

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Doc No	Description of document	Decision
1	<i>List</i> RSVPs Community Services Ministers' Meeting 30 July 2024	<i>Release in part</i> Section 22 – material that is outside of the scope of the request
2	<i>Communique</i> Community Services Ministers' Meeting 30 July 2024 The Communique is publicly available here: https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/15546	<i>Release in full</i>
3	<i>List</i> RSVPs Community Services Ministers' Meeting 31 October 2025	<i>Release in part</i> Section 22 – material that is outside of the scope of the request
4	<i>Communique</i> Community Services Ministers' Meeting 31 October 2025 The Communique is publicly available here: https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/18501	<i>Release in full</i>
5	<i>List</i> RSVPs Community Services Ministers' and Women and Women's Safety Ministers Meeting 20 February 2026	<i>Release in part</i> Section 22 – material that is outside of the scope of the request
6	<i>Communique</i> Community Services Ministers' Meeting 20 February 2026 The Communique is publicly available here: https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/18756	<i>Release in full</i>

7	<i>Communique</i> Joint meeting of Community Services Ministers and Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council 20 February 2026 The Communique is publicly available here: https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/18751	<i>Release in full</i>
8	<i>List</i> RSVPs Community Services Ministers' Meeting 17 July 2026	<i>Release in part</i> Section 22 – material that is outside of the scope of the request
9	<i>Communique</i> Community Services Ministers' Meeting 17 July 2026 The Communique is publicly available here: https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/19111	<i>Release in full</i>

RSVPs

Community Services Ministers' Meeting

Tuesday 30 July 2024

ATTENDEE	TITLE	MEMBER / PROXY / OBSERVER	RESPONSE	VIRTUAL / IN-PERSON
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NSW GOVERNMENT

The Hon Kate Washington MP	NSW Minister for Families and Communities Member for Port Stephens Minister for Disability Inclusion	Member	Attending	In-person
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SAFE & SUPPORTED

THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN 2021 - 2031

ATTENDEE	TITLE	MEMBER / PROXY / OBSERVER	RESPONSE	VIRTUAL / IN-PERSON
	Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning			
<u>NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT</u>				
The Hon Ngaree Ah Kit MP	NT Minister for Territory Families Minister for Multicultural Affairs Minister for Youth, Seniors and Equality Minister for Urban Housing Minister for Disabilities	Member	Apologies	N/A

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<u>QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT</u>				
The Hon Charis Mullen MP	QLD Minister for Child Safety Minister for Seniors and Disability Services Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Member	Apologies	N/A

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SAFE & SUPPORTED

THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN 2021 - 2031



ATTENDEE	TITLE	MEMBER / PROXY / OBSERVER	RESPONSE	VIRTUAL / IN-PERSON
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VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP	Minister for Children Minister for Disability	Member	Attending	In-person
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Communique, Community Services Ministers' Meeting 30 July 2024

Community Services Ministers met in Canberra on the morning of 30 July 2024. Ministers acknowledged they were meeting on the lands of the Ngunnawal people, and also acknowledged the connection of other people and families to Country. This meeting took place prior to a meeting of the Safe and Supported Shared Decision-Making Committee (SDMC), which includes Community Services Ministers and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group (Leadership Group).

Ministers discussed the progress of the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership (the Partnership), including the first set of recommendations to the Joint Council on Closing the Gap, in relation to the early childhood care and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Ministers noted the importance of the Partnership and its strong alignment with other joint initiatives, such as the *Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031* (Safe and Supported).

Ministers also discussed the recently released *Early Years Strategy 2024-2034*, which sets out the Australian Government's vision to best support children and families. Ministers highlighted opportunities to identify and work together on mutual aims and reforms in the early years of a child's life, noting the importance of collaboration and partnership in this space.

