

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN: PROGRESS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS



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DEVELOPING THE NATIONAL APPROACH: 1990s-PRESENT



Phase I: problem recognition, mobilisation & political action

- Calls from NGOs & research
- Senate reports 2004 & 2005
- National Framework 2009

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Phase II: system enhancement & experiments

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(eg OOHC standards)
- Increasing early prevention
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THIRD ACTION PLAN 2015-18

- Three new National Strategies:
 1. Early intervention with focus on the early years, especially first thousand days for a child
 2. Helping young people in OOHC to thrive in adulthood
 3. Organisations responding better to children to keep them safe
- Cross-cutting focus areas: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, & research

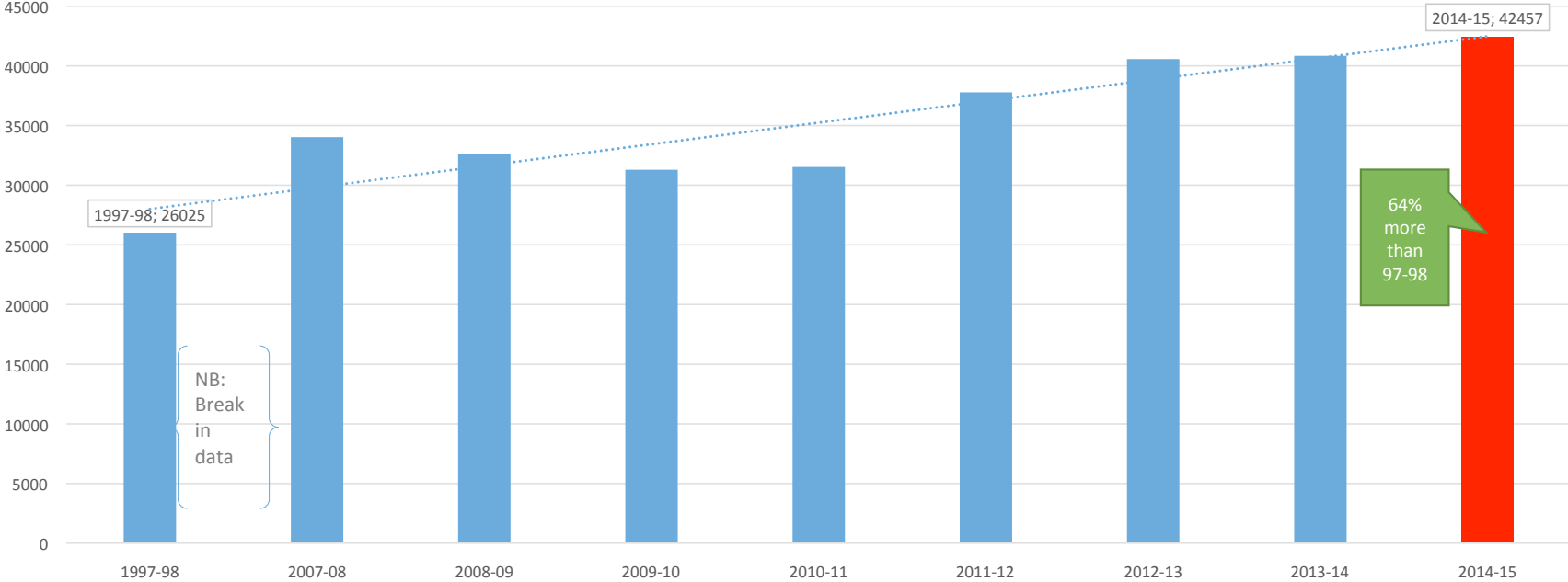


SOME SPECIFICS

- 17 areas, including full application ATSI CPP, community awareness raising, identifying locations of high incidence family violence and better service coordination, trial ways to improve support for young people leaving care, implement OOHC standards
- Expect to hear more – Coalition meeting 17 August and by jurisdiction

PROBLEM UPDATED; PROBLEM UNABATED

Substantiations of child abuse (Australia)
(reasonable cause to believe that the child had been, was being, or was likely to be, abused, neglected or otherwise harmed)
1997-98 to 2014-15



Sources: AIHW, *Child protection Australia* (1999, 2009-2016)

DEVELOPING THE NATIONAL APPROACH: 1990s-PRESENT



1990s-2009

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2010-present

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Phase III: cultural & systems transformation?

- Falling rates of child abuse; increased rates of children thriving in family environment; whole of community and government consensus to put children's needs and rights increasingly at centre of policies and decisions
- What can/should be different?

TOWARDS PHASE III: IDEAS FOR CULTURAL & SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

Should we, for example:

- Build a multi-decade **national plan of action** for children and young people encompassing not only child safety but other domains such as health and education to focus attention and actions?
- Develop a multi-generational, multi-sectoral **investment strategy** to fuel such a plan and specifically in relation to child safety?
- Support SNAICC's **Family Matters** campaign, particularly its request for COAG to adopt a target to help drive national efforts?