



Australian Centre for
Child Protection



Learnings from the Child Aware Local Initiative

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Background

The Child Aware Local Initiative builds capacity by supporting communities to undertake prevention and early intervention activities which contribute to keeping children safe and well

Key ingredients

National Framework – Action Plans - Projects

Child Aware Approaches conferences

Child Aware Approaches grant/resulting projects

Child Aware Good Practice Guide and Principles

Child Aware Local Initiative

Built on previous national projects

Involved two lead agencies and seven sites

Engaged organisations, governments, adult
community members and children

Supported development of local plans of action

Sites

Geeveston, Tasmania

Katherine, Northern Territory

Lismore New South Wales

Maryborough, Victoria

Seaford, South Australia

South Tuggeranong, Australian Capital Territory

Townsville, Queensland

Child Aware Local Initiative materials

<http://childaware.org.au/>

CALI Learnings – necessary investments

Shared planning

Relationship building

Leadership

Using existing structures

Goodwill, passion, commitment

Resources

CALI Learnings – necessary investments

***‘WE NEED TIME, GOOD PEOPLE,
RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES’***

CALI Learnings – challenges

Site selection

Competing demands

Delays

Clarity

CALI Learnings – challenges

Staff turnover

Maintenance of engagement

Lack of confidence in engaging children

CALI Learnings – challenges

***‘YOU CAN’T ACTUALLY DEVELOP ANYTHING
WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT THE CLIENTS
WANT, EVEN IF THE CLIENTS ARE FIVE’***

The Future

Build onto CALI at both existing and new sites

Harness local passion

Martial available skills and other resources

Focus efforts on engaging children

‘THOSE LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIPS AND THE TRUST THAT YOU HAVE. WITHOUT IT, IT’S PRETTY DIFFICULT TO GET THINGS HAPPENING’

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