



Safe and well

Supporting families, protecting children

Royal Commission Recommendation Index



Government
of South Australia

Readers are asked to note that references in this document to Aboriginal children, families and communities refer to people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Department for Child Protection
31 Flinders Street
Adelaide, SA 5000

For enquiries, please email CPreform@sa.gov.au

ISBN 978-0-6486953-2-5

Introduction

‘Safe and well’ outlines the actions this government is taking to support families at risk of entering the child protection system, protect children from further harm when they come into care, and invest in young people to provide them with opportunities for a bright future.

We have implemented widespread changes following a number of Royal Commissions, inquiries and reviews. Our progress to date in delivering on the recommendations of the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has been reported in State Government annual reports.

This document provides a thematic overview of the recommendations from both Royal Commissions that still require action. It shows the actions we are taking to respond to these recommendations and how this aligns with the focus areas that are detailed in ‘Safe and well’:

1. Supporting
2. Protecting
3. Investing
4. A strong system

Actions addressing Royal Commission recommendations

The table below lists the key actions and programs of work that will be delivered under the ‘Safe and well’ strategy to address the recommendations of both the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Key

Blue numbers = recommendations of the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission

Green numbers = recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

ACTIONS	LEAD	RECS
1. SUPPORTING		
1.1 A family centred approach to universal services		
1.1.1	Ensure service hub facilities are structured to meet the needs of children and families in the local communities	DHS 209, 214
1.1.2	Work across jurisdictions to progress a new national framework on child safety, focusing on prevention, education, evaluation and cultural change	DCP FR 6.15
1.2 Earlier, targeted, intensive support for families with multiple and complex needs		

1.2.1	Deliver the new Child and Family Intensive Support Service, consolidating existing services and commissioning activity	DHS	49, 212
-------	--	-----	---------

1.3 Information sharing for informed decision making

1.3.1	Enhance the child protection case management system to support the right information being available to case managers and service providers at the right time	DCP	18
1.3.2	Advocate for nationally consistent legislative and administrative arrangements to establish an information exchange scheme across Australian jurisdictions related to the safety and wellbeing of children, including information relevant to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts	DPC	FR 8.7, 8.8
1.3.3	Review the <i>Teachers Registration and Standards Act 2004</i> to consider improved information sharing arrangements between the Teachers Registration Board of South Australia and other relevant authorities to enable them to share information about teachers with other teacher regulatory authorities relevant to child safety and workforce mobility	DE	FR 8.9-8.12

2. PROTECTING

2.1. Coordinated notification responses

2.1.1	Ensure appropriate thresholds are maintained for mandatory reporting and protection for notifiers	DCP	FR 7.5, 7.6, CJR 8
2.1.2	Strengthen the governance of mandatory notification resources and compulsory training for certain professions	DHS --- DCP	43 ---- 44-45
2.1.3	Continue to review and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) Call Centre in responding to notifications about a child at risk of harm	DCP	40, 46, 62
2.1.4	Increase the practice of referring notifications to other State Authorities who can best provide the services that children and families need and build the capacity of mandatory notifiers to also provide non-statutory responses and support when they identify child wellbeing concerns	DCP	61
2.1.5	Embed family group conferencing practice, enabling extended family networks to participate and plan for the safe care of their children	DCP	68
2.1.6	Develop standards for government and non-government schools regarding the creation, maintenance and disposal of records relevant to child safety and wellbeing, including child sexual abuse	DE	FR 8.5

2.2. Needs based care and protection

2.2.1	Design and implement a South Australian specific practice approach for child protection staff to inform case planning and decision making	DCP	12, 59, 77, 79, 80, 81, 94, 204
2.2.2	Provide specialist support and training to carers who provide care to children, including those with complex or challenging behavioural and developmental needs	DCP	112, 124 FR 12.11-12.14, 12.16

