

The National Action Plan for Children & Young People in Australia

18/2/11

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Background

The National Action Plan for Children and Young People in Australia is founded on a shared vision for positive change in the wellbeing of our children and young people. It's a vision that recognises that:

- Children are valued and loved members of our community
- Parents raise children, so government, business and organisations need to support and empower parents and families
- All children have the potential to succeed and should go as far as their talents can take them
- Children and young people need to enjoy their childhood as well as grow up prepared for adult life
- It is always better to prevent failure than tackle a crisis later

The purpose of a National Action Plan (NAP) is to bring activities, services, programs, research and policy together to provide a roadmap for how governments, community based groups, businesses and individuals can pool their effort to give all children and young people in Australia a good childhood.

Current plans only tackle parts of childhood or youth, some look at certain ages; others look at a particular problem whereas others focus on some children only. It's unclear how each plan connects to or creates the network of support and effort needed for all children and young people to develop or what each plan's specific and particular contribution is to achieving positive wellbeing.

Further, the determinants of children's wellbeing often lie in areas outside the scope of the current children plans. For example inequality appears to be a key determinant of children's health yet few of the current children's health related plans specifically address this issue. Conversely the impact of inequality on children's health is rarely the focus of plans that tackle economic policies.

Furthermore, common determinants often impact on many aspects of children's wellbeing, yet the current plans sometimes address these determinants separately, resulting in ad hoc, uncoordinated and probably at times contradictory policy and programs. For example family relationships are key determinants of children's wellbeing, yet there appears to be little policy co-ordination regarding the impact of various family law, income, employment, and support and education decisions on children and young people.

The NAP will look systematically and holistically at what we want for children and young people, to prioritise our investment and effort.

It will promote children and young people's voices and capacity, recognising their competence and invite them to become active participators in developing the plan. It will also offer the opportunity to more effectively harness and align NGO effort and resources with government effort and resources in meeting the needs of children and young people.

Plans work to mobilise, focus and engage people in an effort to improve things. The wellbeing of children and young people is of sufficient priority that it too deserves an effective plan; one that coordinates and builds effort on their behalf.

Progress to date – 2 December workshop

On 2 December 2010, an inaugural planning workshop was held at Parliament House in Canberra to progress the first stage of the NAP.

This workshop, facilitated by ARACY Board Member Dr Norman Swan, was attended by around 80 of Australia's leading experts, thinkers and 'doers'. Every State and Territory was represented (through a delegate from the Department of Premier and Cabinet in each State apart from Victoria because of caretaker government), as well as several Federal Government departments and representatives from all sides of politics: Greens, Labor and Liberal. The list of workshop delegates is detailed in attachment A.

The workshop objectives were:

- To understand the need, rationale, background and proposed process in developing the plan;
- To discuss and agree upon the structure (including key result areas) of the plan; and
- To commit to ongoing involvement in development of plan.

A background briefing booklet was provided to all delegates, and included details on the need for the NAP, what children say about their own wellbeing, health trends and causes (a paper by Richard Eckersley), a summary of the Federal and State / Territory existing plans for children & young people, draft 1 of the NAP schema, proposed consultation and governance approach, critical pathways and funding issues. A copy of the booklet is available on the ARACY website¹ - note that the Eckersley paper is not available on-line as it has been submitted for publication.

The agenda for the workshop is detailed in Attachment B.

The draft National Action Plan schema

The draft NAP was provided to the 2 December workshop delegates², as the basis for further development and consultation. The use of a Result Based Accountability framework was proposed.

Population: All children in Australia aged 0-24 years

Results: (what are the quality of life conditions we want for the children who live in Australia?)

- Children and young people are loved
- Children and young people are healthy
- Children and young people are safe
- Children and young people are learning and developing and have a fair chance of achieving their potential
- Children and young people are contributing
- Children and young people are achieving material basics

¹ http://www.aracy.org.au/cmsimages/file/2_December_Background-papers_Final.pdf

² <http://www.aracy.org.au/index.cfm?pageName=APYA>

Measuring results:

- Indicators could be used from AIHW's Picture of Australia's Children and Health Headline Indicators, or the DEEWR early childhood indicators (young children only).
- Data sources could include AIHW's Picture of Australia's Children; ARACY Report Card; UNICEF Children's Wellbeing in Developed Countries; ABS; Kids Helpline; National Survey of Young Australians by Mission Australia, etc.

