Child Protection Systems Royal Commission

2026 recommendation status

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
1	Establish a protocol to govern eligibility for a grant of legal aid to carers, where the child's best interests would be better or more appropriately secured by obtaining Family Court orders, rather than by proceedings in the Youth Court. Further, that funding be provided to the Legal Services Commission and quarantined for this specific purpose.	Legal Services Commission	Accepted	Complete
2	Fund, subject to a protocol, any required filing costs where there is a need for Youth Court orders to be registered in the Family Court to improve the safety of the children to whom they relate.	Legal Services Commission	Accepted in principle	Complete
3	Support and promote for action, recommendation 5(a) of the Family Law Council interim report (June 2015), which advocates for the development of a national database of child protection and Family Court orders.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
4	Reinstitute the court liaison role as a strategic link between the Agency, the Family Court and the Youth Court, to improve system interface and to develop service responses in accordance with the requirements of each jurisdiction.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
5	Move the office of child protection and the functions of Families SA out of the Department for Education and Child Development to establish a separate department that has the business of child protection as its primary focus, and which has elements and functions as set out in this report.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
6	Appoint a Chief Executive of the new department who has strong leadership skills and recognised credibility in child protection work, and who has a direct line of ministerial responsibility.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
7	Implement a structure in the new department that reduces the hierarchies between leadership and front-line workers.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
8	Establish a refreshed leadership in the new department with emphasis on the attraction and retention of leaders who have recognised credibility in child protection work, and who have the capacity to lead a major reform of organisational culture.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
9	Review the delegation of powers to enable decision making to occur at the closest possible level to the child, subject to questions of fiscal responsibility and sensitivity or complexity of the issues.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
10	Adopt a policy that gives a child's caseworker the primary responsibility for case management and, except in special circumstances, ensures that the caseworker is made aware of all discussions and decisions that affect the child.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
11	Conduct a formal review of Solution Based Casework™ (SBC) to critically examine whether the model is being used with fidelity to the original model in practice.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

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12	Provide an ongoing SBC consultation and training service to be delivered by principal social work staff and appropriately accredited trainers in SBC who remain within the Agency.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
13	Audit the range of process and policy documents to identify and discard those that are out of date. Develop a single database that is accessible to all staff via the Agency's intranet, to electronically file all current documents.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
14	Employ administrative assistants at adequate levels of expertise to support casework teams to manage the administrative requirements of C3MS.	Child Protection	Not Accepted	Not Accepted
15	Develop clear guidelines for recording information on C3MS, which identify those responsible for data entry and the categories under which data is entered. Rationalise available categories to limit inappropriate categorisation of important information.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
16	Develop training in the use of C3MS to ensure that practitioners understand their obligations in uploading data, and the limitations of the incident-based nature of recording.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
17	Provide practitioners with mobile devices to allow access to C3MS from remote locations.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
18	Permit stakeholders such as other government agencies and not-for-profit organisations limited access to C3MS to facilitate cooperation, collaboration and transparency.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
19	Set constructive and practical benchmarks for the development of critical enhancements to C3MS.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
20	Conduct a review of the long-term viability of C3MS, and monitor research and developments in the area of electronic information management systems with a view to determining whether C3MS should be replaced with a more suitable and effective electronic information system.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
21	Establish a human resources unit in the Agency that has sufficient specialist expertise and resources to develop and implement strategic workforce plans and to manage operational demands to ensure high quality child protection practice.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
22	Establish a learning and professional development unit in the Agency to lead training and professional development, for both professional and operational staff.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
23	Require professional staff in the Agency to Complete a minimum number of hours of professional development each year as a condition of their employment.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
24	Charge the executive of the Agency, through the human resources unit, with a review of current practices and the development of evidence-based strategies relevant to: a. workforce records and data management; b. workforce qualification profiles, including requiring any staff holding a case load to be degree qualified in a discipline relevant to child protection; c. the recruitment, selection, induction and retention of staff, including managing all recruitment and selection	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete

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	centrally; d. career, including management, pathways; e. workload management; e. performance planning, support and monitoring for enhanced staff performance; and f. professional development requirements, opportunities and resourcing, including adopting a professional development reimbursement program modelled on that operating in SA Health g. professional development requirements, opportunities and resourcing, including adopting a professional development reimbursement program modelled on that operating in SA Health.			
25	Provide a psychological service to work with the executive to address the high levels of workplace stress in the Agency.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
26	Appoint clinical managers to each metropolitan hub and regional office of the Agency and review professional line-management structures accordingly.	Child Protection	Not Accepted	Not Accepted
27	Invest in clinical management, supervision and practice improvement, including the development of a supervision framework.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
28	Establish formal and regularly evaluated relationships between the Agency and the tertiary education sector that are designed to: a. enhance student and academic knowledge and experience of child protection practice; b. attract desirable graduates; c. expand and focus child protection practice research; and d. ensure that the Agency and its staff are kept abreast of contemporary professional research and literature.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
29	Establish a postdoctoral fellowship program in conjunction with the tertiary education sector to advance areas of research relevant to the Agency.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
30	Require the Agency to take a lead role with other stakeholders to develop and implement a workforce strategy designed to improve staffing practices and performance across the broader child protection system.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
31	Maintain the current mandatory reporting threshold set out in section 11 of the Children's Protection Act 1993.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
32	Review the screening and response priority tools to ensure they give due weight to cumulative harm, chronic neglect, social isolation, underlying causes of dysfunction, the need to conduct timely forensic medical assessments, and the expertise and experience of professional notifiers.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
33	Review screened-out notifications periodically to ensure the threshold is being correctly applied	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
34	Invest in the professional development of the Agency's Call Centre practitioners, including, but not limited, to: a. the implementation of case reading; b. regular clinical supervision;	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

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	c. the introduction of a tailored induction program; and d. ongoing training in the specific skills required of Call Centre practitioners.			
