

MEDIA RELEASE

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

COMMUNITY LEADERS CALL ON POLITICAL LEADERS: "MAKE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN A TOP NATIONAL PRIORITY"

The Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children calls on COAG leaders meeting tomorrow to support measures to make child protection a major national priority to turn around Australia's growing child abuse and neglect problem. It will take Government and community working together to ensure that all children are safe and families are provided with support to raise children well.

"The Coalition calls for all levels of government to work together on a national plan of action in close partnership with community and service delivery organisations across areas including welfare, education, health, parenting and family relationships and justice," Coalition spokesperson Brian Babington said.

"Recent child abuse, neglect and death tragedies underline the importance of developing a concerted national response which properly safeguards all children."

"The Coalition strongly supports the Prime Minister's leadership in developing a National Child Protection Framework by the end of 2008 and is working closely with the Federal Government to elaborate the strategy," he said.

The Framework should, among other things, focus on resources for preventive and early intervention measures, government support for Indigenous communities to take responsibility for and manage child protection, and a national planning mechanism, which includes all levels of Government and non-government organisations.

The Coalition is meeting today in Melbourne and comprises 59 major national community organisations working in the field of child welfare and protection.

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