



# childaware

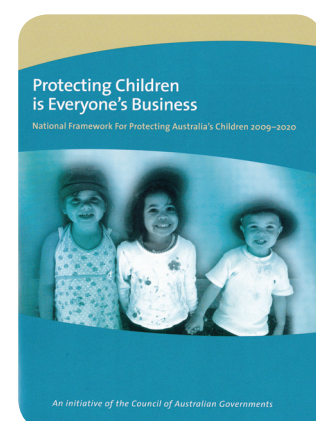
## LOCAL INITIATIVE

» Promoting local solutions and community actions to enhance child safety and wellbeing in Australia



### HISTORY AND KEY INGREDIENTS

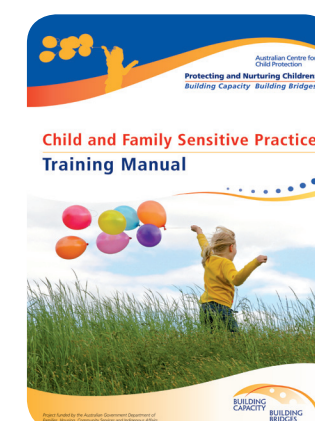
Trialled in seven initial sites, the Child Aware Local Initiative (CALI) is one of the projects supported by the Child Aware Approaches National Initiative. The Australian Government funded a grants round, publication of a good practice guide and annual conferences under the National Initiative.



An integral part of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020; Australia's first national plan to address child abuse and neglect



Child Aware Approaches Grants 2012



Protecting and Nurturing Children: Building Capacity Building Bridges



Child Aware Approaches Conferences



Good Practice Guide to Child Aware Approaches

### RESEARCH QUESTION

Can community activation contribute to child wellbeing and safety as a prevention and early intervention strategy?

### AIM

Children are safe and well: Communities drive early intervention and prevention initiatives to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and develop a shared vision for change.



### BENEFITS FROM CALI IMPLEMENTATION

#### Relationships

Awareness, engagement and motivation

#### Leadership

Embedding Child Aware principles and practice

Discretionary funds

A reason to 'gather around the table'

Goodwill, passion and commitment

#### Collaboration

Support, resources and mentoring, bring key speakers

Shared community action plans

#### Networks

### CHALLENGES

Changes of personnel with authorising capability, high staff turnover; high frequency of national and state elections, multiple changes of government; lack of confidence with community development practice and engaging directly with children; site readiness and activation regularly compromised.

### OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

- Local community plans were developed.
- Notifications of child abuse and neglect reduced.
- Risk of harm to children and young people was addressed.
- Prevention and early intervention strategies were promoted.
- Surveys of parents and children were conducted.
- Children gained an understanding of child rights.
- Children developed artwork for posters.
- Children led community forums.
- Supportive networks and services for children were mapped.
- Joint local planning for service delivery was implemented.
- Gaps and inconsistencies in service provision were identified.
- A mental health expo was provided for teachers and students.
- Enrolment in pre-school increased.
- Schools and community services became networked.
- Supported playgroups connected isolated parents to schools.
- Parenting programs in schools were established.
- Training to reduce cyberbullying was implemented in schools.
- Changed domestic and family violence policy to enhance protection for children.
- Embedded the use of the Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) tool.

### THE FUTURE

- Build on existing knowledge and skills.
- Harness local passion.
- Enhance and grow skills and resources which contribute to the prevention of violence against children.
- Focus more effort on engaging children.
- Continue to promote place-based child and family sensitive practice.

Child Aware Local Initiative resources and materials [www.childaware.org.au](http://www.childaware.org.au)