



THE HON PAUL FLETCHER MP

Minister for Families and Social Services

THE HON MICHELLE LANDRY MP

Assistant Minister for Children and Families

MEDIA RELEASE

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New plan for protecting Australia's children

The Fourth Action Plan of the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (2009-2020)* has been launched by the Government today following endorsement by state and territory Community Services Ministers across Australia.

The National Framework was established by the Australian Government in partnership with states and territories and the non-government sector, as a long-term national approach to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children.

Minister for Families and Social Services, Paul Fletcher, says that the launch of the Fourth Action Plan is the next critical step in improving the way we, as a nation, care for and protect Australia's children.

"The guiding philosophy of the National Framework is that protecting children is everyone's business," Minister Fletcher said.

"The endorsement of this Action Plan demonstrates that all levels of government across Australia are committed to working together to improve the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children and young people."

This is the first Action Plan under the Framework that has a standalone focus on improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are either at risk of entering, or in contact with child protection systems.

"This is in recognition of the fact that the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care is ten times that of non-Indigenous children," Assistant Minister for Children and Families, Michelle Landry said.

"Through this final Action Plan under the National Framework, we will build on and embed the important reform work under the National Framework to date, and continue to work towards providing a safe, nurturing environment for all children and young people."

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Media contact:

Minister Fletcher: Craig Regan 0408 448 527 | craig.regan@dss.gov.au

Minister Landry: Tory Mencshelyi 0436 682 580 | Victoria.mencshelyi@dss.gov.au