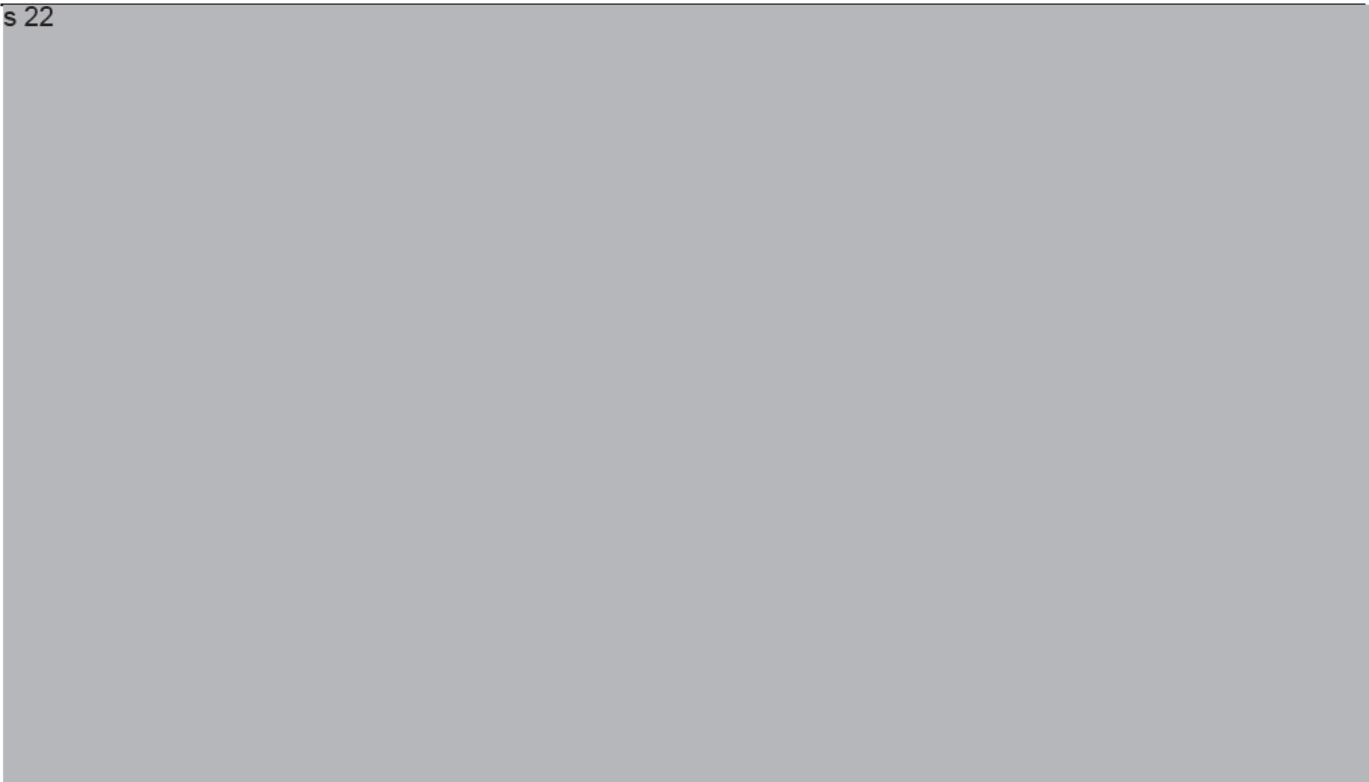
Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to Safe and Supported, including the importance of working in partnership with the Leadership Group and listening to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Ministers noted that further discussion about the implementation and prioritisation of work under the Safe and Supported Action Plans would occur during the SDMC meeting.