Story behind the baseline (the measures themselves, including trend data, and explanations of trends)

- These could be common across the results and specific to each of the results. They could be also divided according to age/stage (e.g. early years, middle years, teenage years, young adulthood) of children and young people's lives.
- The stories could be collected from case studies, practice reflection and family experiences gathered through consultations.
- Stories from children and young people's views could also be gathered from the WA and NSW studies into children's wellbeing, the National Survey of Young Australians by Mission Australia and Kids Helpline.

What works to turn the curve (what works to improve results, including no-cost and low-cost ideas?)

- This would be based on review of the evidence, and where evidence is lacking, expert consensus of what works to improve the result area
- It is anticipated that there would be common strategies, and then specific strategies to each of the indicators.
- A number of criteria would be used to determine what is moved into the action plan, such as:
 - Is it evidence informed, or where evidence is lacking, is it consensus based?
 - Does it respect the importance of the family in children's lives?
 - Does it reduce prolonged high levels of (i.e. toxic) emotional stress and trauma in childhood?
 - Does it reduce significant adversity during the prenatal and early childhood periods?
 - Does it deliver impacts across a number of the results?
 - Does it avoid unwanted cost shifting between levels of government?
 - Does it respect jurisdictional autonomy?
 - Does it respect existing plans except if contraindicated by evidence?
 - Is it sustainable over time?

Action Plan (what we propose should be done about it)

- This will set out the priorities' for action that government, businesses, community groups, families, schools etc. could consider.

Summary of 2 December workshop discussion

The synopsis of discussion is provided in Attachment C.

In summary, there was support from delegates on:

- the need for a National Action Plan
- the need for the plan to focus on 0-24 year olds
- the use of Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework

There was discussion from delegates on the following issues:

- the intended audience for the plan
- the 6 result areas, with wording changes and some suggested additions. However there was general support that the current 6 areas were sufficient to base the next stage on (i.e. consultation and refining the evidence base)
- the need to set out the values underpinning the Plan
- the need for the NAP to be divided a number of ways (e.g. by age groups, key transitions, etc.)
- the consultation process / methodology, particularly with children, young people and families and how young people will participate in the development process
- the need for a range of material to reflect the range of audiences of the NAP
- funding options for the NAP

Draft recommendations from the workshop

The following recommendations were considered and supported by the delegates:

1. The development of a National Action Plan for Young Australians, facilitated by ARACY;
2. That the overall intent of the draft Plan is to promote the wellbeing of Australian children and young people;
3. The draft Plan covering children and young people from before birth to 24 years;
4. The use of an outcomes-based framework approach, such as the Results Based Accountability (RBA), to developing the draft Plan;
5. The following draft six result areas be used as the basis of consulting further on the Plan (noting that some of them may need 'tweaking', and that some additional result areas may be added):
 - Children and young people are loved
 - Children and young people are healthy
 - Children and young people are safe
 - Children and young people are learning and developing and have a fair chance of achieving their potential
 - Children and young people are contributing
 - Children and young people are achieving material basics;
6. A clear and comprehensive set of measurement indicators are developed as the plan progresses
7. ARACY commissioning research papers to determine the baselines and form the basis of the story behind the baselines;

8. ARACY developing material to support a wide consultation and youth participation process and publishing it on the Change for Children website;
9. ARACY will establish a Steering Committee and will call for nominations in 2011, to oversee the development of the National Action Plan and advise on securing funds for its development; comprising:
 - Up to 5 ARACY members nominated by the ARACY Board including leading academics, researchers, practitioners and advocates
 - 2 Government officials – one Commonwealth and one State or Territory
 - 2 people from the not for profit sector
 - 1 person from the business sector
 - 1 person with specific expertise and knowledge in Indigenous children and young people
 - 1 person with specific expertise and knowledge in children and young people with disabilities
 - A Children’s Commissioner representing children and young people;
10. A children and a young people’s group are to consider and comment on the draft plan to be taken to the proposed national Summit.
11. ARACY regularly updating progress on developing the National Action Plan for Young Australians on the Change for Children website including consultation material and papers;

It was recognized that implementing the above recommendations would be dependent on adequate funding being secured and that ARACY convene a group to secure funding. This could be the Steering Committee.

