

# The South Australian Government 2023-2024 Annual Report

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Responding to the Recommendations of the  
Child Protection Systems Royal Commission  
and the Royal Commission into Institutional  
Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

September 2024



Government  
of South Australia

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Department for  
Child Protection

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

Aboriginal people have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the state of South Australia. The South Australian Government acknowledges and respects Aboriginal people as the state's First People and Nations, and recognises Aboriginal people as Traditional Owners and occupants of South Australian Land and Waters.

The South Australian Government acknowledges that the spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices of Aboriginal people come from their Traditional Lands and Waters, and that Aboriginal people maintain cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws which are of ongoing importance today.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have endured past injustice and dispossession of their traditional lands and waters.

### **Support services**

The work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the South Australian Government's reporting may be distressing to some people.

If at any time you feel that you would like to speak with someone, there are many services and support groups that can help. Some options for advice and support include:

- **Lifeline** on 13 11 14
- **13YARN** on 13 92 76
- **1800 Respect** on 1800 737 732
- **National Redress Information Line** on 1800 737 377

Department for Child Protection  
31 Flinders Street  
Adelaide, SA 5000

For enquiries, please email [CPReform@sa.gov.au](mailto:CPReform@sa.gov.au)

## Minister's message



Over the past decade, both the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse led to wide-ranging reforms in our state and were foundational to today's child protection and family support system. The vast majority of recommendations have now been implemented, and subsequent inquiries and reviews conducted more recently have further influenced and shaped our current child protection reform priorities.

Since becoming Minister for Child Protection, my focus has been firmly on building the child protection and family support system for the future, leveraging off these solid foundations. The State Government has taken a deliberative approach to this task by investing additional resources, strengthening governance and seeking and implementing the advice of experts.

We have invested in critical areas where it matters most:

- keeping children safe at home with increased intensive family supports and by expanding family group conferences
- supporting young people leaving care to become independent by boosting post care supports
- supporting carers by increasing carer subsidies, support and training, and
- enabling Aboriginal-led decision-making by funding additional Aboriginal lead practitioners in DCP and establishing the Peak Body for Aboriginal Children and Young People.

Improving outcomes for children and young people requires an all of government, all of sector, all of community response, informed by the children and young people, carers and families with direct experience of child protection.

We have fostered new groups to reflect these voices and are now better positioned to act by hearing directly from those with lived experience, along with guidance from the Child Protection Expert Group.

We have established new accountability and transparency mechanisms in order to recognise and act where change is needed. One of these is the Chief Executive Governance Group which I lead, underscoring the importance of whole of government engagement in child protection and family support.

In the coming year, I look forward to continuing to work across government, with partners and the community to strengthen our child protection and family support system to keep children safe and families supported.

**Katrine Hildyard MP**  
Minister for Child Protection

# Background

This report is the fifth combined annual report on the actions being taken by the state government in response to two significant Royal Commissions: the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission (CPSRC) and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (RCIRCSA).

The CPSRC was established by the South Australian Government and undertaken by Commissioner Margaret Nyland, who delivered her report *The life they deserve* in 2016. The State Government accepted 256 of 260 recommendations. Reporting each year on the progress of these recommendations is a requirement of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017*.

The RCIRCSA was established by the Australian Government, with its Final Report released in 2017. The South Australian Government has accepted 253 of 256 recommendations to be implemented. As recommended in the RCIRCSA's report, the State Government has met the requirement to report on progress consecutively for five years from 2018, and has continued to report beyond this time frame.

## Overview

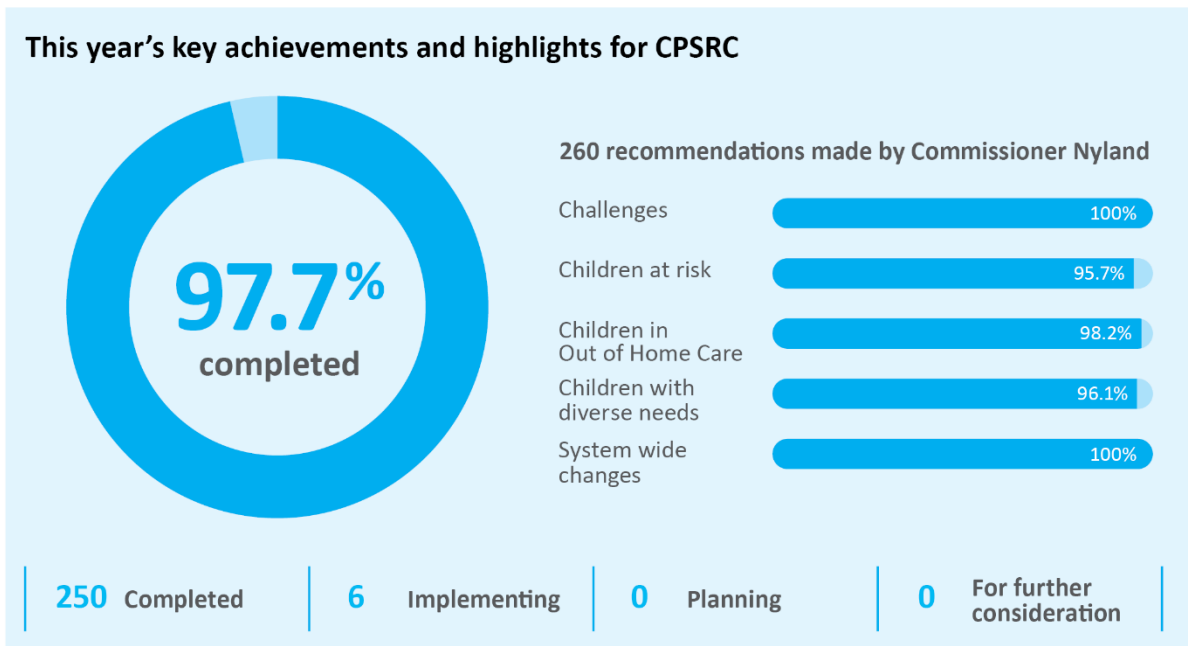
This report outlines progress made during 2023-24 on implementing the remaining 55 active recommendations across these Royal Commissions, and highlights key achievements. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the reported status for all remaining recommendations.