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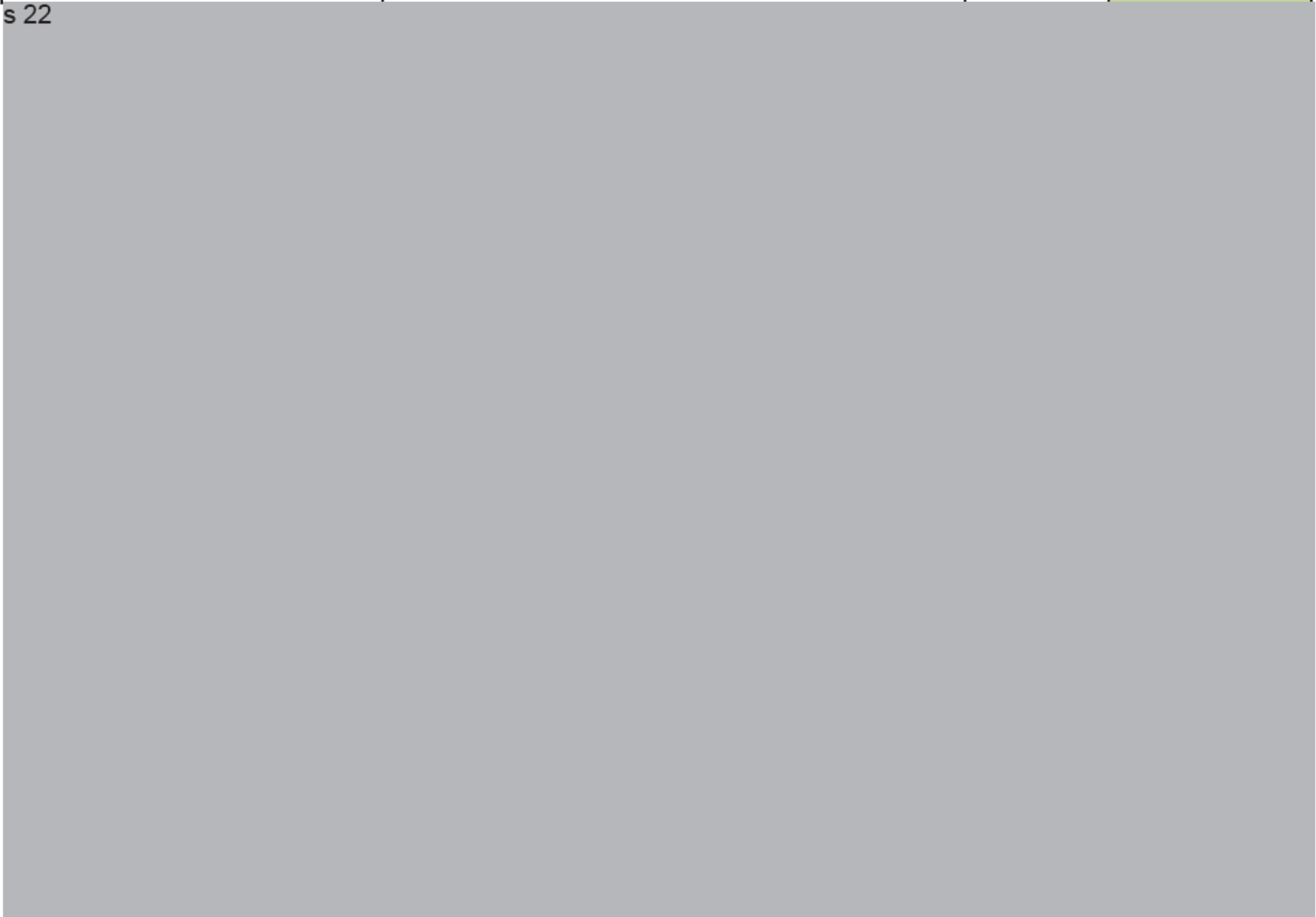
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<u>VIC GOVERNMENT</u>			
The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP	Minister for Disability Minister for Children	Member	In person

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Draft Communiqué, Community Services Ministers' Meeting

31 October 2025

On 31 October 2025, Community Services Ministers met on Gadigal Country in Sydney.

Community Services Ministers discussed how the Commonwealth, states and territories can work together to help ensure that every child, every family and every community has the opportunity to thrive.

Ministers discussed priorities for the Council and agreed that the Commonwealth's recently announced reform to families and children's programs provides an opportunity to prioritise early intervention activities of all governments. They agreed that workforce capacity building and development is urgently needed across families and children's sector, particularly for Aboriginal Community-led organisations and will continue talking about support for care leavers and carers.

Ministers reaffirmed their governments' commitments to the safety, wellbeing and protection of children. Ministers noted the work underway nationally, particularly through the Standing Council of Attorneys-General and Education Ministers to strengthen Working With Children Checks and reaffirmed their government's commitments to strengthening systems to keep our children safe.

