



A PLAN TO KEEP Australian kids safe and well

The National Framework

All children in Australia are important. We need to work together to make sure that each child is safe, gets the best possible start in life, and has opportunities to grow into a happy, healthy adult.

In 2009, the Commonwealth Government, state and territory governments and the community sector all agreed to a national guide to make sure children and young people stay safe and well. It's called the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children*. Every three years an action plan is developed under the Framework. These plans set out important actions that everyone has agreed to take over the next three years.

The Third Action Plan

The Third Action Plan started in 2015. To create the Third Action Plan, we spoke with families, children and young people as well as organisations that help and protect kids. They told us we need to:

1

Help parents look after their babies and little children

- ☆ We are going to share information with parents about how important it is to look after babies and little children. We are also going to encourage all parents to ask for help when they need it. There is lots of help available for mums and dads to help them better care for their children.
- ☆ We will help to make sure new and pregnant mums and their partners can get help, especially parents who might have trouble with drugs, alcohol, mental health issues and family violence.
- ☆ We will work together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities to improve child health and safety.



2

Help young people in out-of-home care as they become independent adults

- ☆ We will look for better ways to help young people stay healthy, get an education, find somewhere safe to live, and find and keep a job.
- ☆ We will make sure the Transition to Independent Living Allowance, a government payment provided to help young people in out-of-home care to live on their own, goes to young people who need it.
- ☆ We will provide support for young people who are 18 years and over to get help when they leave out-of-home care.

3

Help organisations to look out for children and young people and know how to protect them

- ☆ We will help organisations understand the importance of child safety.
- ☆ We will give organisations help and good ideas about how to keep children and young people safe.

What can you do now?

If you have any questions about the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children* or the Third Action Plan go to www.dss.gov.au/protectingaustraliaschildren or send us an email at thirdactionplan@dss.gov.au

Hearing from children

We want to hear more about what matters to children and young people, to help keep them safe and well.

Over the next three years, we will keep talking with children and young people, as well as people who work with children and young people, about how to improve their safety and wellbeing.



We will check how the Third Action Plan helps make a difference in the lives of children and young people. We will keep learning about new ways to make sure children and young people are safe. We will also look at what else needs to be done for Australian children and young people to grow up to be the best they can be.

The Third Action Plan 2015–18 has been developed by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments and organisations that work to protect children.