Work to implement the 516 recommendations of both Royal Commissions has occurred across the state government. Since 2018, reporting has been led by the Department for Child Protection (DCP), together with:

- Department of Human Services
- Department for Health and Wellbeing
- Department for Education
- South Australian Housing Trust
- South Australia Police
- Attorney-General's Department
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Treasury and Finance
- Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

### Going forward

Both the CPSRC and the RCIRCSA instigated widespread reform across South Australia's child protection system. With the vast majority of recommendations having been implemented, remaining recommendations will be integrated into ongoing reforms across the child protection and family support sector. The Government will continue to meet legislative requirements for ongoing reporting.



Recommendations made in each of the 5 chapters of *The Life They Deserve*

### Snapshot of key activities to implement CPSRC recommendations

There were four recommendations completed in 2023-24.

- 30: the Child Protection and Family Support Sector Workforce Strategy
- 96: reporting to the Guardian for Children and Young People
- 133: use of force in residential care
- 141: policies on worker behaviour

Key deliverables:

- **Developing a workforce strategy across the broader child protection system.**

The Child Protection and Family Support Sector Workforce Strategy was launched in July 2024 and provides a sector-wide strategy to ensure a skilled, supported and sustainable workforce for the broader child protection system.

- **Tracking and reporting use of force against children in residential care.** New practice guidance has been implemented for DCP staff and the department is working with the Department of Human Services to develop a Framework for the use of restrictive practices in residential care that will respond to forthcoming legislative requirements. A new client incident management system has been developed and once implemented will provide a robust approach to the centralised reporting,

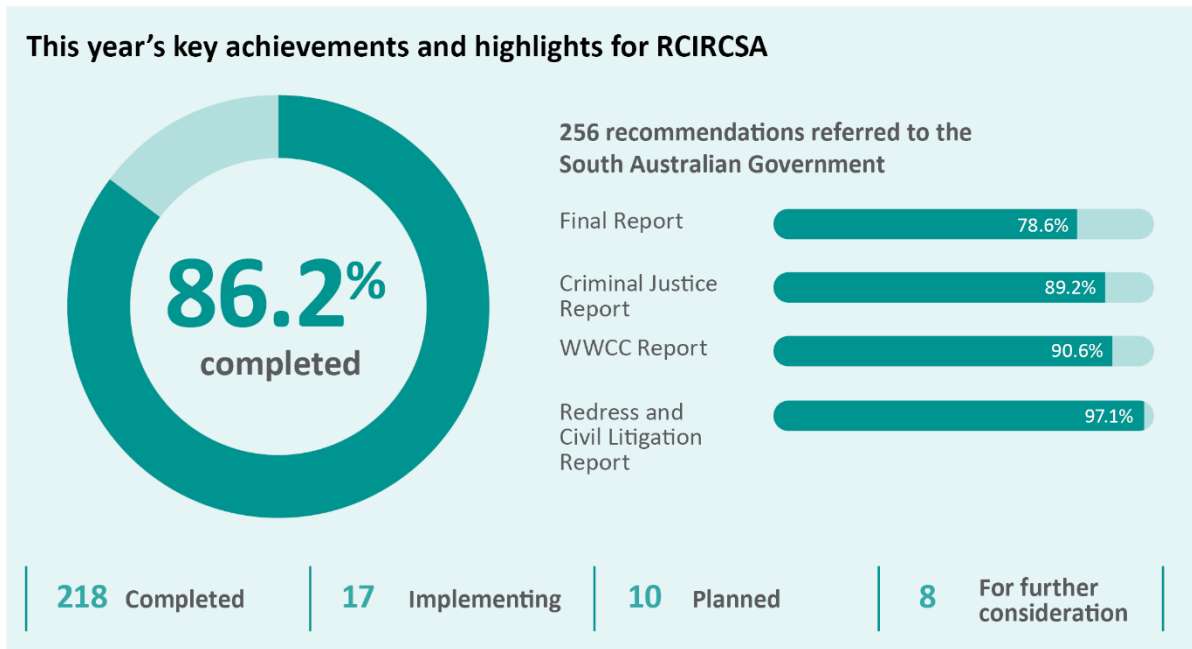
monitoring, management and oversight of all client incidents, including those requiring use of force.

- **Responding to screened in notifications.**

Work has occurred across government to increase system responsiveness, with responses to screened in notifications increasing year on year. In 2023-24, 81.9% were either investigated or referred for a response compared with 76.8% in 2022-23.