Minister for Families and Communities, Minister for Disability Inclusion, the Hon Kate Washington MP (NSW) led a discussion about opportunities for Community Services Ministers to inform the approach to mandatory training for Working with Children Checks and inform the future work of the Standing Council of Attorneys-General.

Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Hon Amanada Camm MP (Queensland) provided an update on the Queensland Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System.

Minister for Child Protection and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, Minister Stojkovski (WA) acknowledged the need for a greater focus on Aboriginal Community-led organisations capability building and the importance of examining opportunities with Visa requirements as it pertains to international recruitment for the child protection workforce.

Ministers also discussed approaches to decision making in child protection in their jurisdictions with the aim of sharing best practices to keep children safe with families. Ministers agreed to further share best practices at the next meeting and step up joint efforts to make a difference.

Ministers discussed the life-long consequences of poor adoption practices. Ministers committed to collaborate to advance ways to access historical records for intercountry adoptees, Care Leavers and forced adoptees. The Forced Adoption Working Group (FAWG) will be reoriented to ensure timely access to adoption records.

Ministers discussed how all levels of government can work together to reduce the number of children going into out-of-home care. Ministers acknowledged that Closing the Gap Target 12 – reducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 45% by 2031 is off track and agreed that urgent and collective action is needed.

Ministers agreed that the Commonwealth and states and territories will step up efforts to identify more ways to work together to reduce entries to out-of-home care, particularly for First Nations children.

Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, the Hon Katrine Hildyard MP (SA), presented an overview of the key findings and directions from the South Australian Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Report invited discussion about implications and areas for collaboration and spoke to the deep intersection between child protection, family support and domestic family sexual violence and the need to approach it together.

Ministers noted the Commonwealth's update on progressing responses to the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches, and recommendations 5 and 16 that fall in the remit of Community Services Ministers. All jurisdictions will report on progress towards these recommendations as part of governments' collective responses to the Rapid Review to National Cabinet by the end of the year.

Ministers agreed to seek a joint meeting with the Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council in February 2026 to discuss collective efforts to address child protection and family safety.

**RSVPs
COMMUNITY SERVICES MINISTERS and WOMEN AND
WOMEN'S SAFETY MINISTERS MEETING**

20 February 2026

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by the Department of Social Services

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NEW SOUTH WALES

The Hon Kate Washington MP	Minister for Families and Communities Minister for Disability Inclusion	Member	Attending in-person
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The Hon Jodie Harrison MP	Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	Member	Attending in-person
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NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Hon Robyn Cahill MP	Minister for Trade, Business and Asian Relations Minister for International Education, Migration and Population Minister for Workforce Development Minister for Advanced Manufacturing Minister for Children and Families Minister Child Protection Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence	Member	Formally declined invitation.
Mr Brent Warren (Proxy for Minister Cahill and Minister Charles)	Chief Executive Officer, Department of Children and Families	Observer	Attending in-person

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The Hon Jinson Anto Charls	Minister for People, Sport and Culture; Disability; Arts; Youth, Seniors and Equality; Multicultural Affairs; Veterans	Member	Formally declined invitation.
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QUEENSLAND

The Hon Amanda Camm MP	Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Member	Attending in-person
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The Hon Fiona Simpson MP	Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Member	Formally declined invitation.
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by the Department of Social Services

VICTORIA			
The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP	Minister for Disability Minister for Children	Member	Virtual attendance from 12pm (Education Ministers Meeting)
The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP	Minister for Health; Minister for Ambulance Services; Minister for Women	Member	Attending in-person
The Hon Ingrid Stitt MP	Minister for Mental Health; Minister for Ageing; Minister for Multicultural Affairs; Minister for Prevention of Family Violence	Member	Attending in-person

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Communique

A meeting between the Community Services Ministers (CSM) occurred on Friday 20 February 2026 on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People of the Kulin Nation, Melbourne.

This standalone meeting took place immediately after the first joint meeting between the CSM and the Women and Women's Ministerial Council (WWSMC), which was coordinated to discuss opportunities for Commonwealth, state and territory governments to work collaboratively to reduce rising rates of family, domestic and sexual violence and rates of children and young people entering out-of-home care (OOHC).

The purpose of this standalone meeting was to progress priority actions from the last CSM meeting in October 2025. Ministers reaffirmed the commitment to working together to help ensure that every child, every family and every community has the opportunity to thrive.