35	Implement the automated call-back feature at the Call Centre for a trial period, followed by an assessment to determine whether its ongoing use is justified.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
36	Staff the Call Centre at a level that would permit the achievement of the following service benchmarks: a. a maximum waiting time of 30 minutes for a telephone call to be answered; b. a maximum of 24 hours to assess an eCARL notification; and c. a maximum delay of two hours for a call back.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
37	Ensure that the Call Centre is never left unattended. Crisis Care staffing levels should be immediately increased to no fewer than three staff at each shift.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
38	Abandon the proposal to engage unqualified call agents to receive telephone notifications. Telephone calls from notifiers must only be taken by degree-level, tertiary qualified and experienced practitioners.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
39	Update, as a matter of urgency, public information concerning the services offered by the Crisis Care service.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
40	Provide automated electronic feedback to all notifiers, confirming receipt of their notification (in the case of eCARL). Post-assessment, what screening and response priority assessments were made in relation to their notifications.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
41	Record notifications directly into an electronic log sheet that pre-populates the C3MS intake record.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
42	Review and improve the efficiency of recording practices of Notifier Only Concerns (NOCs).	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
43	Ensure the Agency regains control of, and strictly oversees, mandatory notification training, including creating and updating an appropriate training package and a mandatory notifiers' guide, and regularly auditing training to ensure fidelity.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
44	Make mandatory notification training compulsory for: a. registered teachers; b. general medical practitioners; c. police officers; and d. other mandated notifiers who are employees of, or volunteer in, a government or non- government organisation that provides health, welfare, education, sporting or recreational, childcare or residential services wholly or partly for children, where the notifier either (a) is engaged in the actual delivery of those services to children or (b) holds a management position in the relevant organisation, the duties of which include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of, the provision of those services to children.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
45	Restrict access to eCARL to notifiers who have completed mandated notifier training.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
46	Include an interactive mandatory notifier guide at the start of eCARL.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
47	Amend Part 4, Division 1, of the Children's Protection Act 1993 to include a new provision permitting, but not requiring, a notifier to report concerns about an unborn child, regardless of the stage of pregnancy.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
48	Abandon the policy restricting the recording of Report on Unborn (ROU) children to 34 weeks' gestation or later.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
49	Institute longer term funding arrangements for prevention and early intervention services, subject to evaluation and performance criteria.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
50	Establish an Early Intervention Research Directorate (EIRD) to: a. prepare a Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy that is updated at least every five years: i. to identify service models that have proved effective or show promise in promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of children in South Australia; ii. to serve as the basis of decisions by South Australian Government agencies to fund prevention and early intervention services; iii. to form the basis of negotiations with the federal and local governments, with a view to coordinating funding priorities; b. establish research partnerships and fund evaluations of innovative service models to determine their effectiveness and value for money; and c. focus on the prevention and early intervention investment priorities identified in this report.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
51	Establish child and family assessment and referral networks in each region of Greater Adelaide and regional South Australia that include: a. a lead not-for-profit agency to manage, in partnership with the Agency, a local entry point to services provided by partner agencies in the region, focusing on collaborative practice and coordinated, multi-service responses, when required; b. an annual Local Assessment of Needs (LAN) prepared by the lead not-for-profit agency after mapping the needs of vulnerable families and children in each region. The LAN would inform funding decisions for services; and c. child protection practitioners in each child and family assessment and referral network to support decision making in relation to child safety including when to refer higher risk families for a statutory response by the Agency.	Human Services	Accepted in principle	Complete
52	Employ qualified child wellbeing practitioners (CWPs) accessible to all staff in the Department, but focusing on locations of greatest need, to consult with staff and to work directly with vulnerable families. CWPs should have on-site access to the Agency's electronic database.	Human Services	Accepted in principle	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
53	Equip relevant government agencies to support vulnerable families by appointing existing employees as child wellbeing assistants (CWA), in addition to their usual role, to provide staff guidance about options to support vulnerable families.	Education	Accepted	Complete
54	Implement a simple, common assessment framework, such as Common Approach, for use by government and not-for-profit services who work with vulnerable children and families.	Education	Accepted	Complete
55	Convene regular cross-agency training and networking sessions for all CWPs and CWAs in each local metropolitan and country region to increase their knowledge and support local inter-agency collaboration.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
56	Amend the Children's Protection Act 1993 to permit mandated notifiers to discharge their obligations by: reporting to the Agency's Call Centre (Child Abuse Report Line); or to designated child wellbeing practitioners, or by referral to a child and family assessment and referral network where the notifier believes a child's circumstances would be adequately attended to by a prevention or early intervention program.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
57	Review procedures for strategy discussions to ensure they are convened promptly upon the receipt of notifications requiring investigation (and without delay when children present with physical injury). Discussions should include all relevant government and non-government participants and be re-convened as necessary.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
58	Provide the Agency's practitioners with training, support and supervision to equip them to make realistic assessments of risks, particularly in areas of chronic maltreatment, cumulative harm, social isolation, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health, family violence, and attachment and care needs of young children, to consider the views of children and to develop appropriate safety plans.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
59	Reconcile and integrate the Agency's assessment tools and documentation (including Solution Based Casework TM, the assessment framework and decision-making tools).	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
60	Amend section 20 of the Children's Protection Act 1993 to delete section 20(2) and (3), and include a provision which empowers the Agency to issue a written direction to parents, guardians or other persons requiring them to submit to a drug and alcohol assessment, with the results to be provided to Families SA.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
61	Ensure the Agency responds to all screened-in notifications, either directly, or by appropriate referral, including responding promptly (including after hours) to notifications in which physical injuries are notified and the Agency's assistance is required to facilitate a forensic medical assessment.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Implementing
62	Phase out the closure of intakes and files due to a lack of resources. This should occur over a period of no more than five years from the date of this report. In the interim, practitioners should be provided with clear guidelines as to the circumstances in which such closures are appropriate. There should be quarterly reports to the public on the rate of closures that are due to a lack of resources.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Implementing
63	Amend section 19(1) of the Children's Protection Act 1993 by deleting section 19(1)(b) thereof to provide that: a. if the Chief Executive suspects on reasonable grounds that a child is at risk, the Chief Executive must cause an assessment of, or investigation into, the circumstances of the child to be carried out or must effect an alternative response which more appropriately addresses the potential or actual risk to the child.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
