained in this report are entirely those of the author and Families Australia.

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Preface

A selection of quotes from participants at National Framework forums, March-May 2017

‘Prioritise child wellbeing over welfare and child protection’

‘Start getting everyone to see what is important about children and their wellbeing’

‘Need to shift the focus to rights of children and the right to be heard’

‘Join up services and systems to create a culture of child safety’

‘Reframe conceptions of children, value children more, have more positive attitudes to children,
shift to a more positive discourse’

‘Encourage celebration in being a parent’

‘Children with disabilities should be in the National Framework’

‘Change the perception of child safety and wellbeing being the sole responsibility of parents. Need
to see that child safety and wellbeing is a community priority and everyone has a role’

‘Where is our ‘Patron for Children’ with a big engaging public profile?’

‘Support and acknowledge the important role of fathers – there need to be male specific services to
support access to fathers’ programs, encouraging their active involvement in child safety and
wellbeing’

‘Campaign to raise awareness about the value of children themselves – it needs to be cross sectoral
– a National Plan’

Summary

Between March and May 2017, ten forums were convened across Australia to discuss the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 (the 'National Framework'). In all, 404 people attended. Of this number, 77% were from the non-government and research sectors and 23% were from Commonwealth, State or Territory government.

Participants were briefed on the status of the National Framework and asked two questions: 'As a nation, what more must we do to improve child safety and wellbeing?' and 'How can we get the Australian community at large to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children?'

There was wide support for the National Framework as a key national initiative to enhance child safety and wellbeing that seeks to prioritise prevention and early intervention efforts based in a public health model. Participants appreciated efforts to build a strong model of collaboration across government, non-government and research sectors and in helping to strengthen uniformity across differing levels of government, the non-government and research sectors.

Suggestions to enhance child safety and wellbeing were classified under three headings: improving current systems, new areas of emphasis, and tackling root causes and valuing children. The overarching importance of prioritising efforts to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities was highlighted by many participants.

In terms of improving existing systems, ideas for improvement mentioned with particular frequency concerned the operation of out-of-home care, co-location of services, strengthening linkages between and across governments and policy areas, increasing the availability of trauma informed practice and services, developing greater national consistency in areas such as working with children and workforce development, and engaging local government.

Under suggested new and additional areas, the most frequent recommendation was for more support for effective parenting. Also, the case was strongly put for better understandings about, and responses to, the needs of children with disability. Strong emphasis was placed by many participants on responding to the needs of children within culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Another frequently-expressed theme concerned the importance of addressing the causes of child abuse and neglect. Several participants urged more effort to raise public awareness about, and for policymakers to address, factors such as poverty and homelessness. For many participants, it was particularly important to see, hear and respond more effectively to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people who faced far greater disadvantage than the non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cohort.

Several participants raised the issue of how society values and cares for children. Many spoke about the need to put children 'at the centre' of society, to more truly recognise their importance, hear their voices and respond more fully to their needs including through, for example, champions for children. There was considerable discussion about the important role that could be played by the media in presenting more positive messaging around children and parenting.

Introduction

This report presents findings from ten forums conducted between March and May 2017 to promote understanding about the National Framework and to seek views on ways to further improve child safety and wellbeing in Australia. The forums involved 404 participants from government, non-government and research sectors and were conducted in all Australian capital cities and one regional location.

The report is in four parts.

- **Part 1** contains brief background about the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 (the 'National Framework').
- **Part 2** describes forum aims and methods (**Attachment A** contains more detail).
- **Part 3** discusses the main forum themes (**Attachments B** and **C** contain participant comments).
- **Part 4** provides concluding comments.

1. The National Framework

The National Framework was adopted by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2009. It is Australia's first-ever plan to be formally endorsed by Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments, as well as by the non-government sector, to improve child safety and wellbeing.

According to COAG, the National Framework is based on an understanding that 'Australia needs to move from seeing 'protecting children' merely as a response to abuse and neglect to one of promoting the safety and wellbeing of children'. Its aim is to make 'a substantial and sustained reduction in child abuse and neglect in Australia over time' (Council of Australian Governments 2009).

The 12-year National Framework is organised in four three-year action plans. The current Third Action Plan 2015-18 contains three high-level National Strategies that relate to early intervention with a focus on the early years (particularly the first thousand days for a child), helping young people to exit out-of-home care and thrive in adulthood, and assisting organisations to respond better to children and young people to keep them safe. Addressing the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families is given strong emphasis in, and is a cross-cutting theme throughout, the Third Action Plan (Council of Australian Governments 2015).

The National Forum for Protecting Australia's Children leads Third Action Plan implementation. Reflecting the collaborative ethos that underpins the design, implementation and review of the National Framework, the National Forum comprises representatives from the Commonwealth Government, State and Territory Governments, and the National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing (the 'National Coalition') which represents the non-government and research sectors.

2. Forum aims and method

The forums were conducted at the mid-point of the National Framework's Third Action Plan. The principal objectives of the forums were to provide an update about the National Framework,

especially the Third Action Plan, and to seek comments on two questions: ‘As a nation, what more must we do to improve child safety and wellbeing?’ and ‘How can we get the Australian community at large to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children?’

All forums were facilitated by Dr Brian Babington, Chief Executive Officer of Families Australia. Apart from one forum held at Parkerville Children and Youth Care (WA), senior officials from the Australian Government Department of Social Services and State or Territory Governments made presentations during each three-hour forum. **Attachment A** contains more information about forum agenda, logistics and attendance.

3. Main findings

Hundreds of written and oral comments were offered by participants during the 10 forums. These are reported, without attribution, in **Attachment B** on the question ‘As a nation, what more must we do to improve child safety & wellbeing?’ and **Attachment C** on the question ‘How can we get the Australian community at large to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children?’

This Part draws together the key themes and ideas that emerged from the forums to assist future policy and program development of the National Framework. It is in two sections:

1. Taking stock: perspectives about the National Framework.
2. Looking ahead: ways to improve child safety and wellbeing.

To help form a useful picture, perspectives shared by participants have been grouped under broad themes. While the findings are generally indicative of the views of a relatively large number of informed policymakers, practitioners and researchers from a relatively wide geographical span, they should not be taken as statistically representative.

3.1 Taking stock: perspectives on the National Framework

All participants were briefed about the origins, aims and current status of the National Framework. They received the latest information about the national picture on child abuse and neglect and out-of-home care. The relationships between the National Framework and other initiatives such as the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the National Plan of Action to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children, the Family Matters campaign, and the Valuing Children Initiative, were highlighted.

While the focus of all forums was on next national-level steps to improve child safety and wellbeing, a wide measure of support for the National Framework was expressed by participants. There was agreement that governments should continue to place emphasis on prevention and early intervention efforts, that is, actions that seek to prevent abuse and neglect by addressing its causes, especially adult alcohol and substance misuse and family and domestic violence. One participant stated, ‘the National Framework initiative brings people together, is a potential game-changer, keep going.’ These comments align with the central aims of the National Framework. Thus, the message was that, while

it could be improved (see discussion below), the National Framework's overarching strategic 'direction of travel' was right.

Several participants also affirmed the importance of the main directions of the Third Action Plan, particularly on the first thousand days for a child, helping young people to transition from out-of-home care and thrive in adulthood, and working to foster child safe organisations. Some welcomed plans to deliver a community awareness campaign and the focus on encouraging parents experiencing difficulty to seek help through universal and targeted secondary services. Other participants noted that the National Framework indicated a long-term commitment by governments and stressed the need for investments in prevention and early intervention to be sustained for the long-term. It was remarked how 'critically' important it was to have COAG as the authorising body for the National Framework.