Next steps

Establishing Governance

The project will be overseen by a high level steering committee, comprising representatives of government, philanthropy, parent and child representatives, service providers and others. The Tasmanian Children’s Commissioner and AYAC have offered access to their child / youth consultative forums, so children and young people will formally participate in the NAP governance and decision making process.

The Steering Committee will oversee the project and may establish expert working groups drawn from policy, research and practice to assist them (see proposed governance arrangements in the recommendations section).

A government stakeholders group is also proposed, to facilitate state, territory and Commonwealth government input into the development of the NAP. It will be important for this group to consider issues such as identification and incorporation of existing government plans and agendas in to the NAP, suggested processes to facilitate integrated inter-governmental and cross-jurisdictional planning for children and young people, etc. It is noted that there may be an existing Government committee or forum that could serve this purpose.

Reviewing the existing evidence

Research papers will be commissioned to determine the baselines, the story behind the baselines and what works. This is an essential part of Results Based Accountability and other outcomes focused approach and acts to keep the decision making grounded in evidence, where it exists.

The ARACY Research Committee³ will oversee all aspects of the evidence review.

Current Plans

A synthesis of Federal policy and agendas related to children and young people has been undertaken by DEEWR, in conjunction with FaHCSIA, DOHA and PM&C. Similarly a preliminary assessment of State and Territory agendas has been undertaken by ARACY⁴.

These documents will serve as the starting point for a more comprehensive assessment of State / Territory based agendas, to ultimately be incorporated into the draft NAP. Extensive consultation with the States / Territories, as well as the Federal agencies, will ensure that each policy and agenda is incorporated into the NAP to the satisfaction of the jurisdiction.

Establishing the baseline and “Story behind the Baseline”

It is proposed that a series of expert roundtables will be held to assist in identifying indicators for the six result areas, and reach consensus on the baseline and trends for these indicators. This will inform the collation of existing literature, datasets and other evidence to establish the baseline.

Identifying what works

This will focus in the first instance on meta-analyses of evidence based programs and interventions at the individual, family, school / other settings, and the whole of community level that may achieve results in the NAP - to improve child and youth wellbeing.

The aim would be to identify a “menu” of policy and practice interventions that would then be used as the basis for achieving the key results areas. This menu of options would establish evidenced informed options for governments, professions, non-government organisations, philanthropy and business in contributing to improvements in child and youth wellbeing.

ARACY will use Wilson’s (1992) five broad search strategies: consultation, searches in subject indexes, browsing, citation tracking and footnote chasing to identify major evidence informed interventions to achieve improvements in the key result areas.

The bulk of the searching will involve utilising subject indexes and citation tracking. The database searching will utilise both Boolean and natural language strategies, for terms related to the key

³ (see http://www.aracy.org.au/index.cfm?pageName=ARACY_research_committee)

⁴ see <http://www.aracy.org.au/index.cfm?pageName=APYA>

result areas. A comprehensive search strategy outlining the actual search terms, combinations, synonyms and limiters will be defined and mapped out.

Consulting on the plan

The aim of the consultation is to seek input into the development of the Plan from a wide range of stakeholders, including children, young people and families.

The following principles will underpin the consultation approach. We will:

- Encourage involvement by inviting a wide range of views
- Seek the views of people who are usually not heard
- Take a strengths based approach
- Be accessible, open and accountable
- Be streamlined and cost effective.

The consultation questions (survey, face to face and focus groups) will be based around the following questions:

1. What stops children and young people achieving wellbeing? (story behind the baseline)
2. What can you do about that? (what works)
3. Who can help with that? (potential partners)
4. What works well for you? (potential actions)

There will be three pathways for people to provide input into the plan:

1. An on line survey available on the Change for Children website
2. Face to face consultations, using a range of consultation support materials that will also be available on the website
3. Consultation with those groups who often miss out on being included, such as children with a disability

ARACY are exploring opportunities to coordinate this process with other related initiatives (e.g existing national surveys currently undertaken by many NGO's).

All the material from the consultations will be systematically analysed using appropriate research tools and the findings made public.

On-line survey of children, young people, and families

An on-line survey will be used to identify child, young peoples and families' views on the content for the NAP. It is anticipated that this survey would use drop down boxes and open ended questions, and be hosted on the Change for Children website.

It is proposed that all respondents will also be asked to provide basic demographic information so their responses can be analysed according to gender; age; postcode; Indigenous and CALD status; school code. Thematic analysis of responses to open ended questions will be undertaken using software such as NVivo, which has the capacity to support integrated analysis of quantitative and qualitative data.

