

Release of Action Plans

Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

The **National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing** welcomes the release of *Action Plans* to put into effect *Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031*.

“Supporting children, young people and families to thrive, so all children and young people are kept safe and out of the care and protection systems, is vital. For them, and for the health and wellbeing of our communities.”

“Children thrive when they and their families are supported by strong services, co-ordinated systems, and a society that values them.”

“The safety and wellbeing of our children should be Australia’s most compelling national priority. Yet, despite a decade of concerted effort to advance child safety, thousands of Australian children remain subject to abuse, violence and neglect” said Jamie Crosby, Convenor of the National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing.

“It beggars belief that the rates of children and young people in statutory care or involved in child protection systems more broadly, continue to rise. One in 32 Australian children received child protection services in 2020–2021” (AIHW, 2021).

“The over representation of First Nations children and young people is heart-wrenching. A direct and continuing impact of colonisation, 42 per cent of the total number of children in Out of Home Care are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, but they represent around 5 percent of all children in Australia.”

“One of the most urgent tasks before us is to ensure all Australian children are safe and thriving. It is imperative that all children and young people can grow up safe and supported in their own families, social groups, community and culture.”

“We welcome the commitment of Australia’s governments to implement and publicly report on progress against Action Plan commitments of Safe and Supported”.

“We recognise the pledge from all governments to continue to work in close partnership with First Nations communities, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership group and with the non-government and research sectors represented through the National Coalition.”

“It is crucial to ensure that the expert advice of those working on the ground in our communities – and the voices of children, young people and families themselves - shapes policy and the design of Safe and Supported initiatives. Placing children at the centre of our considerations is essential to effective interventions”.

“Powerful partnerships and ongoing collaboration between all parties is fundamental to achieving real change to improve the lives and safety of children and young people, this cannot be left to governments alone – it is everyone’s responsibility.”

“Significant and sustained progress in reducing the rate of child abuse and neglect across the country requires concentrated and continual effort, a willingness to embrace evidence based change, additional financial investments and a preparedness by all to be held to account – for our successes and our failures.”

“We also need to concertededly tackle the broader drivers and risk factors impacting on families living in crisis; chronic poverty, lack of affordable housing for low-income Australians, gaps in urgent healthcare and entrenched inequality and racism in society. Ultimately, effective action in this area will only be assured when we accept every child’s inherent individual as well as societal value.”

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THE NATIONAL COALITION ON CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING

The National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing comprises over 200 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.

Families Australia convenes the National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing.