3.2 Looking ahead: ways to improve child safety & wellbeing

Forum participants were asked for their views about two questions: 'As a nation, what more must we do to improve child safety & wellbeing?' and 'How can we get the Australian community at large to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children?'

For clarity, this section arranges comments in three categories based on judgements about the frequency with which comments were made by participants.

- Ways to improve current systems.
- New areas of emphasis.
- Addressing root causes of abuse and neglect, and valuing children.

Please note that many comments fell outside these categories and it is recommended that all should be carefully considered in the future development of the National Framework. All comments are listed in **Attachments B and C**.

Ways to improve current systems

Many participants spoke about how to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of child protection systems.

- Strengthening the *linkages and synergies* between and across governments and policy areas, particularly those relating to family and domestic violence and child protection, was highlighted by several participants.
 - According to one participant, 'We need to promote synergy with other national frameworks and coordination with policy and agencies.' Another stated, 'we need buy in and engagement of other portfolios.'
 - Some participants discussed the inter-relationships between various national policies and frameworks, asserting that objectives could at times work in contrary directions. One participant argued, for example, for 'alignment between the National Framework and other national frameworks and policies, for example, the new requirement for young people on Newstart and Youth Allowance.'

- Many participants urged greater **data and information sharing**, including between government and non-government organisations.
- A **national working with children check** was highlighted by some participants. Some participants talked about the need to ensure that work with children across and within jurisdictions was done with more consistency of approach. One participant called for '**national child safe standards**.'
- Government **funding** for family support and child-related programs was a topic of frequent discussion. Several participants urged greater funding, including for evaluation (especially in the context of many government agencies seeking more evidence about program/project effectiveness).
 - According to one participant, 'one year funding doesn't allow us to create relationships that create cultural competence. People in the field are exhausted – especially those in Aboriginal communities.'
 - Others suggested a stronger ongoing focus on sustainably funded **place-based** activities driven by local communities. One person remarked, 'it needs to be bottom up, community driven/controlled.'
 - One participant suggested that the Australian Government's Priority Investment Approach might well be extended to the field of protecting children: 'consider Try, Test and Learn Fund for the National Framework...to make a difference.'
- Several participants talked about the ongoing challenge of making the **out-of-home care** system work better.
 - One participant stated, 'we need policies that get children out of the system through open adoption (the evidence is clear and we believe that the sector has ignored lessons of the Inquiries ie listen to children and children need permanent social families), proper support of kin care (especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children), well-funded assessment and restoration work eg guided practice systems for example to improve quality of interventions -if children must stay in foster care then these standards need to rise considerably (for example, no multiple unrelated children in placements).'
- Providing better support for **kinship carers** was suggested by several participants. For one participant, 'Kinship care gets limited funding, is wide open for abuse and neglect, poor assessment, usually post placement, is under-resourced, potentially increasing risk and harm, no compulsory training for kinship carers, support for statutory kinship care.'
- A frequently-expressed request was for greater **co-location of services** in hub or 'one-stop-shop' arrangements, particularly to overcome the impost on clients to re-tell their stories to numerous workers. **Schools** were mentioned as having a potentially greater role to play in connecting parents with support services.
- Other participants recommended more focus on **workforce** development, retention and support and more sustainably funded place-based activities with community controlled/driven organisations.
- Many recommended that more emphasis be devoted to providing **trauma-informed practice**. One participant said, 'Everyone must understand trauma and its effect.'
- **Local governments** were seen as playing a potentially important role by several participants. As providers of a wide range of local community services, they should become another partner

around the National Framework 'table'. One participant remarked, 'How does local government engage – why not included in National Framework? They contribute to child friendly cities, suburbs, towns etc.'

New areas of emphasis

Several participants stressed that National Framework should devote new or added attention to specific areas of need.

- ***Perhaps the most frequent suggestion in the course of the consultations was for greater recognition of, and support for, parenting.***
 - One person recommended, 'Let's encourage celebration in being a parent.' Another said we need to 'promote responsibility in parenting – it's the most important job in the world.' Another participant urged the need to 'create environments to improve parents' confidence in asking for help.' One participant suggested 'building the capacity of community to be responsible to support parents in their community – like neighborhood watch.'
 - In particular, the importance of connecting more with young fathers was highlighted by several participants. One participant argued for 'support and acknowledgement of the important role of fathers – there need to be male-specific services to support access to fathers' programs, encouraging their active involvement in child safety and wellbeing.'
- The case was strongly put by many that the National Framework needs to foster better understandings about, and respond adequately to, the needs of ***children with disability***.
 - One participant listed a range of initiatives that should be taken: 'Agreed national definition of disability; keep focus on Child Protection National minimum data set; data on out-of-home care needs to include disability; ability of families to access appropriate support, for example, NDIS; universal services to all, for example, disability and held to account, engage.'
- Strong emphasis was placed by many participants on responding to the needs of children within ***culturally and linguistically diverse communities***.

Addressing root causes and valuing children

Another frequently-expressed theme concerned the importance of addressing the causes of child abuse and neglect.

- Several participants urged more effort to raise public awareness about, and for policymakers to address, ***factors*** such as poverty and homelessness. Others noted the social determinants of health and wellbeing and that the current child protection systems are focused primarily on addressing acute or tertiary issues.
 - The view of some participants was summed up by one participant who urged provision of 'true universal access to early education – free, culturally appropriate.' Another person argued for 'guaranteed access to quality early childhood education and care for all vulnerable children.'
- For many participants, it was particularly important to see, hear and respond more effectively, to ***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people*** who faced far greater

- disadvantage than the non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cohort. According to one participant, 'Aboriginal children need their own voice and to remain connected to culture.'
- Several participants raised the issue of how society **values and cares for children**. Many spoke about the need to 'place children at the centre' of Australian society, to more truly recognise their importance, hear their voices and respond more fully to their needs.
 - In this vein, the **Valuing Children Initiative** and the work of the National Children's Commissioner were noted with appreciation by several participants.
 - The appointment of a Commonwealth Minister for Children was suggested by several.
 - One person asked, 'where is our 'Patron for Children' with a big engaging public profile?' Another urged us to 'prioritise child wellbeing over welfare and child protection'. One participant summed up the views of many, saying 'we need to start getting everyone to see what is important about children and their wellbeing.'
 - Another summed up the views of several others, stating 'we must reframe conceptions of children, value children more, have more positive attitudes to children, shift to a more positive discourse.' For another participant, 'we need to shift the focus to rights of children and the right to be heard.'
 - For another participant, 'we should change the perception of child safety and wellbeing being the sole responsibility of parents. Need to see that child safety and wellbeing is a community priority and everyone has a role.' Another participant recommended that the next National Framework action plan 'needs to have a campaign to raise awareness about the value of children themselves – it needs to be cross sectorial – a National Plan.'
 - **Online sexual exploitation and pornography** was mentioned by several participants as requiring greater attention. One participant argued, for example, that we need to 'tackle pornography – do people know what this is doing to children? Need strong laws/censorship to protect children.'
 - Other participants saw the role and valuing of children in an **international** context, reminding that Australia had important obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. According to one participant, 'we need to align policy to global UN goals - no poverty, zero hunger, health and wellbeing, quality education, reduce inequality.'
 - There was considerable discussion about the important role that could be played by the **media** in presenting more **positive messaging** around children and parenting.
 - One participant stated, 'We need to improve understanding of child safety and wellbeing as everyone's responsibility.'
 - Another stressed the need for 'greater commitment and effort to improve public and media discourse on children and child protection, valuing children and parenting – we need champions for children!' One participant advocated for 'a child oriented 'Our Watch' type campaign.' Another person spoke about the importance of building awareness about valuing and respecting others in a structured manner from an early age. She urged us to 'change culture by starting in **schools**, and change [attitudes] where conversations take place.'