64	Ensure that the Agency focuses on case management of protective intervention cases and that not-for-profit agencies provide direct service delivery to families. All protective intervention programs should be evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that all such programs have an established evidence base.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
65	Establish a Child Protection Service (CPS) unit at the Lyell McEwin Hospital.	Health	Accepted	Complete
66	Amend the Children's Protection Act 1993 to provide an independent model of expert assessment in similar terms to the Children's Court Clinic in New South Wales.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
67	Amend the Children's Protection Act 1993 with respect to the procedures relating to Family Care Meetings (FCMs) as follows: a. amend section 27(1) to provide that the Agency should consider causing an FCM to be convened whenever it is of the opinion that a child is at risk but the risk appears capable of being addressed at an FCM; b. repeal section 27(2); c. amends 36(6) to provide that an FCM decision would not be valid without the agreement of the relevant members of the family and the Agency; d. require the Agency to give effect to FCM decisions, unless they are impracticable or inconsistent with the principles of the legislation, in which case the FCM should be reconvened or proceedings commenced in Court; and e. require FCM decisions to be reviewed after three months, but provide that any party to the decision may request an earlier and/or subsequent review, if required.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
68	Review procedures and funding arrangements for the Youth Court Conferencing Unit: a. to enable the Unit to recruit and train a panel of child advocates for Family Care Meetings (FCMs)—advocates should hold a valid child-related employment screening clearance; and b. to consider whether in an appropriate case a child's foster parent should be invited to an FCM.	Attorney-General (CAA)	Accepted	Complete
69	Amend the Children's Protection Act 1993: a. to require the child's lawyer to: i. act in accordance with the child's instructions to the extent the child is able and willing to give such instructions ii. supplement those instructions with his or her own view of the child's best interests to the extent the child is not able and willing to give instructions (provided the lawyer's views do not contradict any instructions the child is able and willing to give) iii. indicate the nature of the role to the child, in accordance with the child's developmental capacity iv. indicate to the court on which basis submissions are made; and b. permit the court to appoint a child's representative or, in emergencies, to dispense with the need for a representative. In the latter situation, the court should only make interim orders and then adjourn the proceedings to enable a duly instructed lawyer to represent the child.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
70	Amend the Children's Protection Act 1993 as follows: a. repeal section 38(1)(a) which concerns the making of orders for supervision and undertakings and section 38(2)(a); b. include as an object in the Act the importance of timely decision making to promote stability and maintenance for a child; c. at the time of the commencement of care and protection proceedings the Agency should assess whether there is a realistic possibility of reunification: i. within six months for a child under two years, or ii. within 12 months for a child over two years; and d. if there is a realistic possibility of reunification within the timeframe specified in Recommendation 70(c), the Agency should seek an order placing the child under the guardianship of the Minister for a period of either six or 12 months (depending on the age of the child), and file a permanency plan setting out the proposals for reunification; e. if at the commencement of care and protection proceedings, or at any time thereafter, there does not appear to be any realistic possibility of reunification within the timeframe specified in Recommendation 70(c), the Agency should immediately apply for an order placing the child under the guardianship of the Minister until the age of 18 years and file a permanency plan setting out the proposals for the long-term placement of the child; f. if at any time special circumstances arise (particularly with respect to an older child) which make it necessary to extend the timeframes set out in Recommendation 70(c) hereof the Court shall have the discretion to extend the timeframe for a period no longer than six months. In any such case the onus will be on the parties to demonstrate the need for such extension having regard to the child's best interests and the potential risk to the child's need for stability and permanence; g. amend section 39(a) to delete the requirement to commence a hearing within 10 weeks, but provide that all proceedings be heard and determined expeditiously and that once the hearing commences, without special reasons, it should continue until the conclusion of evidence with the judgement delivered as soon as practicable thereafter.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
71	Encourage lawyers employed by the Legal Services Commission and the Crown Solicitor's Office to undertake child protection training and require lawyers engaged through the Legal Services Commission to represent children in state child protection proceedings to hold a valid child-related employment screening clearance.	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete
72	Ensure that contact arrangements meet the changing needs of children with respect to such matters as venue, transport arrangements and supervision and that contact never occurs when the parent is or is suspected of being affected by drugs and/or alcohol.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
73	Amend the Children's Protection Act 1993 to exclude contact arrangements from orders of the court and require all contact arrangements be referred to the Agency for determination in accordance with the best interests of the child. The permanency plan filed at court should include a provision as to the resolution of contact disputes, including mediation procedures wherever possible.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
74	Establish an independent standing expert Case Review Panel to review the issue of contact when mediation is unsuccessful and it is necessary to resolve any dispute as to contact arrangements.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
75	Review and republish Rapid Response with updated guidance as to the extent of priority access for children in care.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
76	Reinstate the inter-departmental committee overseeing Rapid Response to review its operation, at least biannually.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
77	Ensure that every child or young person in care has an allocated caseworker who has face- to-face contact with them once a month at a minimum.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
78	Assess all children who are currently receiving a differential response for eligibility for Other Person Guardianship.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
79	Assess whether allocation of a primary and secondary worker to deliver guardianship case management would improve the continuity of relationships with children.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
80	Review the policy guidance and all other documents used for annual reviews to ensure compliance with section 52 of the Children's Protection Act 1993, including requiring greater sharing of the information discussed at annual reviews.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
81	Require that all annual reviews be chaired by a suitably qualified person who is independent of the case.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
82	Give concurrent planning greater emphasis in case planning, especially for children during their active attachment period.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
83	Review all placement breakdowns to determine and correct identified system deficits.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
84	Provide therapeutic support to placements that are identified as being at risk or under stress.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
85	Fund initial health assessment clinics at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) and Lyell McEwin Hospital to operate in accordance with the service model employed at FMC. This includes funding clinics at a level that enables a psychosocial component to be offered at every initial health assessment.	Health	Accepted in principle	Complete
86	Invest in the ongoing development of a therapeutic needs assessment panel led by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for children in care whose therapeutic needs are identified in their initial health assessment.	Health	Accepted	Complete
87	Develop an inter-agency panel modelled on the Exceptional Needs Unit's management assessment panel to support case management of those children in care with complex needs who are not appropriately managed by existing services.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
88	Develop a mobile outreach service modelled on Yarrow Place's mobile youth team for children and young people who frequently abscond from placement, and who are at risk because of factors other than sexual exploitation.	Health	Accepted in principle	Complete
89	Improve the profile of Strategies for Managing Abuse Related Trauma (SMART) training for educational staff, requiring that to be part of professional development where appropriate.	Education	Accepted	Complete
