

Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children

Child protection woes continue; national redoubling of efforts needed

The Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children is appalled by figures contained in today's report by the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare relating to child protection in Australia.

It is alarming that, in the past year, the number of children on care and protection orders rose by 8.5% to 35,409 and the number of children in out-of-home care increased by 9.3%.

It is also matter of major national concern that the rate of Indigenous children on care and protection orders was more than 8 times the rate of non-Indigenous children. The rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care was just over 9 times the rate of non-Indigenous children.

The Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children calls on all Australian Governments – Federal and State/Territory – to redouble their efforts on child safety and wellbeing.

Coalition spokesperson Brian Babington said: 'The COAG-endorsed National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 is a welcome start, but there needs to be a greater sense of urgency and far more resources applied to tackling the problem, in particular, by working to strengthen families before problems get out of control. Children cannot wait.'

The 76-member Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children played a leading role in advocating for, and negotiating, the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. It is now helping to implement the National Framework. The Coalition comprises organisations which provide services to children, young people and families on the ground across Australia, as well as many key advocates and researchers in the areas of child protection and children's wellbeing.

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