

# National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children Partnerships Group

## Communiqué No 7 – December 2015

Partnerships Group members met on Tuesday, 1 December 2015. Items discussed included:

### **National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (National Framework) – Third Action Plan 2015 - 2018**

Partnerships group members had previously agreed to meet in December 2015 to consider South Australia's engagement and interface with key strategy areas and actions within the Third Action Plan. A copy of the Third Action Plan could not be made available to partnerships group members as it remained under embargo. Prevention and early intervention approaches in protecting Australia's children are a key focus of the third, three – year plan. A broad discussion ensued which focused on matters which contribute to strengthening early intervention supports for 'at risk' children, young people and families and empowering communities and organisations to keep children and young people safe and well. Particular topics of discussion included: effective family engagement; family based service delivery; existing systemic challenges; strengthening cross portfolio work and enhancing joined up service delivery. Improving priority support for children and young people in out of home care; creating and supporting child safe organisations and inter jurisdictional information sharing in addition to attaining effective outcomes for Aboriginal children, families and communities were also discussed. Collective Impact led by Together SA and the recent Change SA - 90 day project focused on supporting young people transition from Guardianship to independence were highlighted as South Australian examples which could align and inform Third Action Plan endeavours. Partnerships members agreed to progress Third Action Plan discussions in 2016.

### **National Forum for Protecting Australia's Children Meeting**

Representatives from the Australian government, state and territory governments and the National Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children will meet on 4 December 2015 to discuss progressing the National Framework Third Action Plan and leadership of key areas.

### **Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ACCG) Meeting Communiqué**

Pam Simmons distributed a copy of the communiqué of the ACCG meeting that took place in Canberra on November 25 and 26, 2015. Topics discussed included Child Safe Organisations, Passports for Children and Young People in Care and the work of the Commonwealth Children's eSafety Commissioner. To view the communiqué in its entirety please click on the following link <http://www.gcyp.sa.gov.au/2015/11/australian-childrens-commissioners-and-guardians-november-2015-meeting/>

### **Farewell to Pam Simmons - Guardian for Children and Young People**

Partnerships Group Chair, Etienne Scheepers, thanked Pam Simmons on behalf of group members for her significant contribution to partnerships group initiatives and her commitment to the achievement of improved outcomes for South Australian children and young people in out of home care. Pam has been a member of the partnerships group since it commenced in 2009 and is finishing in her current role in late December 2015 after serving as Guardian for two terms. Partnerships group members wish Pam all the very best in future endeavours.

**Please note:** Subsequent to this meeting, the National Framework Third Action Plan 2015 - 2018, *Driving Change: Intervening Early* was publicly released on December 9, 2015. The Action Plan has been endorsed by Commonwealth, state and territory Ministers and a broad coalition of community sector organisations. To access a copy of the Third Action Plan please click on the following link [www.dss.gov.au/protectingaustraliaschildren](http://www.dss.gov.au/protectingaustraliaschildren) Further information regarding the Third Action Plan will be disseminated in 2016.