4. Concluding comments

The National Framework forums held between March and May 2017 brought together a large number of the nation's key people from government, non-government and research sectors to discuss how to more-effectively tackle child abuse and neglect and to enhance the wellbeing of all Australian children.

It was an immense privilege to hear such a vast array of experience, wisdom and passionate commitment, and sincere thanks go to every participant for their contributions. Participants gained helpful understandings about, and indicated support for, the National Framework's purpose and objectives. Genuine support was perceived for the premises of the National Framework in adopting a long-term perspective that seeks to prioritise prevention and early intervention efforts based on a public health model. Many participants also appreciated the efforts to build a strong model of collaboration across government, non-government and research sectors.

At the same time, participants argued for far more to be done to achieve the goal of making Australia a country where every child grows up safe and well. To that end, this report has listed a number of ideas advanced by participants under three headings: improving existing systems, investing in new areas, and tackling root causes and valuing children. Several of these areas have been explicitly emphasised in the National Framework to date. It is encouraging that the Third Action Plan, in particular, places strong emphasis on addressing the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, focusing on the first thousand days for a child, building greater public awareness, and promoting effective parenting.

Further analysis of this data is left to others, including the members of the National Forum for Protecting Australia's Children, to assist in charting future directions for the National Framework. In addition to key strategic directions in the Third Action Plan that relate to transitioning from out-of-home care and fostering child-safe organisations, the following areas are highlighted for particular consideration: greater support for effective parenting skills, more encouragement of adult help-seeking behaviours, greater efforts to address underlying factors such as homelessness, adding a new, strong focus on the needs of children with disability, and making greater effort to change public and media attitudes toward greater valuing of children. In all these directions, strong, urgent and sustained differential investment is needed to respond fully to the just needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities.

Brian Babington
Canberra
16 August 2017

References

Council of Australian Governments 2009. *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020*, retrieved from <<https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/publications-articles/protecting-children-is-everyones-business>>.

Council of Australian Governments 2015. *Driving change: intervening early. National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020. Third action plan, 2015-2018*, retrieved from <https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/12_2015/pdf_third_action_plan_for_protecting_australias_children.pdf>.

Attachment A: Logistics & attendance

Key logistics

Participants were invited to the National Framework forums by Families Australia and provided with written information about the National Framework in advance and at the forum. Hard copies of the Third Action Plan were provided to all forum participants.

Each forum had three components: an overview provided by Dr Babington about the origins, achievements to date and current activities of the National Framework; presentations by Commonwealth, and State or Territory senior officials concerning their perspectives on, and involvement with, the National Framework; and, group discussion of two questions: 'As a nation, what more must we do to improve child safety and wellbeing?' and 'How can we get the Australian community at large to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children?' The facilitator undertook to provide all participants with a summary of forum outcomes at the conclusion of the series.

Agenda

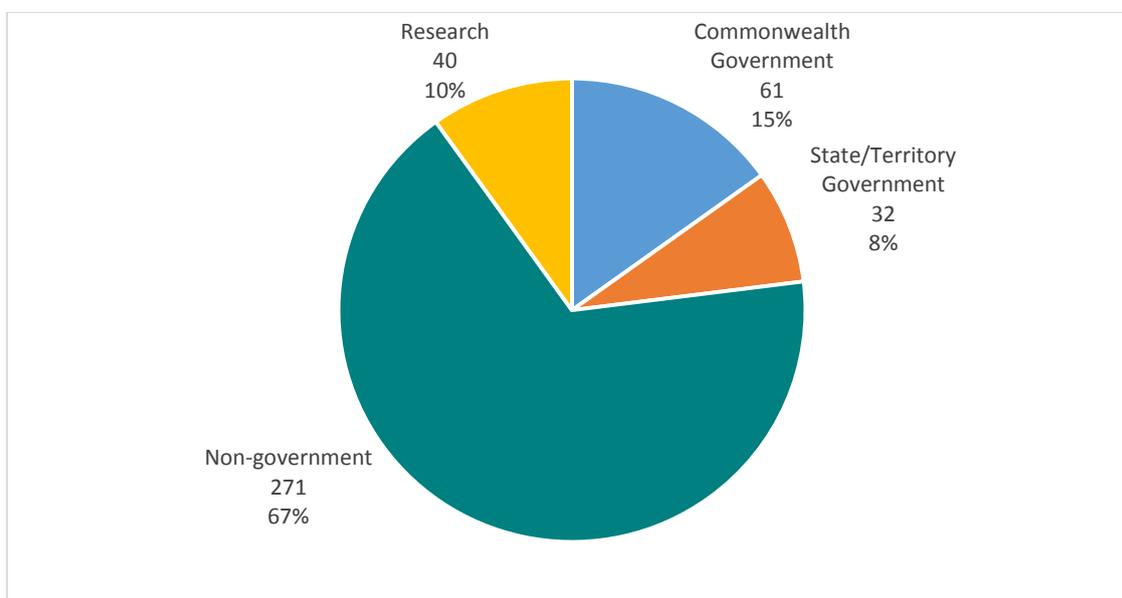
Agenda item	Timing	Description	Presenter
1. Welcome & introductions	20 min		Dr Babington
2. National Framework: overview and the Third Action Plan	30 min	Overview of the National Framework, its aims and progress to date; the Third Action Plan 2015-18; comments & questions	Dr Babington
3. National Framework: governmental perspectives	30 min	Presentations by Commonwealth and State/Territory officials on what the National Framework means to them and how they are engaged; comments & questions	Commonwealth and State/Territory officials (except at a forum at Parkerville Children and Youth Care, WA)
4. Break	20 min		
5. Future directions	70 min	Open discussion: Q1: As a nation, what more must we do to improve child safety & wellbeing? Q2: How can we get the Australian community at large to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children?	Dr Babington
6. Next steps & close	10 min		Dr Babington

Dates, locations & attendance

Date	Location	No. participants
8 March 2017	Melbourne	32
10 March	Hobart	40
15 March	Sydney	40
17 March	Brisbane	45
3 April	Canberra	65
5 April	Adelaide	45
23 May	Darwin	35
24 May	Alice Springs	22
25 May	Perth (Parkerville)	40
26 May	Perth	40
	10 sites	404

Representation by sector

As shown in the figure below, of the 404 forum participants, 93 (or 23%) were from either Commonwealth, State or Territory government, 271 (67%) were from non-government organisations, and 40 (10%) were from the research/academic sector. Of all government representatives, 61 (15%) were from the Commonwealth Government and 32 (8%) were from State or Territory governments.



Attachment B: What more must we do?

Question 1: As a nation, what more must we do to improve child safety & wellbeing?