90	Review and promote Education's policies regarding school suspension, exclusion and expulsion to ensure that they are used as strategies of last resort for children in care.	Education	Accepted	Complete
91	Regularly conduct an audit of children in care who are on reduced hours of attendance at school and ensure they have plans to re-engage them in mainstream education.	Education	Accepted	Complete
92	Require Education to fund any in-school support needed by children in care.	Education	Accepted	Complete
93	Recruit and train a panel of school services officers to support children with trauma-related behavioural challenges.	Education	Accepted	Complete
94	Amend the practice guidelines regarding written directives to comply with the provisions of the Children's Protection Act 1993 and provide training to child protection workers to ensure that they understand them.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
95	Amend section 51 of the Children's Protection Act 1993 to include a requirement that in all decisions affecting the child that are made in accordance with an order for guardianship, the child must be included in the decision making to the extent that they are capable and willing, and that the views of the child are given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
96	Require the Agency to report quarterly to the Minister and to the Guardian for Children and Young People, and make public a report as to the following matters: a. compliance with the Standards of Alternative Care in South Australia 2.1, 2.2 and 2.6; b. the proportion of children entering care whose health needs are assessed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant health standards; and c. the number and proportion of children and young people who have been reviewed in accordance with section 52 of the Children's Protection Act 1993 at the time the review falls due.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
97	Amend the Family and Community Services Act 1972 to include relative carers within the regulatory provisions of Part 4, Subdivision 3 and section 80. The definition of relative carers should include the categories of relatives who are currently excluded from the definition of foster parent in section 4 (step-parent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather or grandmother), who care for children in the custody of, or under the guardianship of, the Minister.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
98	Amend the Family and Community Services Act 1972 to provide approved carers with a right to information for the purposes of caring for children in the same terms as in sections 143–145 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW).	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
99	Amend the Family and Community Services Act 1972 to provide for approved carers to be involved in decision making concerning a child in their care, in the same terms as in section 146 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW).	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
100	Amend the Family and Community Services Act 1972 to provide a specific right to approved carers to contribute to a child's annual review pursuant to section 52 of the Children's Protection Act 1993.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
101	Amend section 80 of the Family and Community Services Act 1972 to repeal the current requirement that foster parents care for a child for three years or more before delegations of powers can be made, and instead prescribe a minimum period of 12 months.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
102	Outsource assessment and support of kinship carers to appropriately qualified non-government organisations in accordance with the service models which currently apply to foster care.	Child Protection	Not Accepted	Not Accepted
103	Develop or purchase a comprehensive kinship assessment tool for assessing the safety and appropriateness of kinship placements.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
104	Invest resources in the Department's Carer Assessment and Registration Unit to expand services to include consideration of applications for registration by kinship carers. These registrations would be in accordance with an appropriate assessment tool, and would authorise the carer to provide care to a specific child or children only.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
105	Establish a Families SA Carer Assessment and Registration Unit service benchmark for assessment and registration decisions of 14 days where the assessment is Complete and further information is not required from the assessing agency.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
106	Develop a process for carers seeking approval (foster parents and kinship carers) to provide preliminary information about themselves and other adults who frequent their home to enable comprehensive C3MS checks to be done before a full Step by Step or other appropriate assessment is Complete.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
107	Include in the service agreement with all registered agencies the requirement that Families SA Carer Assessment and Registration Unit be notified of any person who begins an assessment process for carer registration (by Step by Step or another appropriate process) who is screened out, or, for whatever reason, subsequently withdraws from the assessment.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
108	Develop an approved panel of practitioners authorised to provide priority assessments of specific child only carers on behalf of registered agencies.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
109	Create a project team to address the backlog in assessments of kinship carers and comprehensively review carers whose assessment is limited to an iREG assessment where the child has been living in the placement for more than three months.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
110	Cease reliance on medical self-assessment forms and response priority assessments for kinship carers.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
111	Enter an administrative arrangement with the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion to provide priority screening clearances for carers where a child has been placed pursuant to an iREG process.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
112	Review initial orientation training for carers seeking approval to include training on recognising and managing trauma related behaviours, together with information as to availability of, and access to, therapeutic assistance if required.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
113	Include Agency staff, children in care and existing foster parents and kinship carers in the delivery of preliminary information and training for new and prospective approved carers.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
114	Develop a practice guide identifying the circumstances in which delegations pursuant to the amended section 80 of the Family and Community Services Act 1972 should be made.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
115	Develop a written document which sets out the role and duties of the supporter of carers (SOC), including their role if care concerns arise, and to whom various duties are owed. This document should be freely available to home-based carers.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
116	Fund Connecting Foster Carers, or an appropriate alternative agency, to deliver an advocacy service with paid staff to support carers to access and exercise their rights.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
117	Fund the advocacy service to develop education material which clearly describes foster parents rights to contribute to decision making, and their rights of review regarding decisions which affect them.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
118	Create an expert panel within the Agency to consider the removal of children from long-term home-based placements.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
119	Review reimbursement rates to bring general foster rates with loadings for children with complex needs closer to rates payable to therapeutic carers.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
120	Develop a specific package of training for general foster parents which can lead to payment of additional skills based loadings.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
121	Support carers who are registered to general agencies to transfer to therapeutic agencies where the needs of children in their care require it.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
122	Conduct a review of contractual conditions and payments to registered agencies to promote greater consistency of payments to agencies which support foster parents.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
123	Update the Alternative Care Support Payments: Manual of Practice and make it available to all approved foster parents and kinship or relative carers.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
124	Monitor developments in professional models of foster care in other states with a view to adopting or adapting a proven model.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
125	Engage and support the Child and Family Welfare Association to develop more coordinated provision of training to carers.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
126	Engage and support CAFWA to improve the coordination of respite provision to carers.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