2.2.3	Update the current placement management system to modernise the way children are matched with carers to increase safety and stability	DCP	FR 12.16
2.2.4	Develop new models of care informed by population needs and service demand	DCP	126, 205, 217
2.2.5	Children in care have contact arrangements in place that support them to safely remain connected with their family members, communities and culture and supports their wellbeing, healthy development and identity	DCP	72 FR 12.17(c)
2.2.6	Develop a sexual abuse prevention education strategy, incorporating online safety, specifically for children in care	DCP	FR 12.9
2.2.7	Support the participation of eligible children in care in the National Disability Insurance Scheme with systems that capture relevant information, specialist disability workers and specialist foster care placements	DCP	224 FR 12.21

2.3. Growing family based care

2.3.1	Enhance the process for people becoming a new foster or kinship carer to provide a culturally appropriate assessment and contemporary customer service experience, while maintaining rigorous and thorough approval processes to ensure that children and young people receive the highest standards of care	DCP	109, 113 FR 8.17-8.23, 12.8
2.3.2	Support carers to meet the needs of children and young people in family based care	DCP	1,2, 119, 120, 156
2.3.3	Improve our efforts to retain existing carers and diversify our carer pool	DCP	114, 157
2.3.4	Explore supported pathways to long term guardianship	DCP	78

2.4. Transforming non-family based care

2.4.1	Establish consistently high standards of care across the sector	DCP	133 FR 12.5
2.4.2	Transform residential care from a 'placement of last resort' to a therapeutic care setting	DCP	145, 147, 149- 151 FR 12.18
2.4.3	Build the capacity of foster carers to provide immediate response care in home based settings, rather than using commercial premises	DCP	128, 129, 132

2.5. Environments that keep children safe

2.5.1	Support the Australian Government to develop and implement a national strategy to prevent child sexual abuse that includes initiatives to improve community understanding and address problematic beliefs and behaviours that inadvertently enable sexual abuse or discourage help-seeking actions	DCP	FR 6.1-6.3 (Aust Gov Lead), 10.1
-------	--	-----	----------------------------------

2.5.2	Promote the national principles for child safe organisations and consistently embedding these into policy and practice	DE --- DHS	FR 6.10, 6.11, 13.1-13.3, 14.4 --- FR 6.4-6.9, 14.1 15.1
2.5.3	Implement stronger, nationally consistent, screening laws for people to work or volunteer with children, replacing the current system consisting of a number of screening checks	DHS	WWCC 1, 4, 19, 30, 36
2.5.4	Ensure organisations lodge compliance statements more regularly, provide copies of their child safe environments policy documents and undertake regular reviews	DHS	FR 7.7, 7.8
2.5.5	Implement the child safe standards in schools (including boarding hostels) and provide strong policy and safeguarding mechanisms regarding the conduct of staff in contact with children, preventing and responding to child sexual abuse and the management of children with harmful sexual behaviour.	DHS --- DE	FR 13.5(1) --- FR 13.1, 13.5(2), 13.7
2.5.6	Ensure legislation, policy, procedures, training and the physical environment mitigate risks of child sexual abuse in youth detention and support disclosure	DHS	FR 15.1, 15.3, 15.5-15.6, 15.8- 15.10
2.5.7	Assess the scope and benefits of implementing a Reportable Conduct Scheme in South Australia	AGD	FR 7.9-7.12
2.5.8	Deliver initiatives to improve children’s internet safety and improve community awareness on emerging risks to young people online	DE	FR 6.19, 6.21, 6.23

2.6. Responding to perpetrators of child sexual abuse

2.6.1	Examine existing criminal justice responses to child sexual abuse offences	AGD	CJR 23-25, 29, 33, 34(b), 35, 36, 43, 64, 66, 69, 70, 72, 75, 76, 79, 80, 83-85
2.6.2	Enable, through legislative provisions and physical resources, the prerecording of the entirety of a witness’s evidence in child sexual abuse prosecutions	AGD	CJR 52, 53, 55-58
2.6.3	Contribute to the national working group considering admissibility of tendency and coincidence evidence about a defendant in a child sexual offence prosecution	AGD	CJR 44-51

