# Parents and Carers Reference Group Meeting 3

Friday 18 July 2025

## Communique

The Parents and Carers Reference Group (PCRG) held its third meeting on Friday 18 July 2025 (virtual meeting).

The meeting was opened by co-Chair Ms Letitia Hope, Deputy Secretary, Department of Social Services before handing over to Ms Janaya Cox, Acting Branch Manager, Early Childhood and Parenting Wellbeing, representing Ms Hope. Ms Cox, alongside co-Chair, Jamie Crosby, Chief Executive Officer of Families Australia, facilitated the remainder of the meeting. The meeting was attended by 14 PCRG Members, including 9 parents and carers and 5 representatives from peak body organisations.

Members discussed their draft Forward Work Plan for 2025-26, with future meetings to focus on themes such as accessibility and service navigation, digital health, resilience, wellbeing and culturally responsive and accessible supports. Members noted an interest in receiving updates on, and opportunities to contribute to, the implementation of the *Early Years Strategy 2024-2034.*

It was noted that 9 PCRG members had participated in a consultation session on the National Child Safety Review (the review) on Wednesday 4 June 2025, facilitated by Deloitte Access Economics. That dedicated consultation session was part of a broader community consultation process supporting the review.

The Kids Research Institute presented to the PCRG on the 2024 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) results. Members discussed opportunities to lift rates of child development and wellbeing, particularly in the areas of social and emotional development. Members noted an interest in further exploring trends in the AEDC results, as well as opportunities to drive collective action in response to the findings.

ARTD Consultants facilitated a discussion with the PCRG on behalf of the National Office for Child Safety, seeking feedback on a draft evaluation plan for the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. A particular focus of the discussion was the importance of taking a child‑rights approach and tailoring evaluation methods and language to support engagement with families and children from a diverse range of backgrounds.

## Meeting attendees

### Department of Social Services

* Letitia Hope (co-Chair), Deputy Secretary, Families and Communities
* Janaya Cox, Acting Branch Manager, Early Childhood and Parenting Wellbeing Branch

### Peak body representatives

* Jamie Crosby (co-Chair), Families Australia
* Nicole Deen, Proxy for Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)
* Samantha (Sam) Page, Early Childhood Australia
* Nicholas (Nick) Davis, Proxy for SNAICC – National Voice for our Children
* Georgie Dent, The Parenthood

### Parent and carer representatives

* Sara Barker, NT
* Sarah Copland, VIC
* Sarah Cummings, NSW
* Nicole El-Hage, VIC
* Carly Grubb, QLD
* Ravi Krishnamurthy, ACT
* Tomasi (Tom) Ramanumanu, SA
* Malinda Savage, QLD
* Dinah Thomasset, QLD

### Officials / advisers

* PCRG Secretariat

### Guests

* The Kids Research Institute
* Department of Education
* ARTD Consultants
* National Office for Child Safety, Attorney-General’s Department