127	Develop a centralised system for receiving and resolving complaints from carers, including informal mediation or escalation to executive staff where appropriate. Timely written responses should be made to complaints.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
128	Phase out the use of commercial carers in any rotational care arrangements except in genuine short-term emergencies.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
129	Review service agreements with commercial agencies who supply emergency care staff to: a. require the commercial agency to develop job and person specification and selection criteria which must be approved by Families SA; b. prohibit workers from undertaking shifts through more than one commercial care agency at a time when engaged by Families SA to look after children in care. This includes a prohibition on undertaking shifts for a commercial care agency at the same time as undertaking shifts for Families SA; c. require commercial care workers to be registered and approved by Families SA before their employment begins; and d. require commercial agencies to report any information that reflects on the suitability of a care worker, to initiate tracking via the system outlined at Recommendation 142.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
130	Provide Families SA staff who work with commercial carers with access to relevant portions of service agreements to clarify work expectations and specific conditions of engagement.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
131	Provide the residential care directorate with sole responsibility for engaging, supervising and supporting emergency care placements.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
132	Forthwith abandon single-handed shifts by commercial carers engaged through commercial agencies.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
133	Reform the manner in which the use of force against children in residential care facilities is recorded and tracked by: a. amending regulation 14 of the Family and Community Services Regulations to require any worker who participates in or witnesses an incident involving or leading to the use of force against a child to verify the accuracy of the written report of the incident or, in the alternative, where the accuracy of the written report is not verified, provide an independent written account with respect to the incident; b. amending the pro forma of the report to clarify the requirements of regulation 14(3); c. requiring supervisors to reject any report that does not comply with regulation 14(3) in the absence of any adequate explanation for non-compliance. If a non-compliant report is accepted, the supervisor should specify the reason for acceptance in the absence of compliance; and d. regularly audit reports to ensure compliance with the regulations.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
134	Amend section 56 of the Family and Community Services Act 1972 to extend the operation of the section to children in all facilities (including emergency care) established by the Minister, and develop a specific and identifiable pathway to enable a child to make a complaint to the Chief Executive pursuant to that section.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
135	Require the Chief Executive to provide a quarterly report to the Guardian for Children and Young People (GCYP) and the Minister with respect to the number of complaints received, and any recurring themes which emerge from those reports.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
136	Request GCYP to develop an education program for children in facilities run by the Agency or non-government organisations (emergency and residential) to explain and promote their rights pursuant to regulation 14(3) of the Family and Community Services Regulations 2009 and section 56 of the Family and Community Services Act 1972.	GCYP	Accepted	Complete
137	Legislate for the development of a community visitors' scheme for children in all residential and emergency care facilities.	GCYP	Accepted	Complete
138	Recruit child and youth support workers in accordance with the 2016 recruitment model, including a requirement that all applicants for those positions undergo individual psychological assessment.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
139	Require all new child and youth support workers to Complete a minimum six-month probationary period, to be followed by a rigorous performance review before approval for further employment.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
140	Require all child and youth support workers to Complete ongoing professional development and training, particularly in the following areas: a. the dynamics of abuse in institutional environments; b. understanding children who are at risk from institutional environments; c. the way in which children react and respond to abuse; d. how to respond to children whose behaviour or statements may indicate the possibility of abuse; and e. the early years child development, and caring for infants and young children (for selected workers).	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
141	Review and clarify policies that guide the behaviour of workers, particularly in relation to: a. physical contact with children (to provide clear and unambiguous guidance); b. recording observations in observation logs; and c. reporting lines for information about the wellbeing of children.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
142	Develop a clear process for workers in the residential care directorate which: a. obliges workers to report any concerning behaviours from other workers, including those behaviours that do not necessarily meet the requirements for a mandatory report; b. obliges workers to report concerning behaviours from children in the absence of action by case management staff; and c. clarifies the availability of reporting pathways external to workers' immediate line of supervision.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
143	Create a specific unit and database to receive and track information about the conduct of staff from: a. care concerns; b. critical incident reports; c. information from other staff; and d. complaints made by children.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
	This process should apply to staff employed by the directorate and those engaged through commercial agencies. Staff should be permitted to provide information directly to that unit.			
144	Review the conduct of the specific staff identified in Volume 2, Case Study 5: Shannon McCoole and consider their ongoing suitability for employment in their role.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
145	Develop a streamed model of residential care with the following elements: a. short-term assessment; b. long-term care for children who are not suitable for home-based care; c. care for children with high therapeutic needs; and d. built-in measures of outcomes that can be used to evaluate performance of the model on a regular basis.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
146	Identify and adopt a model of therapeutic care which is sufficiently flexible to be applied across all categories of residential care, and which promotes a consistency of approach and standard of care for all children.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
147	Replace operational services (OPS) 5 supervisors in residential care with allied health professional (AHP) or professional officer (PO) degree qualified staff, and recast the job and person specification to focus on the provision of staff with high level expert knowledge.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
148	Ensure that all youth workers in residential care have regular supervision as a means to promote their professional development and, where necessary, manage deficits in their performance.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
149	Apply the following standards across residential care: a. no child under 10 years to be housed in a residential care facility except where necessary to keep a sibling group together; and b. no child to be housed in a facility with more than four children, except where necessary to keep a sibling group together.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
150	Recruit a sufficient complement of staff to: a. cease using commercial carers in residential care facilities; b. develop a casual list to provide staff who are available on a flexible basis; and c. abandon single-handed shifts.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
151	Abandon any plan to outsource any residential or emergency care service that is currently delivered by the Agency.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
152	Develop a secure therapeutic care model, supported by legislation, to permit children to be detained in a secure therapeutic care facility but with an order of the Supreme Court required before a child is so detained. The model should include regular evaluation of outcomes for children.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
153	Amend the Children's Protection Act 1993 to enable carers to apply to be appointed an Other Person guardian where children who are subject to long term orders have been in their care for a minimum period of two years, or such lesser period as the court in its absolute discretion determines is appropriate in the circumstances.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
154	Amend the Children's Protection Act 1993 to provide that biological parents who oppose an application for the appointment of an Other Person Guardian bear the onus of proving to the court on the balance of probabilities why the order should not be made.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