Location	Comments
Melbourne 8 March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations – policies, prioritise duty of care, recruitment etc, standards • Supplementing safeguarding • Form up different aspects of child protection - safeguarding • Privacy is a barrier • Adult services need to be child-centred, AOD won't share info that could risk contact with child protection, seen as punishment • Child safeguarding – is WWCC enough, or a policy check • Not just child welfare but anyone working with children and families eg teachers, doctors, sporting coaches • Reframing concept of children • Shift to children's rights, not obligations UNCRC focus • Think about children in all contexts, be it precious, vulnerable, objectified and not just about making it safe just for children, it should be safe for all of us • Gap for adolescents experiencing violence – so go to generalist services • Need specialist services for teenage women experiencing violence • Let's support communities, government, specialists, parents etc to get on with it at a systems level – need to build systemic capability • How to embed knowledge and all departments into continuous care • At the point of crisis – support existing arrangements rather than removing child – in-home supports/experts – role models, managing AOD, mental health etc, flexibility – wrap around services over and above CP system, whole of family prevention • Build supports around family – wrap around – outside of the child protection system – bridging silos • Intergenerational feelings of distrust of services and all govt services – child care, cultural ideas of services and service users, not asking for help when needed, stigmatizing, punitive, underfunded, of service use, needs to be supportive not punitive, life skills required, onus too much on the individual – complex, of accessibility of services • Info sharing • Bridging services • Housing stress/instability – housing co-ops • Haven Bendigo – housing model with peer support – houses for 2 years with 24 hour support • Co-location models • Early connect with child to services • Links with/between universal services – co-location models eg Hobson's Bay Library with Maternal and Child Health • Schools as hubs and connectors – welcoming – advice to parents • Role of school as hub/connector eg Doveton College • Making schools welcoming eg free breakfast/lunch • Mothers need time to bond with their child • Give mothers time, support and space to early bond and attachment

- Extend paid parental leave so parents not forced to work due to financial pressure
- Programmatic responses to natural situations not working eg don't pathologise 'difficulty' and therefore you must need a 'program' or medication'
- Let people/parents learn how to work through and be supported during these difficulties
- Let's use peer support and what we already know
- Asking for help doesn't mean you are a 'bad' parent – stigma, strength based model
- Intergenerational distrust of services – help seeking low – reach out
- Disengaged families – helping to reach aspirations
- Campaign on parenting tips/community education
- Education on how to parent/seek help
- Pre-birth training esp dads including financial
- Child born – connected to services
- Mandatory financial counselling
- Affordable child care
- Pre-birth training – especially dads, intensive parenting program
- Connect families with others, older friends who can provide support, volunteers and peer supports – so make people comfortable with offering support to others
- Transition to adulthood - support
- Limited funding
- Family of origin links
- Young people exiting care transitioning into adulthood – a gap in supporting family relationships as young people tend to return to family homes once exiting out-of-home care
- Increase age of leaving care (25yrs)
- Children with disabilities – application of frameworks – disability needs/lens – to be understood and viewed as children also – increased vulnerability – better data and disability markers, OOHC data to reflect, NMDS, should be in NFPAC, increase access to own services, NDIS – families should access support
- Agreed national definition of disability
- Keep focus on Child Protection National minimum data set
- Data re OOHC needs to include disability
- Ability of families to access appropriate support eg NDIS
- Universal services to all eg disability and held to account, engage
- Access to stable and affordable housing
- Kinship care – limited funding, wide open for abuse and neglect, poor assessment, usually post placement, under resourced, potentially increasing risk and harm, no compulsory training for kinship carers, support for statutory kinship care
- Children leaving OOHC – later age
- Services to be child centred
- Flexibility on leaving care
- Stop reinventing the conversation – we've had the inquiries and Royal Commissions
- Don't forget the First and Second Action Plans
- Solutions need to be properly assessed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interrelations of policy/programs – especially as they change eg AOD, FV • Permanent care orders after 12 months NSW and Vic – not enough time – family needs intensive support to change - stability, another threat, doesn't meet the needs of families, not long enough in reality – alternative wrap around services supportive focused on whole of family, ideologies of welfare – equality of assistance • Cradle to kinder program – worker engages with whole family, trusted long term relationships, high intensity support, maintains contact, family preservation, being available, holistic support • Family support package attached to certain requirements – incentive payments • Big drivers eg Poverty, housing – important to child safety and wellbeing • Reduce poverty/financial hardship • Income support – incentives to access • Employment • Serious about community level work • Stop reinventing/accountability – where? How? • Everyone must understand trauma and its effect • Education programs for teachers, teenagers, parents • Public health models – universal family access • Don't lose focus on 1st and 2nd Action Plans • Tackle pornography – do people know what this is doing to children – need strong laws/censorship to protect children • Campaign message – parenting is a skill that you need to learn • Positive campaign like public health family violence • Community connectedness • Focus on children in existing campaigns • Use Raising Children Network • Use of technology for kids eg games
<p>Hobart 10 March 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing policy and legislation against impact for child wellbeing • Children's voices – acting upon them, ongoing • Resilience, self-esteem, wellbeing programs for young people • School-based sport and rec programmes • Workforce upskilling – holistic responses, normalisation, EAP for parents • Long term perspective • More data sharing • Really measuring impact in early intervention/prevention • Relationship education in schools and early childhood • Corporate involvement • Earlier intervention for school aged children, education about relationships, parenting, sexual health, attitudes, child development, decision making • Measure impact of early intervention ie playgroups on outcomes for children • Not just focus on what's going wrong but on the strengths • More engagement and sharing data, so many connection points to families and how can orgs share info • Need to take programs (early intervention) seriously by resourcing them adequately – parent mentors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using online mediums to communicate/reach parents and children • More focus needed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and communities • Multi-disciplinary centres – co-location of services • Developing skills (to identify and respond) of front line workers • Sustaining pilots that work • Multi-faceted services • More common language • We must be more inclusive of cultural diversity and providing tailored services • Funding pilot programs that are successful • Involving other service sectors and the private sector in responses as a solution to limited government funding (being creative) • Most parents want their children to flourish – know that • Ways to support adults who have been in the care system to have sound parenting skills • Parenting skills and support • Young people in/post OOHC • Parenting as highly valued - Consider other countries models – eg Denmark, Ireland • Valuing parenting – online • Young people – self-esteem, belonging • Education and social media • Tighter regulations around social media • Promote optimism, hope – focus on the good stuff • Communities are changing – what place social media? • Tightening social media and using online better • Accessing different communities • Emphasise CALD also • Making other institutions accountable – esp media reporting
<p>Sydney 15 March 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment global UN goals particularly no poverty, zero hunger, health and wellbeing, quality education, reduce inequality • Focus on child safety and wellbeing • Genuine child centred approach ie client experience • Societal culture which values children and takes responsibility for all children • Community based funding – Lions, Rotary – for safety and wellbeing options • Values based message delivery mechanisms • A whole community issue focus ie cross agency • Research into engaging men early in the discussion of child safety • Holistic health/education clinics – picking up on early signs • Taking the message to where people are at – men – sports • Responding instead of reporting focus • Raising profile of safety and wellbeing to philanthropists • Culture shift towards safety • How does the advocate for children fit with the framework? – how do the voices of the children and families be heard – how do we break the paradigm

- Indigenous needs must be addressed as a priority esp children in out-of-home care
- A patron of children – ambassador – someone to engage the community
- Workforce
- There are 17 targets and all relate to children – by aligning the macro with the local (micro) is integral to shifting systemic change
- What does the client want from this? What does government want from this? Why aren't the voices of children heard?
- Minister for children
- Other policies reflecting children and focus/impact with indicators, eg workforce
- Child impact statements
- How do we put children and families at centre/voice
- Absence of Minister for Children – what is done to frame key policies in relation to child safety, early childcare, education – how can policy changes occur, how can they be reframed?
- Who takes the numbers from UNICEF and UN and does something with it?
- Change needs to be made about public policy affecting the most vulnerable children - eg alleviation of poverty rates (risen 2% over the past 14 years and huge for families in private rental), active use of childcare (currently being cut in the Omnibus Bill)
- What can we do better to get the service to the people in need? – when targeted programs were delivered - lack of trust, fear, however happy to receive support from mainstream – didn't want to be different – child care program too expensive and looking at those that need access to help with teaching of child behaviours that they need.
- Child impact statements
- Wider economic concern – not much traction
- Productivity Commission role that informs on matters of children
- More early intervention research
- Product Commission generating debate
- A parenting framework? Overload?
- Increase evidence-based research
- Reframe services to include most disadvantaged groups
- Universal access early education – check barriers
- Funding in-service training
- Expend \$\$ models to support system
- Local resources
- Early intervention research needs to be pursued more/further
- Bring all the research together
- Sector needs to find ways to better reach the most vulnerable (especially note the drop-out rates in programs like Brighter Futures). Appropriate links between child dev/early intervention and crisis work- particularly pitched to the tens of thousands of children who have substantiated abuse/neglect but do not enter care.
- Staff engagement and awareness of early intervention signs to act early
- Training and mentoring of staff working in mandatory reporting positions
- Strengthening families
- Poverty disadvantage
- Child care

