



Our approach and priorities

2018–19



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Strategic priorities for 2018–19

The Commission for Children and Young People works to improve the rights, wellbeing and safety of all children and young people in Victoria. This includes a particular focus, in all that we do, on achieving better outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people.

PRIORITY 1

Mobilise organisations and the broader community to prevent and respond to allegations of institutional child abuse

- Increase organisations' awareness of and compliance with the Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme
- Implement Phase 3 of the Reportable Conduct Scheme from 1 January 2019
- Work towards making children and their families familiar with Victoria's legislated Child Safe Standards and how these protect and support children and young people

Victoria is the only jurisdiction with legislated Child Safe Standards and a Reportable Conduct Scheme to protect children and young people from abuse in organisations.

PRIORITY 2

Establish a risk-informed, sustainable operating model for Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme, targeting organisations to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people

- Implement a risk assessment model to triage reports and compliance concerns
- Use assessment of risk to inform education and compliance activity
- Activate and build capacity with regulators and co-regulators of organisations that work with children and young people to increase engagement with Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme

PRIORITY 3

Strengthen the participation and influence of children and young people across the Commission's work

- Develop and embed a framework for the way the Commission engages with children and young people
- Develop a mechanism for children and young people to contribute annually to the Commission's planning processes
- Ensure there is a strong voice of children and young people in completing the internal review of the Commission's youth justice Independent Visitor Program

Protecting the rights of children and young people means supporting their participation, including in the work of the Commission.

PRIORITY 4

Highlight the lived experience of children and young people in the out-of-home care and child protection systems to drive reform

- Deliver the *In our own words* inquiry into the experiences of children and young people in out-of-home care
- Conduct an inquiry into supports for children and young people leaving out-of-home care
- Deliver the monitoring framework for services to children in out-of-home care, with an initial focus on residential care
- Educate agencies on the lessons learned from child death inquiries and share evidence about opportunities for improvement
- Review the quality, compliance and timeliness of cultural support plans for Aboriginal children in out-of-home care

PRIORITY 5

Increase transparency of, and accountability for, government action on Commission recommendations and regulatory scheme obligations

- Publish government and agency responses to the Commission's recommendations for system improvement and the Commission's assessment of progress wherever possible
- Strengthen our monitoring of government and agency actions in response to individual and group inquiries, including child death inquiries
- Assess, and support improved action by, Victorian Government departments on the Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme
- Ensure Commissioners' contribution to external forums and groups is used to maximise value and impact for children and young people

PRIORITY 6

Drive an effective and humane approach to children and young people involved with the criminal justice system

- Deliver year 1 of the Aboriginal Youth Justice Taskforce and inquiry
- Establish a model to effect new legislative powers for monitoring the preventative detention of children
- Support the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and seek endorsement as a National Preventative Mechanism for contained environments involving children
- Advocate for evidence-based approaches for children and young people who have contact with the criminal justice system
- Follow up activity on action to address issues identified in the Commission's *The same four walls* inquiry
- Embed the Commission's youth justice Independent Visitor Program as part of a high functioning youth justice oversight function

PRIORITY 7

Continue to build a culturally-rich, high-impact Commission for Children and Young People

- Establish improved data capability to enable a shift towards a more evidence-based and intelligence-led organisation
- Review the Aboriginal Inclusion Plan and design its successor
- Embed new technologies that improve work practices
- Continue investment in leadership and staff development
- Develop a staff wellbeing strategy with a focus on sustainability

WHO WE ARE

The Commission for Children and Young People is an independent statutory body that promotes improvement in policies and practices affecting the safety and wellbeing of Victorian children and young people.

WHAT WE DO

- **Provide independent scrutiny and oversight** of services for children and young people, particularly those in the out-of-home care, child protection and youth justice systems.
- **Advocate for best practice policy, program and service responses** to meet the needs of children and young people. Promote the rights, safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- **Promote the views and experience** of children and young people to increase the awareness of government and the community.
- **Support and regulate organisations** that work with children and young people to prevent abuse and make sure these organisations have child-safe practices.

VISION

That the rights of all children and young people in Victoria are recognised, respected and defended.

VALUES

- We put the rights of children and young people at the centre of everything we do
- We are strong, fearless and determined
- We are transparent and accountable
- We know diversity of people, experiences and perspectives make our work stronger
- We accomplish more as we are a united team



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