ARACY member organisations will be invited to promote and / or include the basic questions on their own website. Organisations with access to comprehensive child / youth databases (e.g. Mission Australia, Foundation for Young Australians, School Aid) have offered to explore using the survey with the children and young people on their databases.

Face to Face consultations

ARACY will develop a suite of materials (online and hard copy as required) that will support others undertaking face to face consultation with their constituents.

- The Salvation Army has offered to undertake a face to face consultation with young people in their program using the materials ARACY will develop.
- AYAC have offered to take a lead coordination role in partnership with member organisations in consultations with young people
- CREATE have also indicated that they would be pleased to provide assistance and promote the views of children and young people through consultation to inform the Action Plan
- Similarly the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) has offered to convene consultation groups and other forms of input with general practice networks and primary health care providers. AGPN's member general practice networks will be transitioning to Medicare Locals, Australia's system of primary health care organisations over the next two years and will increasingly focus on planning, coordination and delivery of comprehensive primary health care regionally. The materials will include promotional information as well as consultation packs for different target groups, and ARACY will write to its 1400 members encouraging them to include the consultation into their work programs.

"Champions" have volunteered to assist in the consultations of the plan. The Champions could lead discussions within their agency, client group or local community – from casual conversation to formal consultations; to be the nominated contact within their agency; and to assist in raising funds for the campaign. NAP "Champions" could:

- promote the consultation and encourage people to participate
- run consultation workshops and focus groups
- encourage service providers and other relevant organisations to include the consultation into their work programs
- promote the consultation through social networking and other social media

To date, around 38 people have signed up as champions.

A small number of influencers of public opinion (e.g. media personalities and well known sportspeople), could be invited to be Ambassadors, to publicly promote the consultation and encourage families and children to have their say. ARACY will pursue media and other opportunities in the public domain to capitalise on the support of Ambassadors. The primary purpose of the use of public figures as Ambassadors will be to encourage families, children and young people to participate in the consultation. Material to support family conversations will be available on the Change for Children website.

The network of Change for Children Champions and Ambassadors will be directly supported by ARACY. This will mainly be online through the Change for Children website and will include: regular updates on the consultation, the provision of resource and related materials and an online and

phone Help Desk for Champions. ARACY will also directly liaise and support the Ambassadors with key messages and media opportunities to promote the consultations in the public domain.

Consultation with under-represented groups

Recent surveys and initiatives will be audited to identify the perspectives of key stakeholders who have and have not been captured in existing publications and organisational data. This will help determine which groups of stakeholders have been marginalised from existing analysis (e.g children and young people with disability, those in the out of home care system, CALD, etc...), and subsequent appropriate consultation will then occur with them.

Finalising the National Action Plan for Young Australians

This will involve bringing all the material together (e.g. the results of the consultations, the existing agendas, the literature, the baseline, what works, etc.) using an outcomes-based approach (e.g. Results Based Accountability) to develop a draft for the Steering Committee, the Government group and the children and young people's groups to consider.

A children and a young people's group will be engaged to consider and comment on the draft plan to be taken to the proposed national Summit. Once finalised, the plan will be endorsed at a National Summit, possibly to be held in Parliament House Canberra in 2012.

Indicative timeframe and key deliverables

	Months															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
GOVERNANCE & PROMOTION																
Call for members of Steering Committee	█															
Convene Steering Committee		█			█			█			█			█		█
Recruit Champions	█	█	█	█	█	█										
Recruit Ambassadors	█	█	█	█	█	█										
CONSULTATION ON THE PLAN																
Develop public consultation materials	█	█	█	█												
Draft and post on-line survey (of children / young people / families)					█	█	█	█	█							
Undertake face to face consultations with stakeholders					█	█	█	█	█							
Undertake consultation with under-represented groups								█	█	█						
Publication of consultation results											█	█	█	█	█	
REVIEWING EXISTING AGENDAS & EVIDENCE ON 'WHAT WORKS'																
Review existing relevant policies / agendas	█	█	█	█	█	█										
Identify baseline indicators & "story behind baseline" (roundtables)		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█						
Review evidence on "what works" to achieve results		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
DRAFTING AND FINALISATION OF PLAN																
Publish draft 1 of plan																█
Consult on draft 1 of the plan																█
National Summit																█

