



FamiliesAustralia
Annual Report
2022-2023

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Families Australia gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of our members and the Australian Government.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Families Australia celebrates more than 65,000 years of custodianship and connection to lands and waters of First Nations people.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and pay our respects to Elders and Ancestors.

For millennia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have been nurturing children and young people through lore, kinship systems and the powerful cultural role of Elders.

The wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families is fundamental to the health and prosperity of this country.

Families Australia's purpose is to improve the wellbeing of all families.

To achieve this, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities must be at the forefront of policy and community conversations on strengthening all families.

VISION

Australian families, in all their diversity, enjoy the greatest possible wellbeing.



MISSION

To improve the wellbeing of all Australian families, especially those experiencing vulnerability and being excluded from being able to fully participate in our community.

STRATEGIC INTENT

By 2025 Families Australia will be the leading and highly respected authority advising Government on child, youth, and family wellbeing, supported by diverse and active partnerships, robust business practices and an engaged community.



OUR VALUES

- Inclusive
- Practical
- Collaborative
- Ethical

OUR ORGANISATION

Established in 2001, Families Australia is a national, member-based, not-for-profit peak body that is committed to enhancing the wellbeing of all families, especially those experiencing the greatest vulnerability.

We work to build a nation in which all families, irrespective of their form, enjoy the greatest possible wellbeing. We believe that this objective is advanced by better protecting and valuing children, by celebrating families and supporting the most vulnerable amongst them, and by making genuine and lasting improvements to the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We partner with government, service delivery organisations and researchers to suggest practical and innovative policy solutions to challenges faced by Australian families, convene the National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing in support of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children, and facilitate National Families Week which celebrates the vital role of families.

OUR MEMBERS



MEET OUR BOARD



Kathryn Mandla
Chair

Individual



Phil Doorgachurn
Deputy Chair

Individual



Bev Orr
Secretary

Founding Member
delegate of Australia
Foster and Kinship Care
Association



Catherine Liddle

Founding Member delegate of
SNAICC – National Voice
for our Children



Tom Allsop

Founding Member
delegate of Child and
Family Wellbeing
Association of Australia



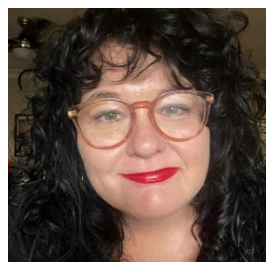
Lesley Taylor

Nominee of National
Association for Prevention
of Child Abuse and Neglect



Jo Sadler

Nominee of Wanslea



Penny Hood

Individual



Deb Tsorbaris

Nominee of Child and
Family Wellbeing
Association of Australia



Tim Moore

Nominee of Australia Foster
and Kinship Care Association

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025

Acknowledgement: Families Australia celebrates more than 60,000 years of ongoing connection to lands, sea country and community of First Nations peoples. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and extend our respects to Elders past and present.

Vision: Australian families, in all their diversity, enjoy the greatest possible wellbeing.

Mission: To improve the wellbeing of all Australian families, especially those experiencing vulnerability and being excluded from being able to fully participate in our community.

Values: Inclusive, practical, collaborative, ethical.

Strategic Intent: In 2025 Families Australia will be the leading and highly respected authority advising Government on child, youth, and family wellbeing, supported by diverse and active partnerships, robust business practices and an engaged community.

Child, Youth & Family Wellbeing	Partnerships	Engagement	A Thriving Organisation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation with First Nations peoples is advanced and relationships with First Nations people, communities and organisations are strengthened. • ‘The Family’ is recognised and celebrated as the primary building block for society. • The authentic voice and lived experience of children and families inform all policy and program design processes. • Economic policies that improve the economic, health and social outcomes of children and families are core to our advocacy and representations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish new partnership arrangements with members, stakeholders, governments, and philanthropic bodies to form influential and diverse coalitions. • Leverage the collective knowledge and expertise of partners, including member organisations and the National Coalition, to strengthen policy formation and project delivery. • Engage in collaborative decision making and collective action between members and other peak partners to drive reforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realise the potential of our partner networks as advocates, stewards, and champions stakeholders, which includes First Nations people, children, young people and families to affect change. • We are the ‘go to voice’ for comment on issues impacting children, families, and young people. • As a broader and more diverse National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing, we are a respected prominent body that directly influences <i>Safe and Supported</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversify and grow the revenue base, including expanded Government investment. • Embed a high-performance culture across the organisation. • Impact metrics are embedded across all aspects of the organisation’s work.