- **Conduct of staff.** DCP's Significant Incident Reporting Unit has been established as the single and central point for receipt of significant incident reports and coordination of significant incident reporting. Work is well advanced to deliver an integrated technological solution for enabling centralised reporting, monitoring, documentation and quality oversight for the monitoring and reporting of incidents involving children and young people in care.

- **Innovative housing models for care leavers.** The South Australian Housing Trust has worked with DCP to scope housing models for young people who do not yet have a suitable housing pathway for when they leave care and where they require support to enable successful independent living.



## Snapshot of key activities to implement RCIRCSA recommendations

There were 10 recommendations completed in 2023-24.

- 6.19: nationally consistent curriculum for online safety in schools
- 8.05: standards in non-government schools for records relating to child safety and wellbeing
- 8.13: policies for the exchange of student information between schools
- 8.16: secure transfer of student data between schools
- 9.09: a National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse
- 12.02 and 12.03: national reporting enhancements
- 23 and 24: legislation for course of conduct charges in relation to child sexual abuse offences
- 80: timely interlocutory appeals in prosecutions involving child sexual abuse offences

Key deliverables:

- State Records of South Australia released a record keeping guideline recommended for use in non-government schools.
- Student transfer advice forms and guidelines released for use in the non-government schools' sector.
- Course of conduct charges in child sexual abuse charges confirmed as being established

in the *Statutes Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse) Act 2021* and *Statutes Amendment (Child Sex Offences) Act 2022*.

- The new South Australian Curriculum for public education aligns with the Australian Curriculum for Foundation – Year 10 (R–10), which embeds digital safety and wellbeing across the curriculum.

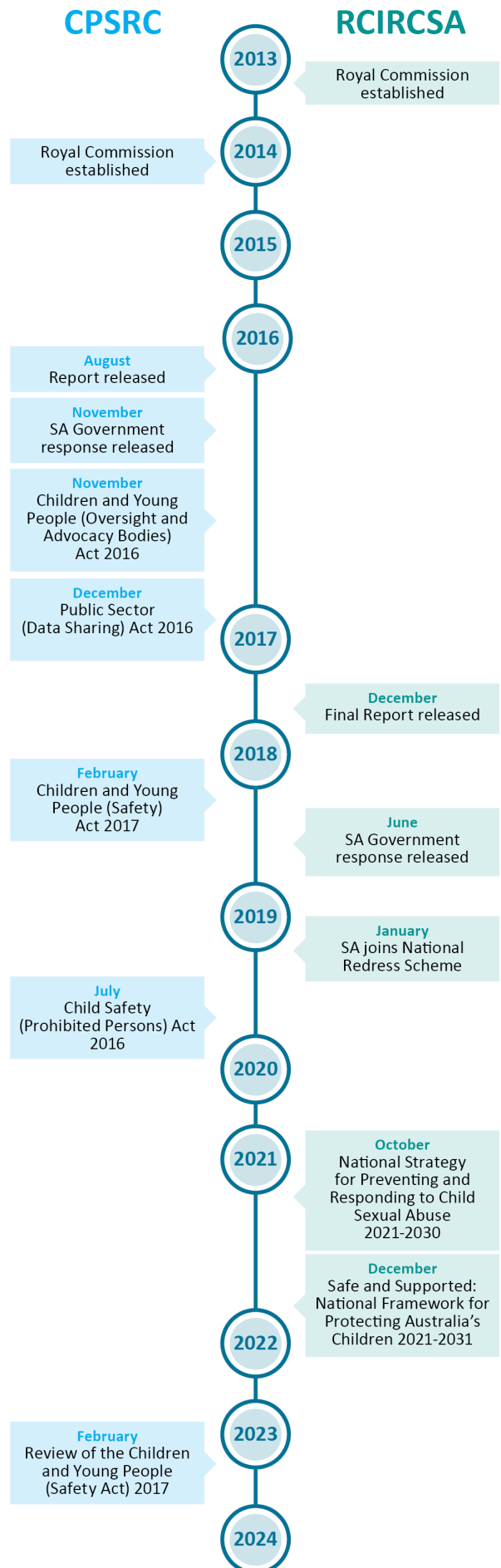
Progress:

- **Responding to perpetrators of child sexual abuse.** In March 2024, the Government passed the *Child Sex Offenders Registration (Child-Related Work) Amendment Act 2024*. The changes have yet to commence. South Australia will now be the first jurisdiction in the country to have a default restriction on accused child sex offenders working with child employees.
- **Implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP).** DCP has progressed a range of actions including draft legislation to embed all elements of the ATSICPP to the standard of active efforts, supporting the establishment of a Peak Body for Aboriginal Children and Young People- Wakwakurna Kanyini, expanding family group conferencing with a focus on Aboriginal children and families, developing DCP's reporting capabilities for aspects of the

ATSICPP and expanding the Taikurtirna Warri-  
apinthe Program to assist in family finding for  
Aboriginal children and young people requiring  
placement outside the family home.

- **Principles for the therapeutic intervention for children with problematic and harmful sexual behaviours.** South Australia has supported the development of the National Clinical and Therapeutic Framework for problematic and harmful sexual behaviours by children developed under the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021–2030.
- **Improve information exchange.** The Department of the Premier and Cabinet is progressing legislative amendments in response to the findings of the statutory review of the *Public Sector (Data Sharing) Act 2016* to enshrine the refreshed Information Sharing Guidelines in legislation.

