



*Children thrive when their families are supported  
by strong services and co-ordinated systems.*

The **National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing** welcomes the release of *Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2021-2031*.

As the principal engagement and representative body of the non-government and research sectors for the National Framework, the **National Coalition** stands alongside Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to support a second decade of action to improve child safety and wellbeing.

We value the stated commitments of all governments to continue to work in close partnership with the non-government and research sectors. This partnership with the **National Coalition** of child and family organisations is crucial to ensure the expert advice of those working on the ground in our communities shapes policy and the design of services.

The **National Coalition** welcomes the opportunity for the non-government and research sectors to work with governments to implement the framework to improve children’s safety and wellbeing.

“We welcome the opportunity to maintain a central role in the governance of *Safe and Supported*,” said National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing Steering Group Convenor Jamie Crosby.

“We also welcome the development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander action plan and the key role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in its development.”

Stronger governance to include those who directly contribute to the safety, wellbeing and support of all children and their families, including sectors like education and health, are also welcomed.

“We are keen to confirm governance arrangements that reflect the responsibilities of all parties in supporting children to thrive – the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group, the National Coalition, State and Territory Governments and the Commonwealth,” Mr Crosby said.

“Real change to improve the lives and safety of children and young people will only ever be possible if governments, non-government organisations and research bodies pull together. This cannot be left to governments alone to enact – it is everyone’s responsibility.”

“We also know that implementing the framework will be stronger and more effective if the voices of children, young people and families are heard throughout. The National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing can contribute significantly to ensuring the views of children, young people and families shape the design and implementation of the framework.”

*Safe and Supported*’s predecessor, the *National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009-2020*, made important progress.

Even with that progress, further action and concerted effort is needed urgently across the service system – there is strong evidence that up to 20 per cent of Australian children are still failing to receive the start in life they deserve.

It is imperative that all children and young people can grow up safe and supported in their families, social groups, community and culture.

The **National Coalition** supports the identification of priority groups and shared action by all to child safety by focussing on priority reform areas. But it is not a finite list.

“Priority groups and focus areas should be where we focus most of our energies and actions. Yet there will also be other important initiatives beyond these areas that will advance Australia’s progress so all children and young people are safe, engaged and supported to flourish.”

The implementation of action plans will be critical to whether the framework’s stated goals are achieved.

“Action plans will need to outline specific actions and delivery timelines, ensure clear performance indicators are established and include robust evaluation and reporting mechanisms that hold everyone to account for their efforts.”

“Measuring the impact of support provided to priority groups and actions in the focus areas will be ineffective without this.”

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## THE NATIONAL COALITION ON CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING

The National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing comprises non-government and research organisations including peak bodies, out-of-home care, child and family support, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations who are committed to advancing the national campaign on child safety and wellbeing in Australia.

Comprising over 240 members, a ten-person steering group is the principal representative group of the National Coalition. Steering group members also serve on the National Forum for Protecting Australia’s Children, a high-level group that also comprises senior Commonwealth, State and Territory Government officials.

Families Australia convenes the National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing, and the associated Steering Group.

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