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting cornerstone • Is there a role for a parenting framework? – empower powers by giving resources – decent incomes - Fraught with cultural differences etc - Parenting research should not be self-evaluated, decent evidence based research - Research needs to be done on very lower economic groups – maybe not another framework – a framework may tie everything together – not to keep it disjointed • OOHC - need policies that get children out of the system through: open adoption (the evidence is clear and we believe that the sector has ignored lessons of the Inquiries ie listen to children and children need permanent social families), proper support of kin care (especially for Indigenous children), well-funded assessment and restoration work eg guided practice systems for example to improve quality of interventions - If children must stay in foster care then these standards need to rise considerably (eg no multiple unrelated children in placements) • Community building capacities • Peer education awareness and accountability • Digital apps eg power of social media • Building capacity and resilience in communities • Drop child protection language • Information portal • Portal of information so that all can gain access to the wealth of information available out there
<p>Brisbane 17 March 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children deserve to be heard • First responders should be family and friends before formal interventions – shift to support community • Workforce development – cross sector exchanges to ensure staff have bigger picture • Children with disability and CALD missing out • Community approach to planning – voice of children and heard • Family/parents as a resource – let parents be involved • Looking out for neighbours, shared responsibility, sporting groups, community building to care for children • Shift in language about child safety – family are not cases to be managed • Soft entry eg playschool – good entry • Universal access to high quality child care/development – this represents great value for investment • National campaign to promote family and dads – media campaign focus on valuing parents and their role – prestige role modelling for fathers • Focus on future families - next generation of families • Shared responsibility focus in training and development of workforces • Need to collect the most relevant info and data about families • Barriers to access services needs addressing • Trauma informed practice needs to be embedded in early childhood and education services • Apply the Try Test and Learn fund approach to the National Framework • Child safety in context of whole family wellbeing – keeping link to family of origin • Housing, health and education integration so they are seamless services – these areas need to address family wellbeing • Less prescriptive tendering – greater flexibility • Need a disruptive event to shift the narrative – lift the veil on the impact of CP • Valuing front line workers with children • Child Safe Orgs – National Working With Children Checks – national consistency – embedded policy in front line practice – its all worker responsibility • Need a coordinated Government approach across all departments – housing, child safety, education, health, public service

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give resources to the services on the ground that are affordable, local, connected • Need to set a standard to work collaboratively and role model to the community • Remove government as the first responder • Move from awareness programs towards community setting connections – ie child health, community centres, playgroups etc • Shift from ‘stranger danger’ to community responsibility • Voices of children from wide cross section of community • Focus on primary prevention • Child safe culture to be adopted in all sectors private and public • Aboriginal children and families need more support; healing is vital • Create child friendly, stronger communities = safer children – value children • Shared responsibility – community, family, organisations, government, individuals • Significant increase in focus on child safe organisations • National working with children check important to have • Respectful relationships education (all ages) • It has to be the community model – ownership • Bringing systems together • Review positive parenting strategies that are culturally appropriate • Culturally appropriate interventions • Policy development and implementation to be informed by the community need on the ground – more connection • Strategies and responses to be applicable and appropriate to the reality of specific communities • Skilled and competent workforces to implement services and responses as intended • Consistent understanding across system of what child safe means – government, organisations, community, individuals and families • Society as a whole to be accountable and responsible • Organisations to have robust child protection policies that are implemented and inform program delivery • How much is government spending/investing on children? • Quality focus • National Framework shows commitment from government to invest in child wellbeing and safety • Improve the judiciary’s understanding of the best interest principle • Australian Government to sign/ratify OP3 – children and communications/complaint procedure • Adaptive and flexible models of programs to be responsive to the needs of diverse communities • Child safety and wellbeing in strategic planning by organisations • Consider Try, Test and Learn Fund for National Framework like DSS current \$96 million which is focused on joblessness but shift to subgroups and consortia to trial nationally Federally funded programs to make a difference
<p>Canberra 3 April 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislate for mandatory protectors – early intervention response, early risk identification (or social indicators of disengagement), capability focus, taking a ‘how can we help you’ approach, multiple points of community linkage/connection, ensuring multiple systems understand the role they can play, programmatic enablers that promote innovation and working ‘outside the box’, measure outcomes not inputs and not outputs (link to funding structures), person/family centric with personal connections (ensuring the service has a ‘face’ that people can personally connect with), maximize individual agency with back-up support that is accessible and timely, promote, support and fund local initiatives that create community connections, support for playgroups (an example), backed up messages about celebrating children, local community enablers that encourage individuals/families to

	<p>come together to get to know the people in their neighbourhood, bolster universal services, especially those that enable and support early intervention, multi-layered strategy that enables everyone from community members to local organisations to funded agencies to government to contribute to the outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal education and healthcare for children under 3 years of age – universal parenting programs and childcare, parents trust GPs but can't afford • Where is the family violence and family court – Third Action Plan on violence against women – only one action on children • Intensive support for families at risk including after child removal • More awareness of the problem publicly, level of abuse, factors that create the environment • Difficult to articulate the rights of the child • Difficult to measure intergenerational child protection • Targeted place-based universal services – don't stigmatise • Get community engaged in the care and protection of children and recognizing the value of children • Proportional universality to promote information and remove stigma • Universal services to be more responsive – missed opportunity that universal services default to statutory • Families respond before it gets to child protection • Removal can't be the answer • Re-jig language to address stigma • Unpack child safety to aspects for flourishing • Improve understanding of community professionals – shared understanding • Buy in/engagement with other portfolios esp health and education plus (recognising Ministers generally need both short and long term approaches) to support EI/P including investment funding • Whole of community approach • Influencing funding models eg family/extended family not just individual eg NZ 'supergrans' • How to bring it all together • Removing silos - use social determinants of health/wellbeing
<p>Adelaide 5 April 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural change can start with our children – for Aboriginal children and non-Aboriginal children, eg teach language in schools • Need to recognise invisible white privilege and its connection to over representation in child protection system • Issues leading to Aboriginal children going into care is not Aboriginal culture but the symptoms of the devastation of the destruction of culture • Aboriginal voice needs to be separate – not conflated with special needs • Really connecting with cultures – not just survival – elder mentoring, language, dance, dreamtime • Don't stop at data sharing – it needs to lead improved case management and service provision • Cost-benefit of prevention, build on success, community change – children's future, voice, cultural change - Aboriginal children, mainstream children • There are different groups of kids – in care, in community, at risk – it can't be one or the other, we need to keep our eye on all groups – coordinated approach • Elaborate on what is putting children in the centre looks like – practical strategies at an individual level • Learning from the past: what is the intersection between past and future – how to do things differently, but not repeat mistakes – articulation within documentation for Framework which acknowledges past and links with future state • Authorising body for Framework is critical – must remain at COAG level • Focus on how to effect cultural shift – eg DV/FV sector • Multi-pronged approach across various audiences within same campaign