**Key dates**



# Child Protection Systems Royal Commission and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

## Appendix 1: 2024 open recommendation updates

ACRONYMS:

CPSRC	Child Protection Systems Royal Commission	DE	Department for Education	DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
RCIRCSA	Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse	DCP	Department for Child Protection	DHW	Department for Health and Wellbeing
AGD	Attorney-General’s Department	DHS	Department of Human Services	SAHT	South Australian Housing Trust

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
CPSRC	30	Require the Agency to take a lead role with other stakeholders to develop and implement a workforce strategy designed to improve staffing practices and performance across the broader child protection system.	Challenges	DCP	Accepted	Complete
CPSRC	61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensure the Agency responds to all screened-in notifications, either directly, or by appropriate referral, including responding promptly (including after hours) to notifications in which physical injuries are notified and the Agency’s assistance is required to facilitate a forensic medical assessment.</li> <li>b) Multi Agency Assessment Unit</li> <li>c) Protective Intervention Backlog Team</li> <li>d) Early Intervention Programs</li> <li>e) Family by Family</li> </ul>	Children at risk	DCP	Accepted in principle	Implementing
CPSRC	62	Phase out the closure of intakes and files due to a lack of resources. This should occur over a period of no more than five years from the date of this report. In the interim, practitioners should be provided with clear guidelines as to the circumstances in which such closures are appropriate. There should be quarterly reports to the public on the rate of closures that are due to a lack of resources.	Children at risk	DCP	Accepted in principle	Implementing
CPSRC	96	Require the Agency to report quarterly to the Minister and to the Guardian for Children and Young People, and make public a report as to the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) compliance with the Standards of Alternative Care in South Australia 2.1, 2.2 and 2.6;</li> <li>b) the proportion of children entering care whose health needs are assessed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant health standards; and</li> </ul>	Children in OOHC	DCP	Accepted in principle	Complete

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
		c) the number and proportion of children and young people who have been reviewed in accordance with section 52 of the Children's Protection Act 1993 at the time the review falls due.				
CPSRC	133	Reform the manner in which the use of force against children in residential care facilities is recorded and tracked by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) amending regulation 14 of the Family and Community Services Regulations to require any worker who participates in or witnesses an incident involving or leading to the use of force against a child to verify the accuracy of the written report of the incident or, in the alternative, where the accuracy of the written report is not verified, provide an independent written account with respect to the incident;</li> <li>b) amending the pro forma of the report to clarify the requirements of regulation 14(3);</li> <li>c) requiring supervisors to reject any report that does not comply with regulation 14(3) in the absence of any adequate explanation for non-compliance. If a non-compliant report is accepted, the supervisor should specify the reason for acceptance in the absence of compliance; and</li> <li>d) regularly audit reports to ensure compliance with the regulations.</li> </ul>	Children in OOHC	DCP	Accepted	Complete
CPSRC	141	Review and clarify policies that guide the behaviour of workers, particularly in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) physical contact with children (to provide clear and unambiguous guidance);</li> <li>b) recording observations in observation logs; and</li> <li>c) reporting lines for information about the wellbeing of children.</li> </ul>	Children in OOHC	DCP	Accepted	Complete
CPSRC	143	Create a specific unit and database to receive and track information about the conduct of staff from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) care concerns;</li> <li>b) critical incident reports;</li> <li>c) information from other staff; and</li> <li>d) complaints made by children.</li> </ul> This process should apply to staff employed by the directorate and those engaged through commercial agencies. Staff should be permitted to provide information directly to that unit.	Children in OOHC	DCP	Accepted	Implementing
CPSRC	168	Fund Housing SA to develop innovative housing models, particularly those that use supported share housing where appropriate for care leavers.	Children in OOHC	SAHT	Accepted in principle	Implementing
CPSRC	198	Require the Agency to report to the Minister and the Guardian for Children and Young People quarterly on service criteria 3.1.4.1, 3.1.4.4 and 3.1.4.6, which form part of standard 3.1.4 of the Standards of Alternative Care in South Australia.	Children with diverse needs	DCP	Accepted in principle	Implementing