3. INVESTING

3.1. A therapeutic approach to specialised needs

3.1.1	Provide specialised therapeutic care and support for children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviours, and ensure training and support is provided to carers to identify and refer children and young people to receive an appropriate response	DHW	FR 10.3, 10.5, 10.7
3.1.2	Build best practice approaches to specialised care, including targeted therapeutic and disability supports to meet developmental needs	DCP	146, 152, 218,
3.1.3	Establish a complex needs panel to coordinate care for children and young people with specialised needs	DCP	87

3.1.4	Develop a targeted service for young people who abscond from placement, such as a mobile outreach	DHW	88
3.2. Supporting survivors of abuse			
3.2.1	Make a range of trauma-informed community support services, advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment service system responses available for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, including Aboriginal healing approaches, and specific responses for people with disabilities	AGD --- DHW	FR 9.1-9.3 ---- FR 9.6, 9.8
3.2.2	Examine the application of a non-delegable duty of care, and related issues of liability and onus of proof, in the context of institutions that operate or provide services to children and young people	AGD	RCLR 89-95
3.2.3	Examine the criminal justice responses available to victims and survivors to support their participation in the process	AGD	CJR 1, 62
3.2.4	Provide guidance for all government agencies to have in place policies and guidelines documenting the approach it will take to allegations, reports or disclosures of child sexual abuse that it receives where it is not required by law to report it to police, child protection or another agency, specifically including what information it may report to police where the survivor does not provide consent for their details to be shared	DHS	CJR 16-19
3.2.5	Support the Australian Government in establishing a National Centre to raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of child sexual abuse, support help-seeking and guide best practice advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment	DHW	FR 9.9
3.3. Cultural connection and identity			
3.3.1	Implement the six elements of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle to uphold Aboriginal children's rights to maintain connections to family, community, culture and country	DCP	FR 12.20
3.3.2	Engage the Department for Child Protection's Aboriginal Practice Directorate to improve the quality and cultural responsiveness of professional practice, policies and procedures	DCP	189,
3.3.3	Engage Aboriginal-led services and programs for Aboriginal children and young people in care	DCP	193, 194
3.3.4	Update departmental structures, tools and ICT systems as required to support culturally informed best practice	DCP	231, 235, 236
3.4. Opportunities to access education and development activities			
3.4.1	Undertake a review of educational policy and practice approaches to reduce the numbers of children in care who experience suspension, exclusion and expulsion	DE	90
3.4.2	Implement legislation and systems infrastructure to make it easier to track academic progress and support a child's safety and developmental needs as they transfer between schools	DE	FR 8.13-8.16
3.5. Transition to adulthood and independence			

3.5.1	Provide young people with greater support when transitioning from care with specific programs to assist young people post-care (18-25)	DCP	164 FR 12.22
3.5.2	Review supported independent living and other innovative housing models, including share housing, to make housing options more accessible to young people leaving care	DCP SAHA	167, 168
3.5.3	Build capacity across government to prioritise access to mainstream supports and provide the best possible service for young people leaving care (formally known as the Rapid Response program)	DCP All	75, 162

3.6. Hearing from children and carers

3.6.1	Make child-friendly resources and pathways available for children and young people to provide feedback on their experiences or raise complaints, including to inform carer reviews	DCP	FR 12.7, 12.10
-------	--	-----	----------------

4. A STRONG SYSTEM

4.1. Growing a skilled and stable workforce

4.1.1.	Undertake deliberate workforce planning to ensure we can sustain our interventions to reduce child abuse and neglect, including addressing recruitment and retention issues and regional workforce capacity	DHS DCP	222
4.1.2.	Work with education providers to support diverse education and training pathways into child protection employment, complementing the broad and complex needs of children and young people	DCP	28
4.1.3.	Invest in evidence-based strategies to develop the capability and professionalisation of the workforce	DHS DCP	24, 25, 27, 30
4.1.4.	Expand workers' core knowledge and capabilities by increasing trauma informed practice, cultural understanding and the capabilities required to work with families with multiple and complex needs	DHS DCP	23, 58
4.1.5.	Provide case managers with the right tools and equipment to be mobile and flexible to the needs of the families and children they work with	DCP	17