155	Establish an independent assessment panel to consider applications for Other Person Guardianship, in accordance with the following procedures: a. the application to be made by a foster parent in person or by a caseworker or foster care support worker on behalf of the carer; b. an initial review be carried out by the Assessment Panel to determine the utility of referring the application for a full assessment; c. the application to be referred to the caseworker or such other appropriate person as is available to carry out the assessment and prepare the case plan in a timely manner; d. when the assessment has been Complete and case plan prepared, the application to be referred back to the Assessment Panel for final determination; e. all decisions of the Assessment Panel are to be final.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
156	Promote the use of section 80 of the Family and Community Services Act 1972 for the delegation of decision making to support potential applications for Other Person Guardianship.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
157	Consider the question of adoption where that is in the best interests of the child and an Other Person Guardianship order would not be appropriate.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
158	Amend the Children's Protection Act 1993 to require the Minister to provide or arrange assistance to care leavers aged between 18 and 25 years. Assistance should specifically include the provision of information about services and resources; financial and other support to obtain housing, education, training and employment; and access to legal advice and health care.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
159	Expand financial counselling services to manage access to post-care financial support from the Agency provided in accordance with Recommendation 158.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
160	Amend the Children's Protection Act 1993 to permit care leavers to access, free of charge, original and copy documents that relate to them from the Agency, approved carers, and any non- government agencies contracted to provide care to them.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
161	Continue to make modified payments to foster and kinship carers where the care leaver is engaged in tertiary education, apprenticeship, or any post-high school training, and where their best interests would be served by remaining in foster or kinship care until the qualification is Complete.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
162	Review the Rapid Response policy to identify opportunities to expand priority services to care leavers up to the age of 25.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
163	Prepare a new service model and work instruction for leaving care that incorporates the relevant elements of the National Approach, including specific reference to supporting care leavers who want to access further education and training.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
164	Redeploy transition-from-care caseworkers to provide an add-on service for young people planning their move to independence.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
165	Reach an administrative arrangement with the CREATE Foundation to provide it with the names and contact details of children entering care and/or their carers (as appropriate).	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
166	Fund the development of a smartphone application that provides young people with up-to-date information about services and entitlements when leaving care.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
167	Review contractual conditions governing service specifications for non-government independent living programs to develop greater flexibility in the age of admission and the age of discharge from programs.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
168	Fund Housing SA to develop innovative housing models, particularly those that use supported share housing where appropriate for care leavers.	SA Housing Authority	Accepted in principle	Implementing
169	Fund a pilot program of intensive case management assistance for vulnerable care leavers, to be delivered by an agency with established relationships with vulnerable children in care.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
170	Conduct a review of the needs of the population currently accessing Relationships Australia's services to identify the specific needs of service users.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
171	Make a significant injection of funds into post-care services currently provided by Relationships Australia, to enable these to be delivered more flexibly and more assertively.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
172	Provide specialist training and documented guidance to staff within the Agency, as well as home-based carers and carers engaged through commercial agencies, as to their roles and responsibilities with respect to identifying and reporting conduct that may amount to a care concern, and the processes that follow such a report.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
173	Consider developing technology to provide children in care with a user-friendly mechanism to engage with caseworkers in the care team and other responsible adults about their experiences and concerns.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
174	Review and implement the Structured Decision Making® care concern screening criteria tool for use by Call Centre practitioners.	Child Protection	Not Accepted	Not Accepted
175	Establish a panel in the Agency to determine the appropriate response pathway with respect to a care concern that is not diverted by the Call Centre to the field, but noting that all allegations that raise a suspicion of sexual abuse (except those which are historical in nature or have otherwise been addressed) must be investigated by the investigations unit.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
176	Establish in the Agency an investigations unit independent of the operations of the Agency to investigate matters referred to it by the panel, and staff that unit with a multidisciplinary team of investigators with expertise in child protection and law enforcement, and provide training and guidelines as to the scope of their roles.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
177	Ensure that all care concern notifications are investigated in a timely manner: a. investigations should commence within 48 hours of the receipt of a notification; and b. in the absence of ongoing criminal proceedings or special reasons, investigations should be Complete within six weeks from receipt of the notification.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
178	Require a strategy meeting to be held at the start of all investigations undertaken by the investigations unit.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
179	Define the standards against which deficiencies in the care provided to a child in care should be assessed.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
180	Clarify the powers available to investigators, including putting in place appropriate delegations and authorities pursuant to sections 45 and 47 of the Family and Community Services Act 1972 and section 19 of the Children's Protection Act 1993.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
181	Ensure that staff are available in the investigations unit who are trained in forensic interviewing of children when this service is required.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
182	Amend section 104 of the Summary Procedure Act 1921 to permit the filing in committal proceedings of a transcript of a recorded interview with a child under the age of 14 years that has been verified by a person in attendance at the interview, other than an investigating officer as defined in the Act.	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete
183	Require investigators to record an outcome as 'undetermined' in any case in which there is insufficient evidence to make a definitive finding.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
184	Establish a response unit within the directorate responsible for quality and practice to: a. provide advice to front-line staff about care concerns; b. provide a report to the Chief Executive of the Agency outlining responses and intended actions to issues identified in an investigation report. This should be provided within four weeks of the response unit receiving the investigation report; c. undertake a monitoring role in respect of all care concern notifications; d. analyse trends in care concern data to proactively address systems issues and inform the management of staff and carers; and e. make recommendations to the Chief Executive of the Agency as to proposed improvements in response to identified systems issues.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
185	Establish a liaison function between the response unit and SAPOL, particularly with respect to identification of aspects of a care concern investigation that may be commenced by the Agency while criminal proceedings are pending.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
186	Require the Agency to provide quarterly data to the Minister and the Guardian for Children and Young People about care concerns, including: a. the number of care concern notifications received and their response pathway; b. how many care concern investigations have been Complete; c. whether investigation timeframes have been met and the reasons for timeframes not being met;	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
	d. the outcomes of investigations; and e. how identified systems issues are being addressed.			