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Kathryn Mandla – Chair, Families Australia



As Members are aware, a new board was elected for a three-year term at the 2022 Annual General Meeting. I was delighted to be re-elected to the board, and then be appointed as Chair. I acknowledge the stewardship of the previous board – particularly the efforts of the former Chair Simon Schrapel AM - and thank my fellow board members for their work over the past year.

All board members have been active contributors to board and committee activities and deliberations. Particular thanks are extended to Phil Doorgachurn, Deputy Chair and Jo Sadler, Convenor of the Finance and Financial Audit and Bev Orr, Convenor of the Corporate Governance committees.

Across the Disability sector, the Early Years environment, employment and income support fields, and child and family welfare settings, significant change is being pursued at both Commonwealth and jurisdictional levels. Families Australia continues to have a strong presence in the national policy scene - the knowledge, experience and expertise of our members underpins the advocacy and representation that we make.

Submissions to the Senate Inquiry into the extent and nature of poverty in Australia and Early Years Strategy discussion paper (and related activities) are two examples where member engagement and contributions have directly informed Families Australia's policy thinking and advocacy. Thank you to those who have engaged in consultation sessions, contributed to writing groups and magnified Family Australia's policy positions through your own networks and organisational advocacy.

Drawing on a component of reserves funds, the Board has committed funding to lift the capability and utility of our website and IT infrastructure, a priority of the organisation's Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025. With a firm focus on increasing our engagement with members and stakeholders, the project will (in part) leverage the power of the Families Australia membership and our stakeholder networks to gather data, analytics, and insights to strengthen our advocacy and increase our responsiveness to emerging issues.

In February 2023, the Families Australia board unanimously endorsed a Voice to Parliament position statement advocating support for a body to be enshrined in our constitution and formally adopting a 'Yes' position. Contributing to the campaign, participating in community activities, and initiating discussions within sector forums and events, was an important role for Families Australia to play. Member feedback for our efforts on this front was strong and it was pleasing to know that a number of members drew on the Families Australia position statement and our efforts, to support activity within their own organisations and communities.

The Board and staff of Families Australia are committed to listening to the voices of First Nation families, children and communities, supporting efforts for greater self-determination and working together for better outcomes. The wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, children, young people is fundamental to the health and prosperity of this country.

The voices of First Nations families, communities' organisations and advocates must be at the forefront of policy and community conversations on strengthening all families.

Finally, I extend my thanks to Families Australia CEO, Jamie Crosby, for his leadership over the financial year, including ensuring Families Australia ends the financial year in a strong and sustainable fiscal position, and ensuring a highly successful National Families Week. I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for their leadership and support over the last year.



Kathryn Mandla
Chair

STATEMENT FROM THE CEO

Mr Jamie Crosby – CEO, Families Australia



I acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of lands and waters throughout Australia and extend my deepest respects to Ancestors, Elders and community leaders of all First Nations peoples. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have been nurturing children and young people for over 65,000 years. I acknowledge the continuing cultural, spiritual and educational practices of First Nations People and the critical role these play in supporting the health and wellbeing of families, children and young people within all communities.

The past 12 months have seen a continued period of change, growth and achievement, both within the organisation and externally. I am grateful for how quickly the new board – elected at the 2022 AGM – settled in. I have appreciated the expertise, leadership and support the board has extended to staff in pursuit of our organisational objectives. Reaffirmation of the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, endorsement of immediate and short-term priorities and the decision to draw on organisational reserves to invest in the future capability and capacity of the organisation contributes to the solid foundation from which we operate.

The January 2023 refresh of the National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing Steering Group membership was timed to coincide with the release and launch of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan and First Action Plan of Safe and Supported.

