

Safe & Supported: Outcomes Framework

VISION

Children and young people in Australia reach their full potential by growing up safe and supported, free from harm and neglect.

Safe and Supported is for all Australian children, young people and families (including parents and carers), with a targeted focus on groups that are experiencing disadvantage or vulnerability.

GOAL

To make significant and sustained progress in reducing the rates of child abuse and neglect, and its intergenerational impacts.

Safe and Supported is for all Australian children, young people and families (including parents and carers), with a targeted focus on groups that are experiencing disadvantage or vulnerability.

FOCUS AREA

10-YEAR OUTCOMES

SUB-OUTCOMES

1. A national approach to early intervention and targeted support for children and families experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage.

CHILD AND FAMILY LEVEL

S1(a) Children and young people grow up in safe and nurturing homes, supported by strong families and communities.

SYSTEM LEVEL

S1(b) Systems and services prioritise resourcing, strengthening and supporting families to stay safe together.

S1.1 Parents and carers are supported to meet the needs of the children and young people they care for.

S1.2 Children and young people are protected and enabled to heal from the impacts of intergenerational trauma.

S1.3 Children and young people who have experienced out-of-home care, child abuse and/or neglect have life outcomes on par with their peers.

S1.4 Children, young people and families have their needs identified early and are able to access the quality services and supports they need, when they need them.

S1.5 Children, young people and families are supported to exercise greater choice in decisions affecting them and their families.

S1.6 Services are trauma-informed, culturally safe and responsive to the living experience and needs of each of the Priority Groups.

S1.7 Children, young people, families and communities have greater confidence in child protection systems.

2. Addressing the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in child protection systems.

Refer to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outcomes Framework on page 18 in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan.

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3. Improved information sharing, data development and analysis.

S3(a) Children, young people and families, and their experiences, are accurately represented in the evidence about them.

S3(b) Child and family support policies and services are consistently based on reliable evidence, including living experience.

S3.1 The living experience and expertise of children, young people and families is valued and applied to policy and program design, delivery and evaluation.

S3.2 Evidence is improved about children, young people and parents/carers, with particular focus on the Priority Groups.

S3.3 Policy development and service planning is consistently underpinned by an evidence base.

S3.4 Evidence, including data, is shared across governments, sectors and communities to enable best practice and informed decision-making.

4. Strengthening the child and family sector and workforce capability.

S4(a) Children, young people and families have their needs met by an effective and skilled workforce.

S4(b) The child and family support system has the capacity to respond effectively and adapt to meet future demand.

S4.1 The child and family workforce recruits and retains skilled workers according to demand.

S4.2 The child and family workforce operates in a culturally safe, strengths based and trauma informed environment, and without discrimination on the basis of race, disability, sex or gender identity.

S4.3 The child and family workforce has access to supports and training to meet its needs and maintain a positive workforce culture.

INTERFACE OUTCOMES

10-YEAR OUTCOMES

SUB-OUTCOMES

Cross-portfolio action to strengthen child safety and wellbeing will form a key foundation for successfully achieving outcomes across the four Focus Areas.

S5(a) Children, young people, families and communities have their holistic needs fulfilled. As such, fewer families experience social, emotional and economic risk factors for child neglect and abuse.

S5.1 Children, young people and families have improved access to better quality and more equitable services and supports in the following areas:

- stable family employment, financial independence and security
- homes and communities that are free from violence and discrimination
- holistic physical and mental health, including healing services that address the impacts of trauma

- safe and stable housing
- education (early childhood to tertiary)
- family law systems
- justice services and supports
- disability services and supports.

S5.2 Inter-jurisdictional and inter-departmental leadership supports improved connections and collaborations across systems, jurisdictions and policy areas.

MEASURING OUTCOMES

There will be a strong focus on measuring progress towards the outcomes under Safe and Supported, recognising the work different jurisdictions are doing to address child safety.

A mixed methods approach to measurement and evaluation will be used, in recognition of the complexity of the outcomes.

This approach would include quantitative trend data supported by more detailed qualitative analysis and storytelling.

The indicators will be included in the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy. They will be chosen with regards to what we are aiming to measure and how best this can be achieved.

MEASURING OUTCOMES

Potential data sources are expected to include:

- the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set
- other national datasets relevant to child and family safety and wellbeing
- other government reporting
- case studies
- surveys
- program evaluations
- data linkage projects
- targeted analysis projects.

*S means 'Safe and Supported' and refers to outcomes in the Safe and Supported Outcomes Framework.