187	Develop an Aboriginal recruitment and retention strategy in the Agency as part of a broader workforce strategy.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
188	Review procedures to streamline the sources of internal cultural advice to the Agency.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
189	Review practice guidance, funding arrangements and the range of declared agencies to ensure that a recognised Aboriginal agency is consulted on all placement decisions involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Children's Protection Act 1993.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
190	Establish a dedicated family scoping unit.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
191	Provide all practitioners in the child protection system with training, support and clinical supervision to give them the knowledge, skills and techniques to work effectively with Aboriginal children and families, including, where appropriate, the specific skills required to work effectively in remote Aboriginal communities.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
192	Use the proposed Early Intervention Research Directorate to identify evidence-based service models for early intervention that meet the needs of Aboriginal children and families.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
193	Outsource the services currently provided by Kanggarendi to an appropriately qualified and experienced non-government organisation.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
194	Commission not-for-profit agencies to develop service models that can respond to higher risk Aboriginal families with multiple, complex needs.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
195	Ensure that Local Assessments of Needs (LANs) specifically consider the needs of Aboriginal children and families and consult with local Aboriginal people and service providers.	Human Services	Accepted in principle	Complete
196	Place local Aboriginal support services within child and family assessment and referral networks to promote service coordination and act as a visible point of entry.	Human Services	Accepted in principle	Complete
197	Adopt a culturally appropriate assessment tool, such as Winangay, for the assessment of foster parents and kinship carers in the Aboriginal community, initially in remote communities, and more widely if the tool proves promising.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
198	Require the Agency to report to the Minister and the Guardian for Children and Young People quarterly on service criteria 3.1.4.1, 3.1.4.4 and 3.1.4.6, which form part of standard 3.1.4 of the Standards of Alternative Care in South Australia.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Implementing
199	Consult with each remote Aboriginal community about the implementation of the recommendations following this report, as part of ongoing engagement with communities about the strategic direction of services to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of their children.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
200	Offer stable employment arrangements with competitive, ongoing retention allowances to attract and recruit six permanent Lands-based workers to support the Agency's fly-in fly-out teams.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
201	Actively pursue joint training opportunities for agencies in remote communities and require operational managers from agencies to meet regularly to identify areas for collaboration and to resolve issues of concern.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
202	Ensure that at least one principal Aboriginal consultant has experience and expertise in remote Aboriginal communities, including in the APY Lands.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
203	Identify opportunities to develop strength in the interpreter service available in remote communities, and ensure that the Agency's practitioners use interpreters where possible. Consider the viability of interpreters accompanying the Agency's fly-in fly-out teams.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
204	Ensure that the Agency's practitioners monitor children cared for in accordance with Family Care Meeting agreements to ensure the safety of the child.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
205	Commission not-for-profit agencies to provide alternative care in areas close to the APY Lands, such as Alice Springs and Coober Pedy. Alternative care could include a mixture of foster care and residential care.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
206	Require that full carer assessments be Complete in a timely manner in remote communities.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
207	Ensure that approved carers in remote communities receive the same level of support as carers elsewhere in the state, recognising the particular challenges faced by carers in these remote areas.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
208	Ensure that the unit tasked with investigating care concerns offers a service in remote communities equivalent to that provided elsewhere in the state.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
209	Provide secure, long-term funding for playgroups in remote Aboriginal communities, administered by a single agency.	Education	Accepted	Implementing
210	Establish an integrated administration information communication technology (ICT) system to allow access to a Complete range of student data to children who move schools in remote Aboriginal communities.	Education	Accepted	Complete
211	Provide additional funding to meet demand for the Walytjapiti program, and ensure that the Agency keeps case files open for participants until satisfied about the child's ongoing wellbeing over a sustained period.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
212	Commission an early intervention service for families in remote communities for whom the Agency has lower level concerns and who could benefit from support to prevent escalation of issues.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
213	Conduct an audit of services in remote Aboriginal communities to ensure access to adequate facilities to serve as a service hub for playgroups, preschools and other services that visit the community.	Education	Accepted	Complete
214	Reform funding and structural arrangements to enable a single agency to oversee the service hub facilities across all communities. This agency should regularly map, in collaboration with the local community, the needs of children and families through an annual Local Assessment of Needs.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
215	Establish a working group to promote collaborative practice between South Australian, Western Australian and Northern Territory agencies involved in the child protection system in the tri-border region, including working towards a cross-border legislative scheme for child protection across the three jurisdictions.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
216	Review child protection service provision in Ceduna, Yalata and Oak Valley, including the viability of introducing a fly-in fly-out service.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
217	Develop strategies to improve out-of-home care options in regional areas including: a. focusing attention on the recruitment of foster parents, particularly in areas of need; and b. identifying areas where there is a demand for residential care placements and develop facilities in those areas.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
218	Require the Agency to develop a dedicated psychological service to deliver therapeutic services to children in care in regional areas.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
219	Collaborate with the Courts Administration Authority to improve access to justice for children in need of care in regional areas, including providing appropriate technology with respect to hearings in remote locations.	CAA	Accepted	Complete
220	Prepare an annual Local Assessment of Needs for each regional area.	Human Services	Accepted in principle	Complete
221	Ensure that the Agency's practitioners in regional areas have access to ongoing professional development, through locally delivered training and videoconferencing.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
222	Require the Agency to develop attraction and retention strategies specific to building workforce sustainability in regional areas, including the use of financial incentives for staff.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
223	Ensure that every child in care, or who enters care, and who is potentially eligible, applies to participate in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). For children already in care, this must occur by 31 March 2017.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
224	Develop the function in C3MS to require caseworkers to input information when a child enters care, and for those children already in care, as to their potential eligibility for NDIS. This data should be extractable for analysis.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
225	Determine and fund demand for specialist disability foster care placements in accordance with the available data about children in care who are eligible for NDIS.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
226	Employ specialist disability workers to consult across the Agency in matters involving children with disabilities.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
227	Train Agency caseworkers to recognise and respond to the needs of children with disabilities, particularly in accessing and maximising support services offered by NDIS.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
228	Ensure Agency caseworkers, when participating in NDIS planning, prioritise the use of the Alternative Care Therapeutic Team program when appropriate to meet the therapeutic needs of a child in care.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
229	Develop clear guidelines on the role of home- based carers in planning and decision making in NDIS for children in their care.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
230	Require child and family assessment and referral network members to provide support for families who are caring for children with disabilities, to enable them to engage with NDIS.	Human Services	Accepted in principle	Complete
231	Require that the cultural background of children coming into contact with the child protection system be recorded on C3MS, including in the Life Domains area, for all children in care who have a culturally and linguistically diverse background.	Child Protection	Accepted in principle	Complete
232	Analyse data collected regarding the cultural background of children coming into contact with the child protection system to determine how to best respond to children at risk in culturally and linguistically diverse communities.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
233	Undertake a qualitative review of the capacity of the Agency's Multicultural Community Engagement Team (MCET).	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
234	Evaluate the effectiveness of specialist MCET staff working together with front-line practitioners on child protection cases and assess the value of collocating MCET staff in the Agency's offices.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
235	Assist staff and carers who work with children in care who have a culturally and linguistically diverse background to achieve culturally informed best practice through the development of practice guides.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
236	Ensure that every child in care with a culturally and linguistically diverse background has a comprehensive cultural maintenance plan that is regularly reviewed, having regard to the child's age and placement circumstances.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
237	Identify key performance indicators on the cultural competency of the Agency's workforce, and regularly review the effect of these recommendations on that competency.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
238	Enact a stand-alone legislative instrument to regulate the screening of individuals engaged in child-related work which: a. declares that the paramount consideration in screening assessment must be the best interests of children, having regard to their safety and protection; b. invests powers in only one authorised government screening unit which is charged with maintaining a public register of all clearances and their expiration dates; c. empowers the screening authority to take into account in its assessments criminal offence and child protection history, professional misconduct or disciplinary proceedings, and deregistration as a foster parent or other type of carer under the Family and Community Services Act 1972; d. provides a clear definition of child-related work, including the meaning of incidental or usual contact; e. declares that the outcome of a screening assessment will be limited to either a clearance or a refusal and that all applications, even if withdrawn, will be assessed; f. requires individuals to seek and maintain a personal clearance, valid for a period of up to five years, through a card or unique electronic identifier system, which has portability across roles and organisations in the state;	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
	and to notify the screening authority of relevant changes in their offence, conduct or child protection circumstances; g. requires employers to ensure that all relevant personnel in their organisations, at all times, hold current clearances; h. precludes exemptions from screening requirements for— i. registered teachers ii. applicants waiting on screening outcome decisions iii. those working or volunteering with children who are in care iv. those who have been refused a WWCC; i. details offences for individuals and organisations who fail to comply with the provisions of the legislation, including engagement in or for child-related work without a clearance, and dishonesty in the application process; and v. permits appeals from decisions of the screening authority to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal or other independent body.			
