



childaware

CHILD AWARE LOCAL INITIATIVE

1. What are Child Aware Approaches?

Child Aware Approaches are community-led, innovative and practical grassroots actions to keep children safe and well.

2. What is the Child Aware Local Initiative?

The Child Aware Local Initiative (CALI) is a capacity building initiative which supports communities to undertake early intervention and prevention activities which contribute to keeping children safe and well.

The Child Aware Local Initiative is a central priority under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020* and the *Second Action Plan 2012-15*. Endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments, the National Framework represents an unprecedented level of collaboration between Australian, State and Territory governments and non-government organisations to protect children.

The supporting outcomes of the National Framework are the key drivers of the **Child Aware Local Initiative** which is implemented through a partnership between the community sector and Commonwealth and state and territory governments.

The six supporting outcomes of the National Framework are:

1. Children live in safe and supportive families and communities
2. Children and families access adequate support to promote safety and intervene early
3. Risk factors for child abuse and neglect are addressed
4. Children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and well being
5. Indigenous children are supported and safe in their families and communities
6. Child sexual abuse and exploitation is prevented and survivors receive adequate support

Key messages of the Child Aware Local Initiative include:

- ▶ Protecting children is everyone's business.
- ▶ Children have a right to be safe, valued and cared for.
- ▶ The best way to protect children is to prevent abuse and neglect from happening in the first place.
- ▶ Children and families should have a 'voice' in decisions affecting their lives.
- ▶ Governments, communities, organisations and individuals can work together to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families.
- ▶ Children are usually best supported within their families.
- ▶ A 'one size fits all' approach does not work across Australia's diverse communities.
- ▶ Local solutions are required for local problems.
- ▶ Culturally diverse groups need culturally sensitive responses.

3. Who is leading the implementation of this Initiative?

Families Australia and the Australian Centre for Child Protection.

4. How will it work?

Communities will be supported to develop and implement sustainable local plans of action by bringing together existing resources and networks within communities.

In each community a lead organisation will be identified to partner with a range of agencies, groups and individuals such as national, state and local government agencies, community leaders, community sector organisations and groups, corporate and small business, health and education institutions, child protection services and children, parents and families.

5. What will be achieved?

Communities will implement practical actions and local solutions that contribute to keeping children safe and well. Practical actions may include developing resources and some training tools or families reaching out to other families or services asking about children's needs. Outcomes will be reported in March 2016.

6. How many sites will be selected?

Up to eight communities will be selected.

7. What support will be provided to communities and organisations?

Families Australia and the will bring stakeholders together and provide them with support to develop a community vision and associated practical action to drive sustainable change.

Communities and organisations have access to relevant research, training, tools and practice examples from previous Child Aware Approaches projects.

8. Lead agency contacts

Stella Conroy
Deputy CEO
Families Australia
02 6273 4885
stella.conroy@familiesaustralia.org.au

Christine Gibson
Community Research Liaison Coordinator
Australian Centre for Child Protection
08 8302 2981
Christine.Gibson@unisa.edu.au