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does local government engage – why not included in National Framework? How do they contribute to child friendly cities, suburbs, towns etc • How to minimise political cycle impact on child safety and wellbeing programs/approaches • How can the terms ‘safety’ and ‘wellbeing’ be impacted with community – to ensure resonance, co-design processes • Improved data sharing across jurisdictions • Long term focus and understanding of the issues – rather than constant change • Community co-design and involvement in creating system changes • Co-location of services/schools (early intervention) to improve community • National approach to child safe environments – worker screening, monitoring etc – structures and values at organization levels eg 2 on duty in residential care • Developing preventative capacity in adult services re supporting vulnerable families • Training across sectors re working with vulnerable families – common focus shared approach to children • Build neighbourhood relationships through schools, community response, media to share positive messaging more • More resourcing for National Framework • Promote the evidence of what is helpful • Funding for services linked to sound evidence of effectiveness • Develop better language to de-stigmatise • Universal evidence based parenting programs
<p>Darwin 23 May 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteed access to quality early childhood education and care for all vulnerable children • Funding evaluations – evidence based programs are those which have been fortunate to get funding for evaluations. Unevaluated programs are seen as bad • A high profile organisation/person to fly the flag for destigmatizing help seeking • Raise profile of the Raising Children Network and make it easier to navigate • Consumer involvement must be real (evidence of Tasmanian child and family centres) but this takes years and because people are so cynical • Bring to the surface the unconscious bias of institutional racism • Bringing together DV, child safety etc • Understanding comorbidities and what this means for government funded services – health, legal, education, social service, PM&C • Trauma informed everything • A child oriented ‘Our Watch’ type campaign • Let’s be honest with ourselves – this is a crisis • Communicate the importance of relationship with the child • Improve funding to the mental health system • Build capacity of families • Protective behaviours of children – what abuse is, school programs • Drug education on the ramification of drug use • Importance of family relationships • Family connections • Cultural knowledge – child removal • Child wellbeing needs to at the front and centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is ‘wellbeing’ rather than focused on tertiary

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Challenge attitudes to children and grow understanding that attitudes to children are crucial to their safety and wellbeing – Royal Commission evidence and survey ○ Whose responsible – whole community ○ Early intervention starts perinatal ○ Lot of attention on institutions – need to turn attention to safe families/safe societies for children – what is going on that contributes to sexual abuse ○ More emphasis on intergenerational trauma ○ Must stay focused on preventative ○ Even early intervention is often at crisis point ○ Stop and start funding undermines services and muffles non-government organisations ○ Non-government organisations need to rock the boat more ○ How government partners with non-government organisations – very prescriptive – no respect – immature ○ Tendering process divides ○ Can't contract 'cultural competence' ○ One year funding doesn't allow us to create relationships that create cultural competence ○ People in the field are exhausted – especially those in Indigenous communities ○ Positive focus on Indigenous and all families ○ If you don't value the role of parents what does that say about how you value children ○ Policy changes ○ Better understanding of first 1000 days ○ National campaign on importance of parenting ○ Raising profile of the value of first 1000 days and visibility of value of parenting and children ○ Isolation – bringing connection ○ National advertising on role and perception of child protection services ○ Create environments to improve parents' confidence in asking for help ○ Use technology to spread messages ○ Language – translation ○ Family parenting ○ Parents powerless in society by accountability ○ Parents – social connection
<p>Alice Springs 24 May 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fathers – impacts, self-worth, self esteem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include prison system in family support – case managed fathers ○ Empower men to change ○ Young men • Supporting additional family members – extended family • Trauma informed services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FASD plus therapeutic support ○ Schools – teachers ○ Mental Health supports ○ Overcrowding/housing: need national consistency: bi-partisan agreements, long term funding, whole of government approach

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate outreach • Locational based services • Community Development approach – education ie Mental Health • Safety net: Where are the gaps – food, nutrition, home • Where international/national models are rolled out, adaptability needs to be considered • Child at centre – how society thinks about and speaks about children • Funding for universal services • Improve housing pathways for families and young people – priority area • Shine a light on interrelated areas – poverty (need for increased welfare payments) • Clustering of government departments to improve processes, communication • Misalignment between other National frameworks and policies eg new requirement for young people on Newstart and Youth Allowance • Long term commitment by Federal and State/Territory Governments to policy and funding • Improve the discourse around children: role of media, making people accountable, politicisation eg role of National Children’s Commissioner
<p>Parkerville WA 25 May 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working collaboratively with international models • Need for change in how we recognize children and their rights • Early intervention not just reactivity, for children in OOHC eg not services only when there is a problem but much earlier • Look at the systemic issues that create child abuse as a byproduct eg homelessness, DV, drug and alcohol, mental illness, lack of skills and financial trouble • Public awareness campaigns through corporate sponsorships • Greater advertising of awareness of child abuse • Building on already established initiatives such as child and parent centres • Building greater trust in services • Believing children • Develop long term plans • One stop shops • Funding to preventative services – mental health • Raise public awareness by media, visual • Prenatal programs • Increase funding for CPFS (Child Protection and Family Services) for better services to our children • CPFS following through and seriously considering recommendations • Increase mental health services • 18 month school aged service gap • Better guidelines for the expectations and therapeutic care provided to OOHC children, more than basic needs • Increase support and education to teachers • Post-natal support – post and during • Improving the leaving care process of children in care • National Framework initiative brings people together, potential game-changer, keep going • Policy, initiatives, priority - support at higher level and ongoing funding • Agreement on what safety and wellbeing is

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earlier intervention and continuity of support – longer programs • Nationwide services/awareness of similar services • Not a one-size fits all approach • Continued funding for program evaluation, research into common issues to ensure services remain relevant across time • Community education: addressing underlying issues: drug and alcohol, DV, poverty, mental Health, unemployment, access to accommodation, attitudes to children and child abuse • Long term planning • Protective behaviours • Community engagement • Funding (early intervention) • Sweden’s child care system as opposed to Australia’s • Challenging stereotypical ways of disciplining • Nutrition
<p>Perth 26 May 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better alignment of government responses and policies • National mandatory reporting process • National family safety framework • Improved linked up referral pathways • Nationally consistent assessment and referral tool and long term approaches and investment • Community driven/community consultation/engagement • Should be first priority on the national agenda over all else • Child safety and wellbeing starts at pre-conception • Build on health and early childhood universal services • Young parents need a case managed approach, child and maternal health, fathering, housing, education and jobs • Promote responsibility in parenting – it’s the most important job in the world • Parenting support, provision of more – early years and older • ACCAs – service delivery, advocacy, peak function, proactive engagement of family carers • Building agency capacity incrementally over time, to deliver services sustainably • Embed child rights in practice, policy and legislation • Important to improve support in the school system – resources eg other services provided in a school hub • Self-determination for communities, local solutions supported by an ACCA • Child protection workers work more closely with services, to keep children safe • Kinship care – tap into local knowledge about family who can provide care • Need to move from campaign thinking to sustainable policy • Funding models prohibitive for service delivery • Bi-partisan approaches to data within health, education and social services • Intersectionality of causal factors: poverty, employment, racism, housing • Include the actual lived experience of parents, families etc in the dissemination of ideas, remedies etc • Self-determination within service delivery models • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander models

Attachment C: How can we build community support?

Question 2: How can we get the Australian community at large to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children?