4.2. Enhancing quality and safeguarding

4.2.1.	Develop an integrated incident management system, bringing together critical information including care concerns, adverse events, information from staff, and complaints made by children and young people.	DCP	141-143, 172, 177, 179, 184, 185, 208
--------	---	-----	---------------------------------------

4.3. A learning culture built on research, data and reporting

4.3.1	Capture better quality information and be smarter with our use of data to support planning and service design, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Reviewing all placement breakdowns to determine and correct system deficits o Better understanding the profile of cultural backgrounds of children in care 	DCP	83, 232
-------	---	-----	---------

4.3.2	Work with other Australian jurisdictions to develop nationally consistent data definitions and measurement standards for child protection	DCP	FR 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.15
4.3.3	Maintain a program of activity considering the design, evaluation and refinement of early intervention services informed by data and research, with a specific focus on services for Aboriginal families	EIRD – DHS DCP	64, 192
4.3.4	Support the state’s leading researchers to drive innovation towards child protection policy and practice, including evidence-based models to better support frontline staff	EIRD - DHS	29
4.3.5	Maintain governance and change management practices to deliver reform, including mechanisms to demonstrate accountability and regular public reporting	DCP	260 FR 17.2 WWCC 35
4.3.6	Report quarterly to the Minister for Child Protection and the Guardian for Children and Young People on key service criteria for children in care	DCP	96, 135, 198

4.4. Partnering together for better outcomes

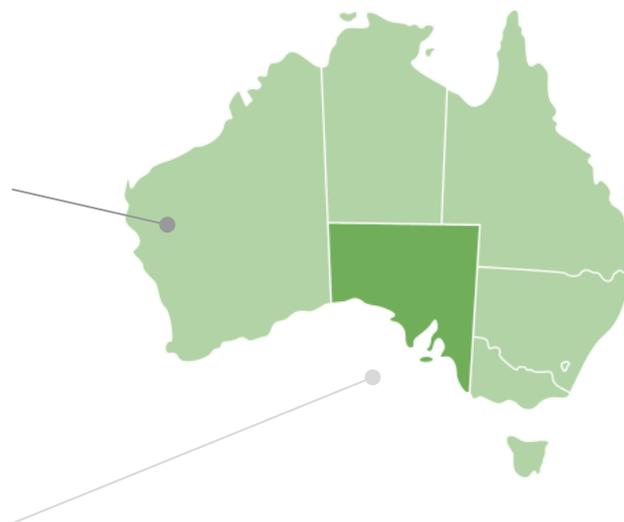
4.1.1	Provide child protection training and professional development for the Legal Services Commission and Crown Solicitor’s Office	DCP	71
4.1.2	Strengthen the across-government governance arrangements and leadership for child protection reform	DCP	215

Related government plans, frameworks and strategies

This strategy has been developed within the context of other relevant national and state based plans, frameworks and strategies that are in place or currently under development.

National

- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020
- An Outline of National Standards for Out of Home Care
- National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022



State

- Child Protection Systems Royal Commission
- Committed to Safety – A framework for addressing domestic, family and sexual violence in South Australia
- An Intensive Support System for South Australia's children and families (new EIRD strategy)
- South Australian Government Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan 2019-2020
- South Australian Health and Wellbeing Strategy (under development)
- South Australian Mental Health Strategic Plan 2017-2022
- State Public Health Plan 2019-2020
- South Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2017-2020
- Child Development Council – Outcomes Framework (under development)
- First 1000 Days of Life Strategy (under development)
- Children and Young People In Care Strategy

Abbreviations

AGD	Attorney-General's Department
CJR	Criminal Justice Report of the RCIRCSA
DCP	Department for Child Protection
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
DE	Department for Education
DHS	Department of Human Services
EIRD	Early Intervention Research Directorate
FR	Final Report of the RCIRCSA
SAHA	South Australian Housing Authority
RCIRCSA	Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
RCLR	Redress and Civil Litigation Report of the RCIRCSA
WWCC	Working With Children Checks Report of the RCIRCSA

The term Aboriginal, as used in this document, is inclusive of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture. It is acknowledged that Torres Strait Islanders are their own unique and distinct peoples.