The National Coalition fully supports the formal decision-making arrangements extended to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group and the embedding of genuine co-design practices within Safe and Supported. This approach is changing the way governments work with First Nations communities and organisations and will require non-Indigenous community organisations to change our ways of working as well. At times this change won't be easy, but it will produce better outcomes for families, children and young people. Families Australia will play our part in supporting this transformation and look to ways in which we can inform and support our members to prepare for and engage in the process.

I was fortunate to attend the National Early Years Summit Summary in February 2023. It was great to see a number of Families Australia's members and supporters also in attendance. I was pleased to participate as member of one of the Summit's panel discussions and be appointed to the Early Years Advisory panel to provide advice on the development of the Early Years Strategy.

A focus on the Early Years has been of the prominent area of our policy and advocacy efforts this year. Our submission to the Early Years Strategy discussion paper, representations to, and participation in, inquiries being respectively led by the Productivity Commission and the ACCC (and associated preparatory work) has been based on member contributions. Your knowledge, expertise and advocacy underpin Families Australia's work - thank you for your efforts.

A refreshed set of National Families Week resources and an updated communications and engagement strategy contributed to a rise in the number of registered National Families Week activities across the country. Supported by some new national organisations and networks who came on board, NFW23 participant numbers increased by 40% (approx.) on the previous year. It is reaffirming to see the amazing and vital role families play being acknowledged and celebrated. We appreciate the efforts made by Kate Pointon in leading National Families Week.

I also extend my thanks and gratitude to Dr Bianca Williams and Fiona Langford. Bianca leads much of the development of our policy and advocacy work, including our submission to the Senate's Inquiry into the extent and nature of poverty in Australia and policy forums held during the year. Fiona methodically and diligently keeps all our finances on track, up to date and ensures I am on top of our financial reporting requirements.

The Commonwealth's reform agenda will continue at pace in 2024. Major reforms are being progressed across employment services, within NDIS, responses to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability will need to be articulated, an Early Years Strategy will be published and Productivity Commission and ACCC early childhood related reports will be released.

Closing the Gap (CTG) efforts must be intensified, based on solutions identified by First Nations peoples, with responses and implementation co-designed by communities and First Nations led organisations. Active implementation of Safe and Supported Action Plans must gather pace and much more needs to be done to tackle broader social determinants - poverty, housing affordability, income support - in order to reduce detrimental and harmful impacts upon families and children.

A challenging and dynamic landscape, but one full of opportunities for your national peak body - informed by your knowledge and expertise - to influence and have impact. Our collective effort can – and must - create a more inclusive, equitable and safer community for all families, children and young people.

I look forward to working with our members and stakeholders over the year ahead.



Jamie Crosby
CEO

OUR RECONCILIATION JOURNEY

Families Australia's vision for reconciliation is an Australia that forges unity between First Nations people and other Australians, celebrates the richness and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, cultures and histories, and enables their aspirations to be met.

Throughout the year we have continued to work on the development of our Innovate RAP Reconciliation Australia framework. At the time of this report, our RAP was on its way back to Reconciliation Australia for final stage endorsement and approval. A launch event - led by our Reconciliation Working Group (RWG) – is in the wings.

In line with commitments within our RAP over the past year we have:

- strengthened relationships with a number of national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations;
- actively promoted and supported members & staff to participate in a variety of community-led First Nations events/national days of celebration;
- sought out and utilised First Nations businesses and suppliers for resource purchases;
- demonstrated our support of the growth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations and the transition of funding and authority to them;
- lent weight to initiatives and policy development process which build on existing the capabilities of First Nations-led organisations; and
- ensured First Nations content, perspectives and aspirations are consistently represented in Families Australia's communications, policy submissions and position statements.

A Voice to Parliament position statement

Families Australia welcomed the passing of the legislation to hold a vote on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. In February 2023, the Families Australia board endorsed a Voice to Parliament position statement advocating support for a body to be enshrined in our constitution, formally adopting a Yes position.