Ministers agreed to focus on the five areas identified as 2026 implementation priorities under *Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031* during the last meeting of the Shared Decision-Making Committee in October 2025: transitioning funding to ACCOs, investing in early and targeted supports, delegated authority, workforce development and improving culturally safe and prevention focused systems for children in OOHC. Ministers conducted a strategic discussion on how these priorities are connected to the priorities identified during the joint meeting with the WWSMC and how these focus areas can be progressed concurrently.

Ministers discussed the taxation and social security treatment of carers and care leaver payments and the need to explore changing legislation relating to this. The Department of Social Services will consult with New South Wales on this issue and report back to the CSM.

The CSM agreed to endorse out of session the Community Services Ministers 2025 Annual Report and 2026 workplan priorities.



Joint meeting of Community Services Ministers and Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council

COMMUNIQUE 20 FEBRUARY 2026

On Friday 20 February 2026, the Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council and Community Services Ministers came together in a joint meeting for the first time. Ministers met to discuss accelerating urgent work to reduce the number of children experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) and change the trajectory of the rates of children and young people at risk of entering out-of-home care (OOHC) around the country. Ministers also discussed the importance of gender and economic equality for advancing women and children's safety.

Ministers agreed that every government has a responsibility for keeping children safe and agreed to continue to work together to improve the safety and wellbeing of children. Ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to achieving Targets 12 and 13 under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Ministers welcomed the release of *Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026-2036* (Our Ways) and noted the Commonwealth's \$218.3 million investment for ACCOs to deliver community-led specialist support services that help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and families who are experiencing family, domestic, and sexual violence.

Ministers agreed that to change the current trajectory of increasing rates of children in OOHC, we need to connect work across child wellbeing, child protection and family safety, to better support children and young people who have experienced trauma and to keep children safe. This includes addressing risk and protective factors across systems to drive shared outcomes of safety and wellbeing for children and their families. This strategic and coordinated approach to the experiences of children and young people is a key part of responding to Recommendation 5 of the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches.

Ministers agreed that the following four areas represent shared priorities for collective focus in alignment with both National and state and territory frameworks: common risk assessment processes for children, workforce and sector capability, investment in Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and system integration. Ministers agreed for Community Services Ministers and Women's Safety Ministers to come together by the end of 2026 to report on progress made across these shared priorities.

Ministers also agreed to explore specific actions for each jurisdiction to strengthen and model successful programs and enhance collaboration between all governments. These actions will accelerate progress on Targets 12 and 13 in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. These agreed practical actions will be delivered in partnership between jurisdictions, to advance our shared commitments and respond to local contexts.



Practical actions include:

- The Commonwealth, together with states and territories, are working to strengthen the sector to support the delivery of dedicated specialist services for families, women and children, with a strong focus on prevention and early intervention. As part of this effort, the Commonwealth is increasing investment in Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), with funding to be delivered through a new component of the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Federation Funding Agreement.
- The Commonwealth will work to streamline access to Commonwealth supports for carers and care-leavers by building on the work underway through *Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031*.
- The Commonwealth will progress ACCO capacity uplift with states and territories, partnering with New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia to align our approaches to commissioning.
- The Commonwealth to progress support for sector and ACCO workforce development, including exploring micro-credentials (in partnership with South Australia and Queensland).
- The Commonwealth will partner with New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland to leverage shared objectives in supporting the implementation of common risk assessment frameworks. This will support readiness and refinement work on the NSW Common Approach to Risk Assessment and Safety (CARAS), redevelopment and implementation of Western Australia's Common Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework and Queensland's expanded Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework (CRASF), and support relevant Commonwealth agencies and funded services to adopt best practice risk assessment and management approaches as set out in the National Risk Assessment Framework.
- The Commonwealth will deliver a proof-of-concept project with New South Wales to assess the impact of Commonwealth programs for children and their families residing in the state, and data linkages with South Australia to better understand the impact of certain programs on reducing rates of out-of-home-care interactions (and/or associated risk factors).

Ministers also noted the Commonwealth's update on investments to support women's economic equality, and discussed the importance of women's economic equality for improving safety. Ministers acknowledged the need to work across portfolios and jurisdictions on this issue.