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
CPSRC	209	Provide secure, long-term funding for playgroups in remote Aboriginal communities, administered by a single agency.	Children with diverse needs	DE	Accepted in principle	Implementing
RCIRCSA	1 (c)	State and territory governments should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) within 12 months of the publication of this report, amend their working with children check laws to implement the standards identified in this report</li> <li>b) once the standards are implemented, obtain agreement from the Council of Australian Governments, or a relevant ministerial council, before deviating from or altering the standards in this report, adopting changes across all jurisdictions</li> <li>c) within 18 months from the publication of this report, amend their working with children check laws to enable clearances from other jurisdictions to be recognised and accepted.</li> </ul>	WWCC Report	DHS	c) Accepted in principle	c) Implementing
RCIRCSA	6.10	State and territory governments should ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) an independent oversight body in each state and territory is responsible for monitoring and enforcing the Child Safe Standards. Where appropriate, this should be an existing body</li> <li>b) the independent oversight body is able to delegate responsibility for monitoring and enforcing the Child Safe Standards to another state or territory government body, such as a sector regulator</li> <li>c) regulators take a responsive and risk-based approach when monitoring compliance with the Child Safe Standards and, where possible, utilise existing regulatory frameworks to monitor and enforce the Child Safe Standards.</li> </ul>	Final Report	DE	For further consideration	Planning
RCIRCSA	6.11	Each independent state and territory oversight body should have the following additional functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) provide advice and information on the Child Safe Standards to institutions and the community</li> <li>b) collect, analyse and publish data on the child safe approach in that jurisdiction and provide that data to the proposed National Office for Child Safety</li> <li>c) partner with peak bodies, professional standards bodies and/or sector leaders to work with institutions to enhance the safety of children</li> <li>d) provide, promote or support education and training on the Child Safe Standards to build the capacity of institutions to be child safe</li> <li>e) coordinate ongoing information exchange between oversight bodies relating to institutions' compliance with the Child Safe Standards.</li> </ul>	Final Report	DE	For further consideration	Planning
RCIRCSA	6.19	Ministers for education, through the Council of Australian Governments, should establish a nationally consistent curriculum for online safety education in schools. The Office of the eSafety Commissioner should be consulted on the design of the	Final Report	DE	Accepted in principle	Complete

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
		curriculum and contribute to the development of course content and approaches to delivery. The curriculum should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be appropriately staged from Foundation year to Year 12 and be linked with related content areas to build behavioural skills as well as technical knowledge to support a positive and safe online culture</li> <li>b) involve children and young people in the design, delivery and piloting of new online safety education, and update content annually to reflect evolving technologies, online behaviours and evidence of international best practice approaches</li> <li>c) be tailored and delivered in ways that allow all Australian children and young people to reach, access and engage with online safety education, including vulnerable groups that may not access or engage with the school system.</li> </ul>				
RCIRCSA	7.09	State and territory governments should establish nationally consistent legislative schemes (reportable conduct schemes), based on the approach adopted in New South Wales, which obliges heads of institutions to notify an oversight body of any reportable allegation, conduct or conviction involving any of the institution's employees.	Final Report	AGD	For further consideration	For further consideration
RCIRCSA	7.10	Reportable conduct schemes should provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) an independent oversight body</li> <li>b) obligatory reporting by heads of institutions</li> <li>c) a definition of reportable conduct that covers any sexual offence, or sexual misconduct, committed against, with, or in the presence of, a child</li> <li>d) a definition of reportable conduct that includes the historical conduct of a current employee</li> <li>e) a definition of employee that covers paid employees, volunteers and contractors</li> <li>f) protection for persons who make reports in good faith</li> <li>g) oversight body powers and functions that include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) scrutinising institutional systems for preventing reportable conduct and for handling and responding to reportable allegations, or reportable convictions</li> <li>ii) monitoring the progress of investigations and the handling of complaints by institutions</li> <li>iii) conducting, on its own motion, investigations concerning any reportable conduct of which it has been notified or otherwise becomes aware</li> <li>iv) power to exempt any class or kind of conduct from being reportable conduct capacity building and practice development, through the provision of training, education and guidance to institutions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Final Report	AGD	For further consideration	For further consideration

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
		v) public reporting, including annual reporting on the operation of the scheme and trends in reports and investigations, and the power to make special reports to parliaments.				
RCIRCSA	7.11	State and territory governments should periodically review the operation of reportable conduct schemes, and in that review determine whether the schemes should cover additional institutions that exercise a high degree of responsibility for children and involve heightened risk of child sexual abuse.	Final Report	AGD	For further consideration	For further consideration
RCIRCSA	7.12	<p>Reportable conduct schemes should cover institutions that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• exercise a high degree of responsibility for children</li> <li>• engage in activities that involve a heightened risk of child sexual abuse, due to institutional characteristics, the nature of the activities involving children, or the additional vulnerability of the children the institution engages with.</li> </ul> <p>At a minimum, these should include institutions that provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) accommodation and residential services for children, including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) housing or homelessness services that provide overnight beds for children and young people</li> <li>ii) providers of overnight camps</li> </ol> </li> <li>b) activities or services of any kind, under the auspices of a particular religious denomination or faith, through which adults have contact with children</li> <li>c) childcare services, including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) approved education and care services under the Education and Care Services National Law</li> <li>ii) approved occasional care services</li> </ol> </li> <li>d) child protection services and out-of-home care, including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) child protection authorities and agencies</li> <li>ii) providers of foster care, kinship or relative care</li> <li>iii) providers of family group homes</li> <li>iv) providers of residential care</li> </ol> </li> <li>e) disability services and supports for children with disability, including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) disability service providers under state and territory legislation</li> <li>ii) registered providers of supports under the National Disability Insurance Scheme</li> </ol> </li> <li>f) education services for children, including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) government and non-government schools</li> <li>ii) TAFEs and other institutions registered to provide senior secondary education or training courses for overseas students or student exchange programs</li> </ol> </li> <li>g) health services for children, including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) government health departments and agencies, and statutory corporations</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Final Report	AGD	For further consideration	For further consideration