Location	Comments
<p>Melbourne 8 March 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity of community to be responsible to support parents in their community – like neighborhood watch • Rebuild communities, support eg public housing, not aspirational • Community program responses locally appropriate • Respond to local community program – fits community • Community connectedness and community workers – children connected with community, restoring links between families, and supportive people in the community, children more imbedded with the people in the community, no longer trusting others, community mentoring, organized connections with each other • Creating connections with diverse community • Look at the <i>Perceptions of Parenting</i> report – need to change the discourse and then exactly what does parenting mean • Public health models of support – universal services for families including pre-natal care • Family support – paid parental leave, affordable child care, housing • Focus on family of origin and associated services to build capacity • Antenatal investment – healthy ‘mums’ keep children safe • How do we want children and childhood viewed – they are a precious resource • We need to start getting everyone to see what is important about children and their wellbeing • Clear expectation of role of community and child safety, particularly after RC is finished • Build on Royal Commission work • Encourage help seeking behavior • Campaigns – children safety and wellbeing, and embedding children in existing campaigns and Raising Children’s Network • Reframing child safety and wellbeing as a nation – reframe as core to our values • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children’s needs should be prioritised • Key component is education to children about healthy/respectful relationships – balance between right to protection • National consistent expectation/legislation about risk assessment and mitigation – Child Safe Practices – accompanied by adequate funding • Join up services/systems to create a culture of child safety • Children’s voices/experiences need to inform the way forward • Information sharing, and coordination – between systems, services and government agencies, impact of children moving interstate • Decision making – health, quality, adult –emergency department – info about children that needs to be considered – all levels and systems • Reframe conceptions of children, value children more, have more positive attitudes to children, shift to a more positive discourse, capable independent, in certain contexts, active and with capacity, rather than pressure • Value children as a nation eg child care pay • Shift focus to ‘Rights’ of children and the right to be heard

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure services are child centred • National child safe standards • Local responses – local child safe liaison, child friendly cities • Child rights champions
<p>Hobart 10 March 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community consultation participation • Recognise long term nature of change • Optimism and hope – the power of kindness • Child safety and wellbeing a community role, not just parents • Acknowledging changing nature of communities – how best to connect in today’s world • Common language – making child safety everyone’s responsibility • Equity of access • Accessible free resources parents can use and apply • Messaging about child development to be consistent and accessible • Parenting campaign ie how to play • Challenging political ideology – single parent debate, baby bonus • Political priority – parenting and child rearing is highly valued • Balance risk with care of children • We should focus on celebrating being a parent • Towards strengths – conversations • Using a common language and not needing to reinvent the wheel, using frameworks from other industries • Love • Talk about it • Focus on solutions, change language – eg take the blame out and normalize the complexity of parenting • Collaborate not compete • Empowering parents to be part of solutions • Help to identify values in parents/community that drive behaviours and value values • Prioritise community education programs/health promotion about child safety and wellbeing (like gambling/health) – must be multi-level behavior change • Change the perception of child safety and wellbeing being the sole responsibility of parents. Need to see that child safety and wellbeing is a community priority and everyone has a role • How we view children – the old norms continue • Need a more rounded general conversation about child safety rather than fear only – to engage on both positives and negatives • Services visible and approachable • Many dimensions of safety • Children’s voice more in discussion • Continual involvement of children and their voices in their safety and wellbeing, not just at the start • Not just talking to children but taking action on their behalf • Listen to the child and hear what they say • Give the children/community a voice at the table • Community champions

<p>Sydney 15 March 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education programs on child safety and wellbeing • Action plan that integrates agencies • Audit of regulations that immobilize a system and community strengthening infrastructure • Synergy and actions with DV Plan , Mental Health Plan and National Framework • More innovation about funding models – Justice Reinvestment, Social Benefit Bonds • Funding for in-service training • Increase trauma informed training • Perpetrator support • Locally based responses • Community education on effect of child abuse and more positive aspirational – anti-smoking • Change of culture • Don't want to get too bureaucratic • Challenging cultural and societal construct – design something with a community • Getting traction/client experience and co-design vital • Drop child protection language – more child wellbeing • Integrate agencies • Nationally consistent child outcomes framework • National Framework is needed as the authority • Responding, beyond reporting • Men especially young men – targeting sports and research • Using health clinics more • Whole of agencies approaches/non-silos – empower decision makers • Co-designing with including rural communities on child safety and wellbeing • Based on principles, foundational • Family conferencing, bring in services • Family conferencing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families • Look at what countries are doing targeted universalism well • True universal access to early education – free, culturally appropriate, address literacy/online blockers • Legislative reform that focusses on safety of child not removed in DV situations • Strengthen National Framework and use it as the authority • Nationally consistent outcomes framework – impact of child – used to reflect • Child impact statements • Culture of sexualisation of children and objectification of women • Online safety (particularly invasive pornography) to protect children we still rate movies at the cinema, the vast majority of children's video access is via internet – see UK opt out system • Where is our 'Patron for Children' with a big engaging public profile? • Victorian child safe standards • Valuing children's initiative • Child rights – a first order issues
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a National Children’s Act – a Children’s Minister • Reframe child protection • Social media and messaging • Pro-children actions – strengthen children voice • Legislation reform focus not on removing but safety • Bring plans together • Audit regulations on child safety that immobilizes action • Trauma informed training • Digital media • Peer education – accountability • Broad civil society aware and giving • Philanthropy – not just popular tags
<p>Brisbane 17 March 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to prioritise child wellbeing over welfare and child protection • Need to move away from the fear of retribution and engage in a non-threatening way when we see concerning behavior • Bystander/system response now – need to encourage community ownership to solving the issues • Need to redefine definition of community as it is no longer your postcode – community is who we socialise with • Engagement with the involuntary families in greatest need • National recognition for child wellbeing initiatives eg Australia Day Awards • Political agenda of wellbeing over ‘welfare’ • Raise profile in same way as other campaigns such as drink driving, speeding • Universal community campaigns • Showcasing examples of value of prevention and what is prevention • Raise age to 25 for support in child safety • Safe houses, neighbourhood watch – collective community responsibility for the care and protection of children • Support and acknowledge the important role of fathers – there need to be male specific services to support access to fathers’ programs, encouraging their active involvement in child safety and wellbeing • Building access to holistic services to engage and empower men’s connection to employment • All out-of-home systems should review their policies to support connections with a child’s family of origin, community, culture and country • Cross sectorial exchanges • Child and family education courses – extend into other professions • Increase government funding to support universal access to ECEC and degree trained educators • National campaign to promote the importance of family • ‘soft entries’ through play programs • Financial pressure/stress • Integrated services • Share first 1000 days movement • Stressors that may affect families accessing services • Reforms need to demonstrate practice across sector • Child participation to include technology

