

# Protecting Children is Everyone's Business

*National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020*

## The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children



## Family Focused Policy

- National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women
- Family Support Program
- National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

## The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

### In summary:

- Key election commitment
- Unprecedented level of cooperation and commitment
- The Council of Australian Governments endorsed the national framework on 30 April 2009

## Why Develop a National Framework?

### Child protection systems in crisis

- The most recent national figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare indicate that in 2007/08 there were:
  - 317,526 notifications of suspected child abuse and neglect
  - 55,120 substantiated cases
  - Indigenous children are more than six times more likely to be substantiated than non-Indigenous children
  - Numbers of children in out of home care have more than doubled over the last ten years to 31,166

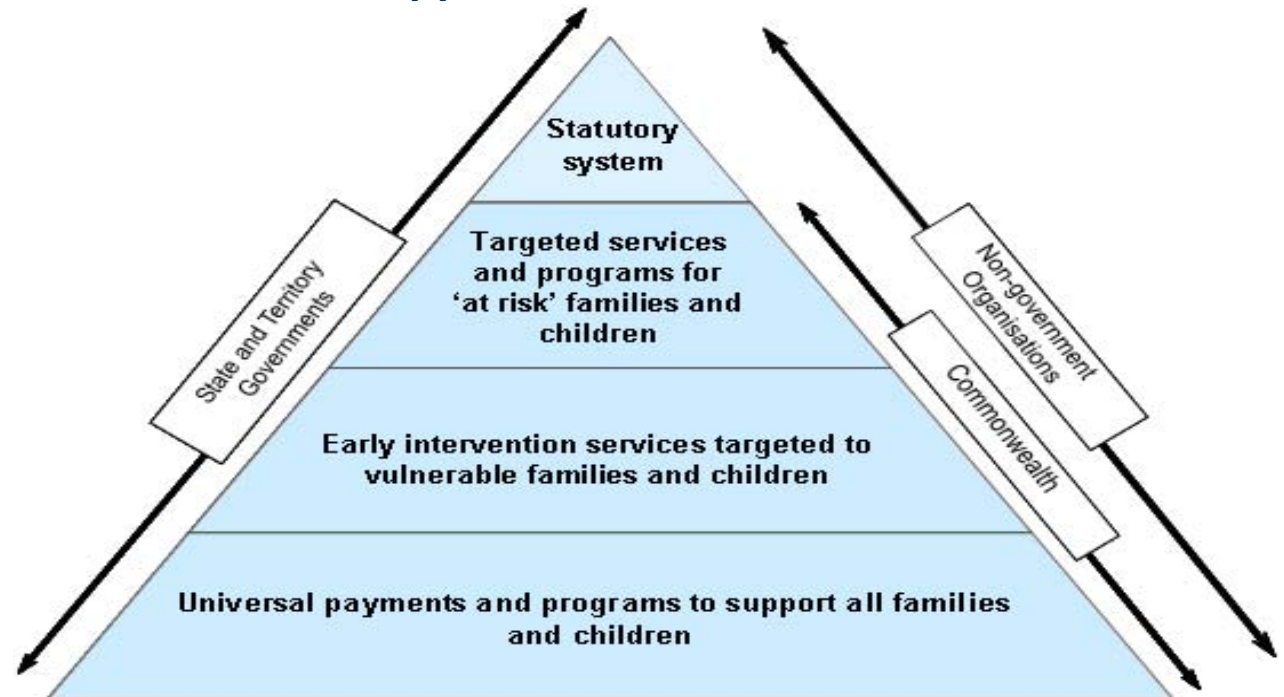
# Protecting Children is Everyone's Business

*National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020*

## Understanding the Approach

### *Early Intervention and Prevention Approach*

- Public health model to care and protection



## Working Together

### *A national approach*

- Builds on significant investment by governments and non-government sector on family support services and child protection
- Acknowledges protection of children is a responsibility across government portfolios
- Australian Government will play a leadership role
- States and Territories retain their responsibility for statutory child protection
- Australian Government continues to deliver universal support and services to families
- Designed to achieve long term change for Australia's children

## Unpacking the Framework

### National Leadership projects

- National Standards for Out-of-Home Care
- Information sharing
- Data
- Workforce development
- National Research Agenda



## Unpacking the Framework

### Six supporting outcomes

- Children live in safe and supportive families and communities
- Children and families access adequate support to promote safety and intervene early
- Risk factors for child abuse and neglect are addressed
- Children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and wellbeing
- Indigenous children are supported and safe in their families and communities
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation is prevented and survivors receive adequate support

## Unpacking the Framework

***Supporting Outcome 4: Children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and wellbeing***

### Strategies:

- Enhance access to appropriate support services for recovery where abuse or neglect has occurred
- Support grandparent, foster and kinship carers to provide safe and stable care
- Improve support for young people leaving care
- Support enhanced national consistency and continuous improvement in child protection services

## National Standards in Out-of-Home Care

- Under the National Framework all jurisdictions have agreed to develop and implement national standards in out-of-home care
- Standards will be developed over the coming year, with close involvement of all governments and non-government organisations
- Standards will be based on best practice approaches

## Research – Australian Research Council Linkage Projects

- 'Grandparents as primary carers of their grandchildren: a national, state and territory analysis of grandparent-headed families – policy and practice implications'
- 'A national comparative analysis of child, family and service factors contributing to successful and unsuccessful reunification outcomes in out of home care'

## Next Steps

### *Availability of documents*

- Available on the COAG, FaHCSIA and State and Territory government websites:
  - National Framework
  - Series of Fact sheets
- For copies of the National Framework or questions can be directed to [child.protection@fahcsia.gov.au](mailto:child.protection@fahcsia.gov.au)