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii) public and private hospitals</li> <li>iii) providers of mental health and drug or alcohol treatment services that have inpatient beds for children and young people</li> <li>h) justice and detention services for children, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) youth detention centres</li> <li>ii) immigration detention facilities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				
RCIRCSA	8.05	State and territory governments should ensure that non-government schools operating in the state or territory are required to comply, at a minimum, with standards applicable to government schools in relation to the creation, maintenance and disposal of records relevant to child safety and wellbeing, including child sexual abuse.	Final Report	DE	Accepted in principle	Complete
RCIRCSA	8.07	<p>In establishing the information exchange scheme, the Australian Government and state and territory governments should develop a minimum of nationally consistent provisions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) enable direct exchange of relevant information between a range of prescribed bodies, including service providers, government and non-government agencies, law enforcement agencies, and regulatory and oversight bodies, which have responsibilities related to children's safety and wellbeing</li> <li>b) permit prescribed bodies to provide relevant information to other prescribed bodies without a request, for purposes related to preventing, identifying and responding to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts</li> <li>c) require prescribed bodies to share relevant information on request from other prescribed bodies, for purposes related to preventing, identifying and responding to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts, subject to limited exceptions</li> <li>d) explicitly prioritise children's safety and wellbeing and override laws that might otherwise prohibit or restrict disclosure of information to prevent, identify and respond to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts</li> <li>e) provide safeguards and other measures for oversight and accountability to prevent unauthorised sharing and improper use of information obtained under the information exchange scheme require prescribed bodies to provide adversely affected persons with an opportunity to respond to untested or unsubstantiated allegations, where such information is received under the information exchange scheme, prior to taking adverse action against such persons, except where to do so could place another person at risk of harm.</li> </ul>	Final Report	DPC	Accepted in principle	Implementing
RCIRCSA	8.08	The Australian Government, state and territory governments and prescribed bodies should work together to ensure that the implementation of our recommended information exchange scheme is supported with education,	Final Report	DPC	Accepted in principle	Implementing

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
		<p>training and guidelines. Education, training and guidelines should promote understanding of, and confidence in, appropriate information sharing to better prevent, identify and respond to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts, including by addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) impediments to information sharing due to limited understanding of applicable laws</li> <li>b) unauthorised sharing and improper use of information.</li> </ul>				
RCIRCSA	8.09	<p>The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Education Council should consider the need for nationally consistent state and territory legislative requirements about the types of information recorded on teacher registers. Types of information that the council should consider, with respect to a person's registration and employment as a teacher, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the person's former names and aliases</li> <li>b) the details of former and current employers</li> <li>c) where relating to allegations or incidents of child sexual abuse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) current and past disciplinary actions, such as conditions on, suspension of, and cancellation of registration</li> <li>ii) grounds for current and past disciplinary actions</li> <li>iii) pending investigations</li> <li>iv) findings or outcomes of investigations where allegations have been substantiated</li> <li>v) resignation or dismissal from employment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Final Report	DE	Accepted in principle	Implementing
RCIRCSA	8.10	<p>The COAG Education Council should consider the need for nationally consistent provisions in state and territory teacher registration laws providing that teacher registration authorities may, and/or must on request, make information on teacher registers available to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) teacher registration authorities in other states and territories</li> <li>b) teachers' employers.</li> </ul>	Final Report	DE	Accepted in principle	Implementing
RCIRCSA	8.11	<p>The COAG Education Council should consider the need for nationally consistent provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) in state and territory teacher registration laws or</li> <li>b) in administrative arrangements, based on legislative authorisation for information sharing under our recommended information exchange scheme providing that teacher registration authorities may or must notify teacher registration authorities in other states and territories and teachers' employers of information they hold or receive about the following matters where they relate to allegations or incidents of child sexual abuse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) disciplinary actions, such as conditions or restrictions on, suspension of, and cancellation of registration, including with notification of grounds</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Final Report	DE	Accepted in principle	Implementing

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii) investigations into conduct, or into allegations or complaints</li> <li>iii) findings or outcomes of investigations</li> <li>iv) resignation or dismissal from employment.</li> </ul>				
RCIRCSA	8.12	In considering improvements to teacher registers and information sharing by registration authorities, the COAG Education Council should also consider what safeguards are necessary to protect teachers' personal information	Final Report	DE	Accepted in principle	Implementing
RCIRCSA	8.13	<p>State and territory governments should ensure that policies provide for the exchange of a student's information when they move to another school, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the student may pose risks to other children due to their harmful sexual behaviours or may have educational or support needs due to their experiences of child sexual abuse and</li> <li>b) the new school needs this information to address the safety and wellbeing of the student or of other students at the school.</li> </ul> <p>State and territory governments should give consideration to basing these policies on our recommended information exchange scheme (Recommendations 8.6 to 8.8).</p>	Final Report	DE	Accepted in principle	Complete
RCIRCSA	8.16	The COAG Education Council should review the Interstate Student Data Transfer Note and Protocol in the context of the implementation of our recommended information exchange scheme (Recommendations 8.6 to 8.8).	Final Report	DE	Accepted	Complete
RCIRCSA	9.09	<p>The Australian Government, in conjunction with state and territory governments, should establish and fund a national centre to raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of child sexual abuse, support help-seeking and guide best practice advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment. The national centre's functions should be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) raise community awareness and promote destigmatising messages about the impacts of child sexual abuse</li> <li>b) increase practitioners' knowledge and competence in responding to child and adult victims and survivors by translating knowledge about the impacts of child sexual abuse and the evidence on effective responses into practice and policy. This should include activities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) identify, translate and promote research in easily available and accessible formats for advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment practitioners</li> <li>ii) produce national training materials and best practice clinical resources</li> <li>iii) partner with training organisations to conduct training and workforce development programs</li> <li>iv) influence national tertiary curricula to incorporate child sexual abuse and trauma-informed care</li> <li>v) inform government policy making</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Final Report	DHW	Accepted	Complete