Ministers also discussed the importance of both Ministerial Councils progressing their priorities and practical actions within individual Council work programs.



For Women and Women's Safety Ministers:

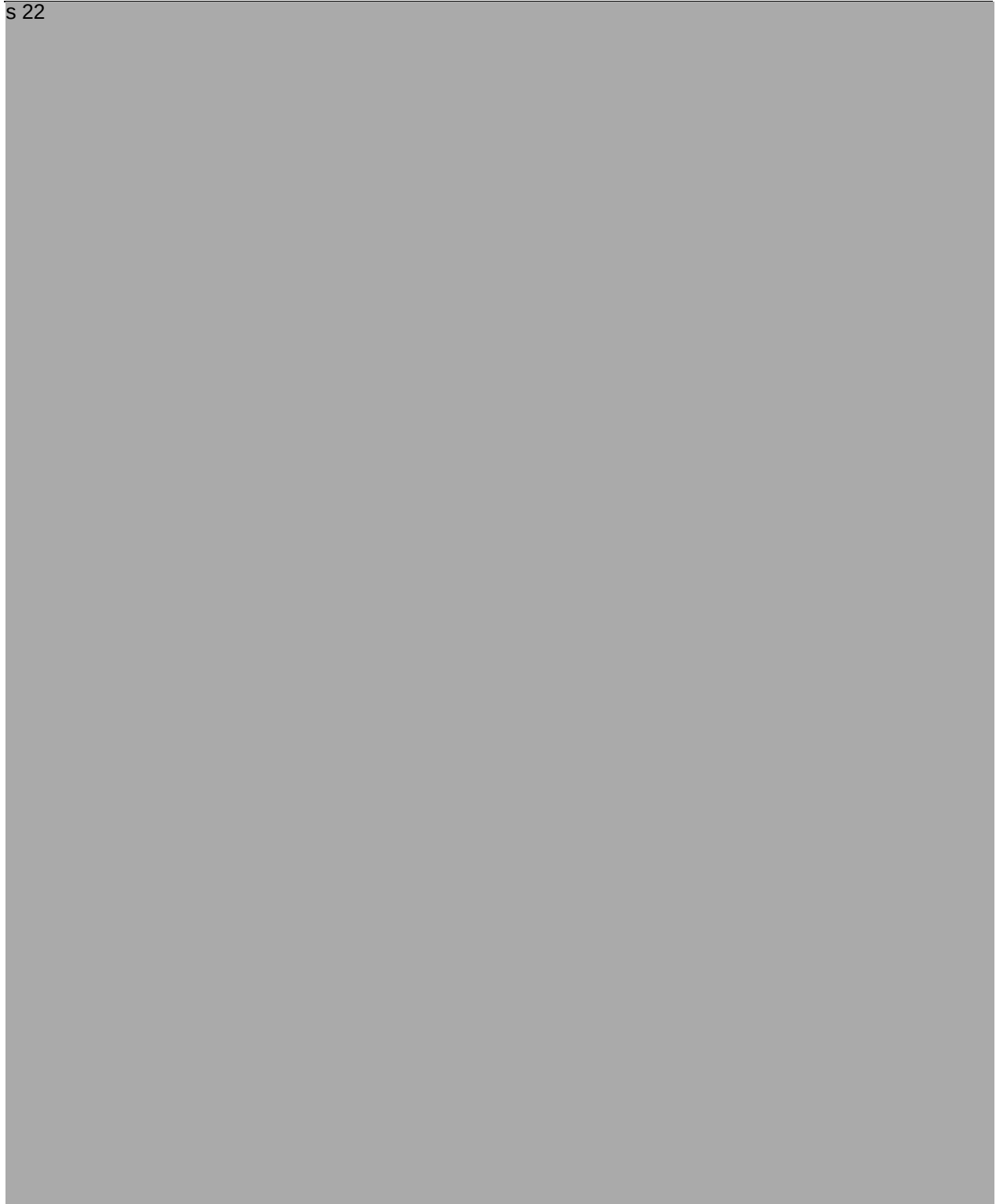
- Ministers agreed to have a dedicated focus on economic equality at a future meeting.
- Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing national efforts to progress work across the four domains of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 (National Plan): prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery and healing.
- Ministers agreed to progress engagement to develop the National Plan Second Action Plan and *Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026–2036* (Our Ways) Action Plan by early 2027 and establish a joint working group of senior officials across both Ministerial Councils to support this work, focusing on the following priority areas of effort:
 - Continuing efforts for victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence;
 - Supporting children and young people, including boys, to heal and recover from domestic, family and sexual violence;
 - Engaging with men to seek help early so they can build safe, respectful relationships and heal from harm when needed;
 - Continuing efforts to hold people who use violence to account.
- The Commonwealth, states and territories will work collaboratively on the focus areas identified in *Our Ways* to steer progress towards the meeting of Target 13 under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- Ministers endorsed the Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council's 2025 Annual Report to National Cabinet and 2026 workplan, which includes the National Plan Second Action Plan and gender equality, including women's economic equality, as key priorities.