Cognisant of our role as a national peak body, Families Australia actively encouraged all members and stakeholders to adopt a similar statement, lead conversations in their organisation and promote or organise events in their respective communities. This information featured prominently on our website throughout the year, in all editions of National Families News following adoption and was the basis of many public statements and calls for support.

Feedback from our members on this was very positive, with several organisations contacting to advise that the Families Australia position statement had been modified and adopted by them. Members further reported that the call-to-action initiated activity within their organisational networks and that they fully supported Families Australia's efforts.

Families Australia extends our thanks to Ms Tanya Hosch, Executive General Manager of Inclusion and Social Policy at the Australian Football League and Mr Richard Weston, CEO of Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation, who led our 'YES to a Voice for Families, Children and Young People' forum in September.

POSITION STATEMENT

A VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

Families Australia celebrates more than 65,000 years of custodianship and connection to lands and sea country of First Nations people. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and pay our respects to Elders and Ancestors.

For millennia, First Nations people and communities have been nurturing children and young people through lore, kinship systems and the powerful cultural role of Elders.

European settlement of Australia profoundly disrupted the cultural, spiritual and physical connection between Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country and their land, water and community.

The 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart is a national Indigenous consensus position on Indigenous constitutional recognition, developed through a convention of over 250 First Nations delegates. The Statement calls for the establishment of a 'First Nations Voice' to be codified and enshrined in the Australian Constitution.

A Voice to Parliament will provide a formal mechanism to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a direct say and provide advice to government on legislation and policies that affect them. Giving the Australian Government – all of us – the opportunity to make policies with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, rather than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, a consultative process that will deliver meaningful structural change.

The wellbeing of First Nations families, children and young people is fundamental to the health and prosperity of this country. Enshrining a Voice to Parliament is a way to deliver fair, practical change for First Nations people and communities. As a part of Australia's reconciliation journey, it is a foundational element of Voice - Treaty – Truth.

Board endorsed February 2023

Families Australia encourages all members to join us in supporting A Voice to Parliament by adopting this statement, leading conversations in your organisation, and getting involved in events within your community.

Further information and resources can be obtained from:

www.ulurustatement.org/the-statement

www.reconciliation.org.au/support-a-voice-to-parliament

www.yes23.com.au

<https://www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/referendum-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-voice>

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR YEAR



LIVING
REAL
DREAMING
BIG



National Families Week

15-21 MAY
www.nfw.org.au

National Families Week 2023

National Families Week (15-21 May) is a time to celebrate with your family, connect with your extended family and friends, and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community. Our 2023 theme was **Living real, dreaming BIG** - celebrating all that is **real** in our family life, while daring to dream of a **BIG** bright and positive future.

Living real explored and promoted some of the practical, supportive strategies and resources available to foster resilience in individuals, in families and within communities.

Dreaming BIG was a celebration of family and community successes, firmly placing resilience as a central building block of individual and community wellbeing.

It was wonderful to see growth in the number of local community activities and a significant increase in participant numbers (based on the previous years) acknowledging the important role that family plays in all our lives and in our communities. Some 370 community activities, involving an estimated 60,000 families, parent, grandparents, kinship carers, children and young people were held across the country ranging from:

- Chester Hill Public School's (NSW) celebrating with a free *Movie under the Stars* family night that hosted community stalls, face painting, henna tattoos and family fun;
- 54reasons' Katherine service (NT) Play2Learn session *When I grow up, I want to be a...* with activities and interactive parent sing along performances;
- Pt Broughton Sailing & Boat Club (SA) Family *Morning Tea at the Boatshed* exploring the working maritime museum and community garden, showcasing 'what a little club with BIG dreams can achieve!'; and
- Taylor Childcare and Education Centre (ACT) *Mothers' Day and National Families Week Community Afternoon Tea* featuring a family photo booth and a concert with songs celebrating mothers and families.

It was also very pleasing that several organisations drew on the focus and energy of National Families Week in support of their events. Highlights included:

- the Australia Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) promoted a new research paper looking at employment patterns and trends for families with children during the week;
- the Chief of Navy announced the inaugural *Fleet Family Engagement and Support Award* for Navy families;
- Royal Life Saving Australia ran a Water Safety Tips for Families and a family orientated Learn to Swim campaign throughout their networks during NFW; and
- Scope disability services promoted their project *Be Safe Online*.