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
		c) lead the development of better service models and interventions through coordinating a national research agenda and conducting high-quality program evaluation. The national centre should partner with survivors in all its work, valuing their knowledge and experience.				
RCIRCSA	10.01	The Australian Government and state and territory governments should ensure the issue of children's harmful sexual behaviours is included in the national strategy to prevent child sexual abuse (see recommendations 6.1 to 6.3). Harmful sexual behaviours should be addressed through each of the following: a) primary prevention strategies to educate family, community members, carers and professionals (including mandatory reporters) about preventing harmful sexual behaviours b) secondary prevention strategies to ensure early intervention when harmful sexual behaviours are developing c) tertiary intervention strategies to address harmful sexual behaviours.	Final Report	DHW	Accepted	Implementing
RCIRCSA	10.03	The Australian Government and state and territory governments should adequately fund therapeutic interventions to meet the needs of all children with harmful sexual behaviours. These should be delivered through a network of specialist and generalist therapeutic services. Specialist services should also be adequately resourced to provide expert support to generalist services.	Final Report	DHW	Accepted	Implementing
RCIRCSA	10.05	Therapeutic intervention for children with harmful sexual behaviours should be based on the following principles: a) a contextual and systemic approach should be used b) family and carers should be involved c) safety should be established d) there should be accountability and responsibility for the harmful sexual behaviours e) there should be a focus on behaviour change f) developmentally and cognitively appropriate interventions should be used g) the care provided should be trauma-informed h) therapeutic services and interventions should be culturally safe i) therapeutic interventions should be accessible to all children with harmful sexual behaviours.	Final Report	DHW	Accepted	Implementing
RCIRCSA	10.07	The Australian Government and state and territory governments should fund and support evaluation of services providing therapeutic interventions for problematic and harmful sexual behaviours by children.	Final Report	DHW	Accepted	Implementing
RCIRCSA	12.02	The Australian Government and state and territory governments should prioritise enhancements to the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set to include:	Final Report	DCP	Accepted in principle	Complete

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) data identifying children with disability, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children</li> <li>b) the number of children who were the subject of a substantiated report of sexual abuse while in out-of-home care</li> <li>c) the demographics of those children</li> <li>d) the type of out-of-home care placement in which the abuse occurred</li> <li>e) information about when the abuse occurred</li> <li>f) information about who perpetrated the abuse, including their age and their relationship to the victim, if known.</li> </ul>				
RCIRCSA	12.03	State and territory governments should agree on reporting definitions and data requirements to enable reporting in the Report on government services on outcome indicators for 'improved health and wellbeing of the child', 'safe return home' and 'permanent care'.	Final Report	DCP	Accepted in principle	Complete
RCIRCSA	12.20	<p>Each state and territory government, in consultation with appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and community representatives, should develop and implement plans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) fully implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle</li> <li>b) improve community and child protection sector understanding of the intent and scope of the principle</li> <li>c) develop outcome measures that allow quantification and reporting on the extent of the full application of the principle, and evaluation of its impact on child safety and the reunification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with their families</li> <li>d) invest in community capacity building as a recognised part of kinship care, in addition to supporting individual carers, in recognition of the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in bringing up children.</li> </ul>	Final Report	DCP	Accepted in principle	Implementing
RCIRCSA	13.01	All schools should implement the Child Safe Standards identified by the Royal Commission.	Final Report	DE	Accepted in principle	Implementing
RCIRCSA	13.02	State and territory independent oversight authorities responsible for implementing the Child Safe Standards (see Recommendation 6.10) should delegate to school registration authorities the responsibility for monitoring and enforcing the Child Safe Standards in government and non-government schools.	Final Report	DE	For further consideration	Planning
RCIRCSA	13.03	School registration authorities should place particular emphasis on monitoring government and non-government boarding schools to ensure they meet the Child Safe Standards. Policy guidance and practical support should be provided to all	Final Report	DE	For further consideration	Planning