For Community Services Ministers:

- The Commonwealth will work with states and territories and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group to develop the *Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021–2031* Second Action Plans by 2027 – building on best practice and sharing what works from innovative programs. This will include an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Second Action Plan to steer progress towards meeting Target 12 under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

RSVPs
Community Service Ministers meeting
17 July 2026

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NSW GOVERNMENT

The Hon Kate Washington MP	Minister for Families and Communities Minister for Disability Inclusion	Member	Accepted	In person
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NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Hon Robyn Cahill MP	Minister for Trade, Business and Asian Relations Minister for International Education, Migration and Population Minister for Workforce Development Minister for Advanced Manufacturing Minister for Children and Families Minister Child Protection Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence	Member	Declined	
Brent Warren	CEO, Department of Children and Families	Observer/proxy	Accepted	In person

QLD GOVERNMENT

The Hon Amanda Camm MP	Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Member	Accepted	In person
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<u>VIC GOVERNMENT</u>				
The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP	Minister for Disability Minister for Children	Member	Accepted	In person

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Community Services Ministers' Meeting

Community Services Ministers' Meeting

COMMUNIQUE FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026

A meeting between the Community Services Ministers (CSM) occurred on Friday 17 July 2026 on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation in Sydney, New South Wales. This was followed by a meeting of the Safe and Supported Shared Decision-Making Committee.

The CSM meeting:

- reaffirmed CSM's commitment to work collaboratively on improving policy and program responses for children and families
- discussed progress against priorities to address family, sexual and domestic violence through the Second Action Plan under the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*
- discussed next steps in strengthening and expanding the capacity of the ACCO sector to provide family and child supports
- took note of developments in establishing a Records Access Working Group (RAWG), whose objective is to improve access to records for individuals impacted by forced adoption practices and other groups such as care leavers.

Ministers also discussed the impacts of social security and tax treatments on care leaver payments and professional foster carer models and were updated on work to identify service delivery improvement opportunities for Commonwealth services and supports available to care leavers.

The meeting also heard from representatives of the CREATE Foundation about advocacy for young people with care experience. CSM members agreed to work within their respective jurisdictions to improve casework practices around provision of and access to identity documentation for young people in care as a foundational requirement for improving access to carer supports.

The meeting also heard from National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, Sue-Anne Hunter, and the National Children's Commissioner, Deb Tsorbaris, on their findings following nation-wide consultations with children aimed at better ensuring that children's voices are heard in the development of policies and services.

The Executive Director of Family and Community Services Insights, Analysis and Research (FACSIAR) within the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, Dr Jessica Stewart,

Community Services Ministers' Meeting

provided a presentation on the ways the NSW Standardised Evaluation Analysis supports evidence-based decision making. The presentation covered the ways Standardised Evaluation Analysis provides robust outcomes evaluations at scale and at low cost, across multiple programs, using linked data. Ministers committed to continue to share expertise and opportunities for data linkage.

Ministers discussed delegation of authority, one of the Actions Items under the Safe and Supported First Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan, including experiences in jurisdictions that have formally delegated statutory functions to date.

The CSM will next meet on 5 November 2026 in a joint meeting alongside the Women's Safety Ministers.