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership • Which other groups are we missing out on?? • Systems levels interaction and integration – does it show outcome • Community led activities • Shift in language • Community approach to planning programs • Reflect on what we are doing now • Workforce development on bigger picture • Criticality of culture • National child protection system • One single system • Validate child safety to be at the top of organisational agendas • We are all responsible for the safety of children • Build community capacity, esp in Indigenous communities • Community awareness and responsibility • Look at successful international models • Be community focused when building their capacity – respect their culture • Community led processes • Consistent national approach • Support communities to heal • Non-disruptive, non-invasive models • More child friendly complaints processes • Learn from successes and failures of the past of child protection system • Child safety and wellbeing to be part of educational curriculum – to be priority • Generational change in attitude • Apply the ‘Try, Test and Learn’ strategy to the National Framework • Explain the true cost of not doing anything • Build empathy-based practice into education and training • Early childhood and health need to come together • National media ‘buy-in’ campaign • Use media to explain the ‘True Cost’ of not intervening and supporting at risk families/young people. Access new technology in a disruptive and divergent technical landscape – link to learnings from things like Adverse Childhood Experiences study and cost if we didn’t act.
<p>Canberra 3 April 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broader understanding of abuse and neglect • Conflate sexual abuse with child abuse • Good collaboration between govt, non-govt and academics vital feature – must keep going • Focus on neglect – more kids removed due to neglect • Need a broader understanding of abuse and neglect • Australia is a nation that likes to punish people – not supportive of perpetrators – not conducive to supporting struggling parents • Co-location of services and schools – Connected Beginnings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services can join up the funding from states and territories so that organisations can service the whole family from different streams of funding • Not celebrating 'wins' enough – difficult to measure • Much better access to parenting resources – online • Internet is a universal platform • Universal services for the first 1000 days – early education and health – non-stigmatising environments (schools) • Bolster universal services, especially those that enable and support early intervention • Community involvement – youth Minister, young people need to be part of local community, improve community based capacity • Services need a local footprint, little community development, communities are online, new perspectives on what community means, 'local community enablers' • Integrate from child health nurses, baby baskets to promote parent engagement • Raise awareness for all parents about expectations for parenthood • Respecting children as a nation – normalize and celebrate • Take population approach – all people need help, greater understanding of issues across all classes, change language • Change cultures – start in schools, change where conversations are held • Parenting leave promoted for both parents – use it or lose it – tied to participation in parenting programs, everyone does it – both fathers and mothers, maybe tied to participation in parenting activities • Australian communities should educate politicians about family friendly, child sensitive life – investment approach • Change the political language – parenting should be a positive part of work-life balance and career trajectory • Put children at the centre of policy and service delivery – child safety lens
<p>Adelaide 5 April 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build in a growing awareness about reducing opportunities for predatory perpetrators • Campaigns to support messages that children are everyone's business • Kids are our future, invest in them, listen to them and change can start with them eg respectful relationships • What are other jurisdictions – nationally, internationally, local government – doing around putting kids in the centre • Supporting expectant parents and those planning to conceive • National campaign – similar to Smith Family – where visual impact of not caring for children is upfront eg children in drink driving advertisement • Sustained commitment to child wellbeing and protection • National strategies – that take a multi-pronged approach eg DV/FV strategy • Takes a community to raise a child – how does that concept translate to modern multicultural context • Addressing the social determinants which impact intergenerational disadvantage • How the 'family' structure has changed – the diversity • How to ensure children's voices are heard • Expectations about changing behavior of population • Educate the community about what safety and wellbeing means • Harness the engagement and energy of community • Protecting children is everyone's business!
<p>Darwin 23 May 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritisation of children - they are future tax base to fund retirements and children worth more but nothing seems to resonate • Encouraging help-seeking for parents who use drugs and alcohol – needs a community campaign as currently parents who use drugs are deeply stigmatized • Giving voice to what is working and making that known • Respect of children

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upskill children • Reporting of child abuse • Tolerance and care of community • Mandatory reporting • Encouraging community that it's a joint responsibility • Public awareness national campaign messaging • Tripartite working together, making us all responsible not just a job for governments • Next action plan needs to have a campaign to raise awareness about the value of children themselves – needs to be cross sectorial – National Plan • Messaging to be done with children • National advertising campaign • Cultural awareness, different parenting, respect differences, collaboration, relationships • What are the possibilities: National change, Change band aid approach, Interpreting services for community to link services for families
<p>Alice Springs 24 May 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services that demonstrate strengths • Strategic messaging – “Protecting Children is Everyone’s Business” • Change of: Value of early education, residential workers, Support Aboriginal local workforce – development, flexible, build, Early Intervention – non threatening services, Director of Child Protection – non-government partnerships, Peer to peer family • Awareness of statistics shared more broadly and more accessibly • What is a child friendly environment? • Institutions being child safe/adopting child safe policies • Local government adopt child safe practices: Child friendly spaces, note some councils don’t deliver services • Communication/public awareness campaigns – its everyone’s problem and everyone’s responsibility – give practical examples of how everyone can help • Need for adequate resources to assist local, place-based approaches to achieve evidence based • Place-based approaches – local content in policy • Widening scope of programs eg intensive family support programs • Need for information (data, research etc) to allow communities to make informed decisions • Improving universal access to services – real and adequate funding, access • Keeping families together within a cultural context • Need for longer funding cycles/contracts • Clarity around what is important for children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not material needs only ○ Emotional wellbeing ○ Valuing parents at home/in home ○ Kindness, understanding, access to healing processes ○ Adequate funding for OOHC, to do a good job • Do we really as a nation value children and parents? Probably not • Support for good start for kids <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fundamental services ○ Don’t put kids in detention • Normalising help seeking – don’t judge people

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended community assistance – isolating experience • Role of community including before birth • Early linkages through hospital • Pay lip service but do we really invest eg child care systems, workers • Valuing community parenting including for Aboriginal people • Never was a time than now - you need more community involvement • National Framework good initiative but needs for funding • Listen to people who know • Blaming mentality for those who need help • Acceptance - it takes time for change • Valuing people who work with kids – its tiring • Support and value communities who support kids • Invest in community because workers come and go • Stop being top down approach to what works • Bottom up has valuable ideas • Be realistic about costs • Transition period – fund 3 and 1 yr • Indigenous kids have equal value • Involve children • Longer term funding for services
<p>Parkerville WA 25 May 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase campaigning to increase awareness in the community about abuse and types of abuse • Starting interventions early • Need more outreach • Education to first line staff/medical • Develop supports in their community • Community education and professionals education • Community education (awareness) social media, public campaigns • Forums or platforms for children to voice their views, opinions • Protective behaviours • Shared responsibility – organizationally and community • More equality – resources, funding etc • Investment in infrastructure • Legal system and more severe sentencing, also prenatal and abuse while pregnant • Doing something different as what we are doing is not working • Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Equality across communities ○ More child friendly services ○ Early interventions ○ Outreach services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Client centered approach ● Relationship education to children and schools ● Increase culturally appropriate services to communities eg Indigenous ● Changing the attitude of “it’s somebody else’s business” ● Service integration for ease of access ● Scoping place based models ● Building on existing strengths ● Well known spokespeople make it relatable ● Allowing families a voice increases “buy in” ● Reducing the stigma of asking for help ● Educating children, young people and adult on “what is not ok”
<p>Perth 26 May 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public health approach, evidence based, to broad based campaign according to region ● Appoint champions to elevate status of parents and positive parenting ● It’s not okay for any child to be left behind – this message needs to be heard by middle class Australia ● Child ambassadors – popular culture icons ● Develop/enhance corporate response ● Look at Cindy Blackstock’s work in Canada to create greater equity for First Nation’s children ● The system has failed – not families ● Share success stories, create hope ● Utilise currently funded programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ messaging, training child protection ○ Community Development Program ○ Remote School Attendance Scheme ○ Community Night Patrol ● Utilise place-based media: local Indigenous radio and Facebook ● Community control of case conferencing ensure offender and victim are at the table ● Everyone taking responsibility ● Role of schools – in safety and engagement ● Need shift in media/reporting – what is in best interests of the community, don’t sensationalise ● More role models/mentors – value of youth services in developing skills of young people ● Role of social media campaigns ● Challenging points of view ● Social discourse is contradictory – don’t stigmatise young people, have sympathy for the individual’s circumstances ● Building capacity and capability for parents ● Funding needed for program design, capital co-design and implementation

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