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
		boarding schools to meet these standards, including advice on complaint handling.				
RCIRCSA	13.05 (2)	1) Boarding hostels for children and young people should implement the Child Safe Standards identified by the Royal Commission. 2) State and territory independent oversight authorities should monitor and enforce the Child Safe Standards in these institutions.	Final Report	2) DE	2) For further consideration	2) Planning
RCIRCSA	14.04	The independent state and territory oversight bodies that implement the Child Safe Standards should establish a free email subscription function for the sport and recreation sector so that all providers of these services to children can subscribe to receive relevant child safe information and links to resources.	Final Report	DE	For further consideration	Planning
RCIRCSA	16	In relation to blind reporting, institutions and survivor advocacy and support groups should: a) be clear that, where the law requires reporting to police, child protection or another agency, the institution or group or its relevant staff member or official will report as required b) develop and adopt clear guidelines to inform staff and volunteers, victims and their families and survivors, and police, child protection and other agencies as to the approach the institution or group will take in relation to allegations, reports or disclosures it receives that it is not required by law to report to police, child protection or another agency.	Criminal Justice Report	DHS	Accepted	Planning
RCIRCSA	17	If a relevant institution or survivor advocacy and support group adopts a policy of reporting survivors' details to police without survivors' consent – that is, if it will not make blind reports – it should seek to provide information about alternative avenues for a survivor to seek support if this aspect of the institution or group's guidelines is not acceptable to the survivor.	Criminal Justice Report	DHS	Accepted	Planning
RCIRCSA	18	Institutions and survivor advocacy and support groups that adopt a policy that they will not report the survivor's details without the survivor's consent should make a blind report to police in preference to making no report at all.	Criminal Justice Report	DHS	Accepted	Planning
RCIRCSA	19	Regardless of an institution or survivor advocacy and support group's policy in relation to blind reporting, the institution or group should provide survivors with: a) information to inform them about options for reporting to police b) support to report to police if the survivor is willing to do so.	Criminal Justice Report	DHS	Accepted	Planning
RCIRCSA	19	State and territory governments should amend their working with children check laws to: a) require that relevant disciplinary and/or misconduct information is checked for all working with children check applicants b) include a standard definition of disciplinary and/or misconduct information that encompasses disciplinary action and/or findings of misconduct where	WWCC Report	DHS	Accepted	Implementing

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
		<p>the conduct was against, or involved, a child, irrespective of whether this information arises from reportable conduct schemes or other systems or bodies responsible for disciplinary or misconduct proceedings</p> <p>c) require the bodies responsible for the relevant disciplinary and/or misconduct information to notify their respective screening agencies of relevant disciplinary and/or misconduct information that meets the definition.</p>				
RCIRCSA	23	State and territory governments (other than Victoria) should consider introducing legislation to establish legislative authority for course of conduct charges in relation to child sexual abuse offences if legislative authority may assist in using course of conduct charges.	Criminal Justice Report	AGD	Accepted in principle	Complete
RCIRCSA	24	State and territory governments should consider providing for any of the two or more unlawful sexual acts that are particularised for the maintaining an unlawful sexual relationship offence to be particularised as courses of conduct.	Criminal Justice Report	AGD	Accepted in principle	Complete
RCIRCSA	30	Subject to the implementation of the standards set out in this report, all state and territory governments should amend their working with children check laws to enable working with children checks from other jurisdictions to be recognised and accepted.	WWCC Report	DHS	Accepted in principle	Implementing
RCIRCSA	43	Each Australian Director of Public Prosecutions should publish the existence of their complaints mechanism and internal audit processes and data on their use and outcomes online and in their annual reports.	Criminal Justice Report	AGD	Accepted	Implementing
RCIRCSA	58	If it is not practical to record evidence given live in court in a way that is suitable for use in any subsequent trial or retrial, prosecution guidelines should require that the fact that a witness may be required to give evidence again in the event of a retrial be discussed with witnesses when they make any choice as to whether to give evidence via pre-recording, closed circuit television or in person.	Criminal Justice Report	AGD	Accepted	Implementing
RCIRCSA	62	<p>State and territory governments should introduce legislation to allow a child's competency to give evidence in child sexual abuse prosecutions to be tested as follows:</p> <p>a) where there is any doubt about a child's competence to give evidence, a judge should establish the child's ability to understand basic questions asked of them by asking simple, non-theoretical questions – for example, about their age, school, family et cetera</p> <p>b) where it does not appear that the child can give sworn evidence,</p> <p>c) the judge should simply ask the witness for a promise to tell the truth and allow the examination of the witness to proceed.</p>	Criminal Justice Report	AGD	For further consideration	For further consideration
RCIRCSA	64	State and territory governments should consider or reconsider the desirability of partial codification of judicial directions now that Victoria has established a precedent from which other jurisdictions could develop their own reforms.	Criminal Justice Report	AGD	For further consideration	For further consideration

Royal Commission	Rec no.	Recommendation	Chapter / Report	Lead	Status	Progress
RCIRCSA	70	<p>Each state and territory government should lead a process to consult the prosecution, defence, judiciary and academics with relevant expertise in relation to judicial directions containing educative information about children and the impact of child sexual abuse, with a view to settling standard directions and introducing legislation as soon as possible to authorise and require the directions to be given.</p> <p>The National Child Sexual Assault Reform Committee's recommended mandatory judicial directions and the Victorian Government's proposed directions on inconsistencies in the complainant's account should be the starting point for the consultation process, subject to the removal of the limitation in the third direction recommended by the National Child Sexual Assault Reform Committee in relation to children's responses to sexual abuse so that it can apply regardless of the complainant's age at trial.</p>	Criminal Justice Report	AGD	For further consideration	For further consideration
RCIRCSA	80	State and territory governments should consider providing for any of the two or more unlawful sexual acts that are particularised for the maintaining an unlawful sexual relationship offence to be particularised as courses of conduct.	Criminal Justice Report	AGD	Accepted in principle	Complete
RCIRCSA	95	The Australian Government and state and territory governments should consider whether there are any unincorporated bodies that they fund directly or indirectly to provide children's services. If there are, they should consider requiring them to maintain insurance that covers their liability in respect of institutional child sexual abuse claims.	Redress & Civil Litigation Report	AGD	Accepted in principle	For further consideration