239	Establish a real-time monitoring system which ensures that changes in screened individuals' circumstances are communicated to the screening authority, that clearances are reviewed, and that changes are reflected in the register, and communicated to employers.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
240	Charge the screening authority with: a. ensuring that it has access to forensic expertise in child protection and behavioural indicators of risk; b. developing a consolidated set of standards, matrices, and weighting guidelines for use in screening assessments, that include substantiated and unsubstantiated criminal, child protection and disciplinary matters, and ensuring that assessors are appropriately trained in their application; c. developing guidelines for ensuring that applicants are afforded appropriate procedural fairness, including circumstances in which information may be withheld from applicants; d. developing and promulgating timeline benchmarks for screening outcomes, and procedures for informing applicants whose clearances may fall outside benchmarked times; e. developing information sharing protocols with interstate screening units.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
241	Develop an independent mechanism and evaluation process for reviewing the performance of the screening authority.	Human Services	Accepted	Complete
242	Amend the Children's Protection Act 1993: a. to permit and, in appropriate cases, require the sharing of information between prescribed government and non-government agencies that have responsibilities for the health, safety or wellbeing of children where it would promote those issues; and b. to require prescribed government and non- government agencies to take reasonable steps to coordinate decision making and the delivery of services for children.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
243	Require senior leaders from government and non-government agencies that have responsibilities for the health, safety and wellbeing of children to meet at least quarterly to identify strategic measures to promote inter- agency collaboration and information sharing.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
244	Review procedures and employment arrangements so that chief executives of government agencies with responsibilities for the health, safety and wellbeing of children have a provision included in their performance agreements that obliges them to ensure inter-agency collaboration in child protection matters, and measure that performance.	OPS	Accepted	Complete
245	Establish the statutory office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People and provide the Commissioner with the functions and powers referred to in this report.	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete
246	Consolidate the legislation for the Children's Commissioner, the Guardian for Children and Young People (GCYP), the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee (CDSIRC) and the Child Development Council in a single Act of Parliament.	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete
247	Empower GCYP and CDSIRC to refer matters to the Children's Commissioner, where they are of the view that escalation through processes available to the Children's Commissioner is appropriate.	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete
248	Empower the Children's Commissioner to exercise its statutory powers and functions in relation to such matters, including employing the regime to monitor government responses to recommendations, and escalate the matter to the Minister and Parliament where necessary, at his or her sole discretion.	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete
249	Collocate the Children's Commissioner, GCYP, CDSIRC and the Child Development Committee, and make arrangements for the sharing of some administrative functions.	Children's Commissioner	Accepted	Complete
250	Amend legislation to permit, but not require, GCYP, CDSIRC and the Children's Commissioner to share de-identified data.	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete
251	Amend legislation to empower the Children's Commissioner or GCYP to make complaints to the Ombudsman and HCSCC on behalf of a child.	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete
252	Amend the Ombudsman Act 1972 (SA) to ensure that complaints about the actions of government agencies, and other agencies acting under contract to the government, concerning child protection services, find principal jurisdiction with the Ombudsman, and not the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner, where the complaint is about an administrative act.	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete
253	Amend the Ombudsman Act 1972 to permit the Ombudsman to exercise the jurisdiction of Health Care and Community Services Complaints Commissioner (HCSCC) in appropriate cases.	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete
254	Develop an administrative arrangement between the Ombudsman and HCSCC to determine matters in which the Ombudsman would exercise dual jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, child protection complaints.	Ombudsman	Accepted	Complete
255	Develop the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office to respond specifically to child protection complaints.	Ombudsman	Accepted	Complete
256	Develop a package of information regarding making complaints about child protection matters, including information and complaint forms which are suitable for children and young people.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
257	Establish an across-government steering committee to monitor and oversee the implementation of recommendations. Membership of the committee should include representation by senior executives from	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete

No.	Recommendation	Lead Agency	Status	Progress
	relevant government agencies and include at least one independent member external to the South Australian Government. The Committee should report directly to the Minister for Child Protection Reform as Chair of the Child Protection Reform Cabinet Committee.			
258	Establish a response and implementation team consisting of staff with expertise in child protection, policy, data analysis, stakeholder engagement and legislative development.	Attorney-General	Accepted	Complete
259	Ensure the implementation of recommendations within the newly formed child protection department is adequately managed with high- level change agents and appropriately qualified and skilled child protection staff.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete
260	Respond to the recommendations in this report as follows: a. on or before 31 December 2016, provide a report setting out— i. the recommendations of the Commission that have been implemented either partly or in full ii. the recommendations of the Commission that have been accepted, but have not yet been fully implemented, the manner in which they will be fully implemented and the intended timeframe for that implementation iii. the recommendations of the Commission that will not be implemented and the reason for not implementing them; Respond to the recommendations in this report as follows: b. on or before 30 June 2017, provide a further report as to— i. the recommendations that have been wholly or partly implemented and the manner in which they have been implemented ii. if a decision has been made not to implement a recommendation that was to be implemented, the reason for not implementing that recommendation iii. if a decision has been made to implement a recommendation that previously was not to be implemented, the reasons for that decision and the manner in which the recommendation will be implemented; c. for a period of not less than five years after the provision of the report referred to in paragraph 4(b) hereof, provide an annual report setting out— i. the recommendations that have been wholly or partly implemented in the relevant year and the manner in which they have been implemented ii. if, during the relevant year, a decision has been made not to implement a recommendation that previously was to be implemented, the reason for not implementing that recommendation iii. if, during the relevant year, a decision has been made to implement a recommendation that previously was not to be implemented, the reasons for the decision and the manner in which the recommendation will be implemented; d. make reports publicly accessible, including being published online.	Child Protection	Accepted	Complete