Strategic Plan 2026–2030

Our vision

For children and young people to grow up safe, connected, cared for and supported to reach their full potential, with a strong sense of identity and belonging.

Our purpose

To protect South Australia's children from harm caused by abuse and neglect and provide alternative care when required. We do this by working alongside children, young people, families, carers, communities and our partners.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways across South Australia and pay our respects to the custodians of the Country on which we live, work, and support children, young people, families, and communities. We honour their enduring spiritual connection to Country and recognise that Aboriginal cultural knowledge, stories, and practices remain central to the wellbeing and safety of children today.

We pay deep respect to Elders past, present, and emerging, whose leadership continues to guide us in creating safe, strong, and connected environments for Aboriginal children. We also recognise and respect the cultural authority of Aboriginal staff and carers, whose lived experience, knowledge, and leadership are vital to culturally strong and safe care.

Government of South Australia
Department for Child Protection

Our strategic directions

Self-determination and shared decision-making

We commit to Aboriginal leadership and self-determination, including family-led and shared decision-making, across all we do. Our work is informed by Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing to support Aboriginal children and young people to grow up safe and strong in family, community and culture.

Children safe in families and communities

We support families and build safety through earlier support, active efforts and effective interventions. We work respectfully and professionally alongside families, communities and partners so children and young people can safely remain at home, or return where possible and in their best interests, and maintain strong connections to family, community and culture.

Safe, supported and connected in care and beyond

We work with carers and partners to provide safe, stable and nurturing care that supports children and young people to heal, develop a strong sense of identity and belonging, and remain connected to their family, community, culture and Country. We support their health, education and wellbeing, and positive transitions to adulthood so young people can thrive in care and beyond.

A connected system and skilled, thriving workforce

We invest in a capable, safe, supported and empowered workforce, prioritise staff wellbeing and cultivate practice excellence. We strengthen partnerships and work alongside children, young people, families, communities and service providers to build a connected, accountable and responsive system that delivers better outcomes for children and young people.

Continuous learning and improvement

We listen to children, young people, families, carers, communities and staff to understand what is working and where improvement is needed. We use evidence, data, evaluation and lived experience to strengthen practice, improve services, measure outcomes and drive continuous improvement. We are transparent, accountable and committed to delivering better outcomes for children and young people.

Our ways of working

- Child-centred, trauma informed, responsive and committed to hearing and considering the voices of children and young people
- Culturally safe, responsive and informed by Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing
- Evidence-informed, innovative, outcomes-focused and continuously improving
- Collaborative across the department and with families, carers, communities and partners
- Transparent, safe, accountable and courageous in how we work

Our values

- Collaboration
- Accountability
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Transparency