

Ministerial Peak Forum Charter

Vision

That children, young people and their families are supported to thrive.

Who we are

The Ministerial Peak Forum is a solutions-focused, consultative group to the Minister for Child Protection, comprised of the senior leadership of invited representative peak bodies in the South Australian child protection and family support system and the Department for Child Protection.

The Forum is an effective model for members of the child protection and family support system to work together and address key issues facing the child protection system. The Forum holds the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in care at the centre of all discussions and decisions.

Purpose

To bring together the different perspectives, experience and knowledge of the representative peak bodies of the South Australian child protection and family support system and the Department for Child Protection to help drive lasting systemic change that helps improve the lives of children, young people, families and family-based carers.

Principles

- ✓ Hold children and young people at the heart of all Forum discussions with the safety and wellbeing of children and young people always at the centre of our work.
- ✓ Show deep respect for all people and communities involved in the child protection and family support system.
- ✓ Acknowledge the trust held by representative peak bodies to share the voices of their communities.
- ✓ Prioritise the safe reunification of children and young people with birth families where possible.
- ✓ Support and value the incredible role of kinship and foster carers.

Ways of working

- Provide a perspective that is collectively stronger when discussing and driving change to ensure all voices are represented.
- Acknowledge the distinct complexities inherent in the child protection and family support service system.
- Remain clear, focussed and achievable regarding system reform that aligns with other efforts.
- Draw upon existing knowledge and ensure decisions are made based on rigorous evidence and experience.
- Bring genuine partnership and shared decision-making with Aboriginal people to discussions and decisions.
- Ensure all discussions, decisions and initiatives are in line with relevant legislation.
- Acknowledge the importance of children and young people remaining with their birth families where possible and deeply valuing the role of each individual stakeholder group in ensuring the safety and support of children and young people across our state.

Scope

The following is considered in scope for consideration, discussion and action at the Forum:

- Matters relating to the safety and protection of children and young people across South Australia
- Matters relating to the implementation of the *Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Act 2025*
- Impacts of national and state policies relating to the child protection and family support system
- Implementation of commitments outlined in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- Whole-of-system requirements for placing children and young people in safe placements and homes and supporting their return home
- Systemic supports available for all young people transitioning out of care
- Family Support Services
- Support services for family-based carers, including kinship, foster and specific-child only carers.

The Ministerial Peak Forum acknowledges the importance of investment in effective intervention strategies and recognises that improvements in this space will require an across government approach. The Forum will endeavour to engage with other government departments or governance groups if relevant actions or initiatives arise from forum discussions. There is also potential for further collaboration across government in development of the State Strategy as enshrined in the *Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Act 2025*.

Aspirations for children and young people in care

The Ministerial Peak Forum aspires that all children and young people in care are:



Loved



Safe



Heard



Thriving



Supported



Empowered



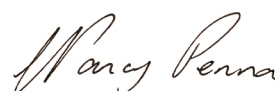
Informed



Represented



Elizabeth Dickinson
Advocacy Lead SA



Nancy Penna
Board Chairperson



Melissa Gibson
Chief Executive Officer



Hon Katrine Hildyard MP
Minister for Child Protection



Nadia Berginetti
Chief Executive Officer



Charmayne Fleming
Board Chairperson



Jackie Bray
Chief Executive

