



**Advocating for Victorian children
and their families**

Strategic Framework 2021 - 2023

About the Centre

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare (the Centre) is the peak body for child and family services in Victoria. Representing over 150 community service organisations, students and individuals, the Centre advocates for the rights of children and young people to be heard, to be safe, to access education and to remain connected to family, community and culture.

Our Vision

Victorian children, young people and families are safe, happy and connected, with access to support when they need it.

Our Purpose

Policy and ideas

Develop, influence and advocate for public policies that advance the rights and wellbeing of children, young people and families and address the social, economic and cultural barriers to improving their lives.

Research and practice

Lead and share research to support innovation and evidence-informed practice.

Capacity building

Strengthen the capacity of organisations to provide services that best suit the needs of children and families experiencing vulnerability.

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Introduction

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare (the Centre) is committed to a bold strategic agenda for the next three years as Victoria's child and family services sector emerges from a global pandemic.

In a world already grappling with the complexities of climate change, COVID-19 presented significant challenges for children, young people and families in regard to their safety and wellbeing, and for service providers needing to respond rapidly and virtually to client need.

The Centre's Strategy 2021-23 builds on the successes of our sector in transforming a predominantly face-to-face model of service delivery to one that can also engage successfully with clients via technology.

Working alongside our members, Aboriginal colleagues, client groups, government and the broader service system, we will continue to advocate for, influence and support those reforms that seek to improve the lives of Victorian children and families.

We will continue to support Aboriginal self-determination and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to grow local solutions that work best for their communities.

We will continue to address sector-wide challenges, advocate for and engage with critical reforms to our care system, provide leadership in times of uncertainty, and meet the needs of individual members.

We recognise that to make a difference we must place children and families at the centre of everything we do. We know that the lives of children, young people and families improve when they have a meaningful say in the design of the systems and policies that affect them.

We will seek out and share the best available information and evidence on how systems are performing, what is working well, and where effort should be placed for the greatest effect.

Over the next three years, we will focus on five key strategic priorities.



Our strategic priorities

- 1** Ensure Victoria's vulnerable children, young people, carers and families are not left behind
- 2** Collaborate across systems, sectors and workforces to achieve the best outcomes for clients
- 3** Promote and embed the voices and rights of children, young people, carers and families
- 4** Translate the best available knowledge and insights into practice, policy and reforms
- 5** Continue to be a responsive, proactive and transformative peak for the child and family welfare sector



How we will bring about change

Work closely with organisations to make sure children, young people, carers and families are not left behind

- Leverage and build on the strengths of the sector to recover successfully from COVID and other environmental impacts
- Propose policies and reforms to the service system that are informed by evidence, consultation and experience
- Advocate for financial reforms to create a sustainable sector to improve outcomes for children and families

Support greater collaboration across systems, sectors and workforces to achieve the best outcomes for children, young people, carers and families

- Promote proven and promising approaches for families with children and young people, early in life and early in need
- Drive a focus on improving health, education and justice outcomes for children in care
- Support the successful implementation of services, programs and reforms in family violence and family
- Advocate for universal extended care



How we will bring about change

Seek to promote and embed the voice and rights of children, young people, carers and families

- Support and propose initiatives that embed the rights and voice of children and young people and families at a policy and practice level
- Model evidence-informed ways of working with young people and families in the Centre's policy and advocacy work

Translate the best available knowledge into practice and reforms

- Contribute to growing and sharing the best available evidence to sector and government
- Through collaboration and networks, foster local, place-based solutions
- Increase cross-sector learning opportunities and pathways
- Support a flexible, sustainable sector workforce through creative technology solutions
- Work with Government to increase data accessibility to inform strategy and service planning

Continue to be responsive, proactive and transformative

- Continue to strengthen governance and organisational capability
- Grow flexible technology solutions to support the Centre and engage with its members
- Increase the inclusivity and diversity of the Centre's membership and stakeholders
- Provide staff with opportunities to continue to grow professionally