National Families Week welcomed the boost received from a number of new partners and supporters. A big shout out to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia who sponsored a 3-page advertisement in their May journal 'itk' – with a circulation of 13,000 – and promoted National Families week throughout their network of pharmacies across the country.

National Families Week was promoted on The House of Wellness (Season 7, Episode 13, Seven Network) and Hope 103.2 (radio station) featured an extended National Families Week radio interview. Cross promotional arrangements were also entered into with KindiCare Australia.

Celebrating Families Speaker Series

We acknowledge 2023 speakers who generously shared their unique stories of family capacity, and resilience from their diverse backgrounds and experiences. Forum participants (175) were privileged to hear the personal stories, family histories and resilience fostered during life's challenges. A heartfelt note of thanks is extended to:

- Melinda Cilento | CEO Committee for Economic Development Australia (CEDA);
- Dr Stephanie Hodson CSC | CEO Relationships Australia Canberra and Region; and
- Dr Amy Conley Wright | Professor of Child and Family Social Work at the University of Sydney, Director of the Research Centre for Children and Families.



 Rokeby Primary School
18 May · 🌐

To celebrate [National Families Week](#) we invited our family members in to share our hot lunch. It was lovely to see mums, dads, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, carers and others that are special to us. ❤️❤️❤️

National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing

The National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing comprises over 200 members from non-government and research organisations including peak bodies, out-of-home care, child and family support, disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations who are committed to advancing the national campaign on child safety and wellbeing in Australia.

A steering group is the principal representative group for the National Coalition. Membership of the steering group has changed over the course of the two National Frameworks to ensure that representation aligns with Action Plan priorities. Representation on the steering group includes:

- Professor Leah Bromfield, Director, Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia;
- Professor Amy Conley Wright, Research Centre for Children and Families, The University of Sydney;
- Dr Lauren Lines, Lecturer in Nursing, Flinders University;
- Dr Rosa Flaherty, Manager Practice Development, National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse;
- Ms Felicity Kime, President and Peer Worker, Family Inclusion Strategies Hunter (FISH);
- Ms Catherine Liddle, CEO, SNAICC National Voice for Our Children;
- Ms Annette Michaux, Director, Parenting Research Centre;
- Mr Paul McDonald, CEO Anglicare Victoria;
- Ms Amber Ward, NDIS Practice Lead, Thrive House QLD; and
- Mr Jamie Crosby as Convenor.

The 31 January 2023 release of Action Plans to put into effect Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031 was welcomed by all involved in the development of the action plans over the previous 18 months.

The significant leadership, experience, advocacy and dedication of members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in the development of Safe and Supported cannot be overstated. 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 - is acknowledged.

Real change to the system – and most importantly to outcomes and experiences of children, young people and families – is critical, especially that of First Nations children and young people. The overrepresentation of First Nations children and young people in statutory systems is appalling: 42 per cent of the total number of children in Out of Home Care are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, even though they represent only approximately 5 percent of all children in Australia.

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, it cannot be left to government alone. Active implementation of the Actions Plans must be pursued with energy and vigour.

The last year has seen National Coalition representatives:

- actively contribute to finalising Safe and Support Action Plans;
- being appointed to Safe and Supported implementation working groups;
- respond to a variety of discussion and consultations papers; and
- represent National Coalition member interests at ministerial forums, senior official level governance meetings, and public events and forums.

The 2023 National Coalition Annual Meeting sought to focus on elements of the broader child safety and wellbeing agenda, beyond that of Safe and Supported. We greatly appreciated presentations on the findings and implications of the Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS) by Professor Ben Mathews (QUT) and Professor Daryl Higgins (ACU) and a briefing on child safety and family wellbeing initiatives currently being progressed across AGD from Mr Chris Collett, First Assistant Secretary, Children and Families Division, Attorney-General's Department (AGD).

Informing and influencing national policy

Families Australia influencing and advocacy activities undertaken over the past year include:

- facilitating a member forum and engagement with key member organisations in the development of a submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs Inquiry into the extent and nature of poverty in Australia, submitted 3 February 2023
- CEO appointment to the Australia Government's Early Years Strategy Advisory Panel established by Minister Rishworth. Associated activities have included:
 - attendance at the National Early Years Summit (Feb)
 - submission of a response to the Early Years Strategy discussion paper (April)
 - Advisory panel meetings and consultation workshops.
- CEO appointment to the Practice, Systems and Improvement Panel of the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse;
- meetings with the Productivity Commission regarding the Early Childhood Education and Care Inquiry (ECEC);
- providing a submission to the Joint Select Committee on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Referendum – Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023;
- presenting to SNAICC's Safe and Supported forum for ACCOs and First Nations stakeholders;
- supporting Families Australia member representatives to participate in an Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) Childcare Inquiry consultation session; and
- maintaining involvement with the National Office for Child Safety's Child Safe Sectors Leadership Group.

National Policy Forums

Supporting the growth of the Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Sector



Held online on 8 May 2023, in this

policy forum three guest speakers addressed a range of issues for the service system to consider when supporting the growth of the ACCO sector.

Keynote speaker:

- Catherine Liddle, CEO, SNAICC - National Voice for our Children (*pictured top left*)

Followed by case studies from:

- The Benevolent Society, presented by Michael Currie, Principal Advisor of Indigenous Development (*pictured top centre*); and
- Life Without Barriers presented by Rob Ryan, National Executive Lead for Strategy and Partnerships, Child, Youth and Family (*pictured top right*).

100 people registered for the forum, representing a range of service providers, non-government organisations, research and academic institutions and representatives from Australian Government departments.

Presentations were followed by a panel discussion featuring all presenters and facilitated by Families Australia CEO Jamie Crosby. This policy forum addressed a range of issues relevant to Supporting the growth of the Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Sector. Topics and issues canvassed during the forum included:

- policy and practical issues for systems to consider, including a coordinated approach to funding across government directorates;
- policy and practical considerations for the service sector to consider (focusing on non-Indigenous-led organisations seeking to support the growth of the ACCO sector);
- the role of peak bodies; and
- the importance of a Voice to Parliament.

Continuing the conversation: families and children experiencing poverty



Held online on 1 December 2022, in this policy forum, three guest speakers addressed a range of issues relevant to families, children and youth experiencing poverty. Some 90 people registered for the forum, representing a range of service providers, non-government organisations, research and academic institutions and representatives from Australian Government departments.

Keynote speakers:

- Professor Gerry Redmond, College of Business, Government and Law, Flinders University (*pictured top right*); and
- Adjunct Professor Tony Pietropiccolo AM (*pictured top left*)

Presentations were followed by a panel discussion with the National Children's Commissioner, Ms Anne Hollonds joining Prof Redmond and Adjunct Prof. Pietropiccolo. Topics and issues canvassed during the forum included:

- a human rights approach to child poverty;
- valuing children and young people: deliberately listening to their views on what matters to them;
- supporting First Nations children to thrive;
- the long-term detrimental effects of poor social determinants experienced by children and young people, even when experienced for brief periods of time;
- lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- the need to value and give prominence to children and young people – as citizens in their own right – in policy discussions and public discourse.

This policy forum also informed Families Australia submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs Inquiry into the extent and nature of poverty in Australia (February 2023).

Families Australia

GENERAL MEMBERS 2023

54 Reasons

Anglicare Australia

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

Australian Foster Care Association

Barnardos Australia

Blue Knot Foundation

Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia

Children and Media Australia

CREATE Foundation

Daniel Morcombe Foundation

Grandparents Australia

Healing Foundation

Interrelate

Junior Adventure Group

Key Assets

National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

Oz Child

Playgroup Australia

Relationships Australia National

Research Centre for Children and Families, The University of Sydney

SNAICC - National Voice for our Children

The Benevolent Society

The Y Australia

Tresillian Family Care Centres

UnitingCare Australia

Wanslea

yourtown

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023.



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