The proposed key deliverables / outputs to be achieved at each stage are:

Governance and promotion:

- Call for members of Steering Committee – by month 1
- Hold meetings of Steering Committee every 3 months, with minutes to be posted on the website within 2 weeks of the meetings
- Recruit a target of 50 NAP Champions by month 6
- Recruit a total of 3 ambassadors by month 6

Consultation on the plan:

- Develop web based and printed consultation materials for both focus groups and on-line survey by month 4
- Draft the on-line consumer survey by month 5

- Promote and commence the on-line survey by month 5, and complete by month 10, with a target of 5,000 surveys completed
- Undertake at least 1,000 face to face consultations by month 9
- Identify under-represented groups (if any) by month 8, and undertake appropriate consultation process (possibly focus groups) by month 10.
- Publish the consultation outcomes by month 11

Review existing agendas & literature:

- Review the existing relevant policies / agendas for children and young people (note that this is complete for the federal agendas, but state / territory based consultations need to occur), by month 6
- Identify the baseline indicators and 'stories behind the baselines' for each key result area by month 10
- Review evidence of 'what works' to achieve results – commence month 3 and complete by month 14

Finalisation of plan

- Publish draft 1 of the plan by month 15
- Promote consultation and feedback on the plan (via on line survey) to ARACY members and through champions by month 16
- Convene a National Summit by month 16, to finalise the plan.

Funding

Funding is required to develop a National Plan for Young Australians as ARACY has already spent \$62,000 out of donated funds to progress the strategy to this stage. It does not have the funds to take it further. The current fundraising target is \$740,000 over 16 months.

Funding the development of the Plan should reflect its collaborative intent, so funding would be sought from the various governments, professional bodies, philanthropy and business. Furthermore a collaborative approach to funding enables broader ownership the plan.

ARACY is preparing formal proposals for support from two major Australian Trusts for possible support of the project in its entirety across a two year period. Responses to these proposals are expected in April and June 2011. Additional discussions are taking place with other potential partners for a possible consortium of funders, with proposals for support to be presented next year.

Indicative budget

	Total
Preparation and Planning – to 2 December 2010	
Existing ARACY investment in background preparatory work for 2 Dec 2010 Workshop (Background research, development of papers, travel and accommodation for speakers and organisers, etc)	62 000
Consulting, researching and drafting the Plan	
Researching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching and reporting on indicators, the story behind the baseline and what works 	
Consulting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing, piloting, and uploading online survey • Developing consultation and promotional materials • State / Territory based consulting (e.g. with service agencies, children & families, etc) • Consulting with groups not included in previous planning (e.g. focus groups) • Reporting on consultation findings 	
Drafting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting and finalising the plan 	
Governance and administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting and managing the governance structures (e.g. travel / accommodation expenses), management & secretariat services for various committees and working groups • Ongoing costs for website maintenance, project materials, publications, communications, etc. • Staffing costs in progressing / overseeing all aspects of the Plan 	192 000
National Summit	
Administration, travel, accommodation, development of papers, catering and venue etc.	48,000
Total	800 000

Conclusion

Every positive change in child wellbeing increases life satisfaction, productivity and social participation for children now and for the decades of their adult life, with further positive effects for the generations to come.

The benefits of the National Action Plan will compound as time goes on and will spread across communities like ripples in a pond.

ARACY is honoured to host the development of a National Action Plan and play an active role in improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Australia.

Attachment A: National Action Plan participant list (2 December 2010 Workshop)

Name	Position	Department	Organisation
Mr Brian Babington	Chief Executive Officer		Families Australia
Ms Rachel Bacon		Strategy and Delivery Division	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Prof. David Bennett AO	Head - NSW CAAH		Centre for Advancement of Adolescent Health
Ms Lisa Berry			DEEWR
Professor Marianne Berry	Director	Australian Centre for Child Protection	University of South Australia
Ms Karen Bevan	Director	Social Justice Unit	UnitingCare Burnside
Dr Kate Bishop	Researcher and Design Consultant		Children, Youth and Environments
Ms Kerryn Boland	The Children's Guardian		Department of Community Services
Mr Chris Bonner	Board Member		Big Picture Education Australia
Dr Caroline Briggs	Fellow		Royal College of Nurses Australia
Ms Gai Brodtmann MP	Federal Member for Canberra (Labor)		
Ms Melinda Bromley	Assistant Secretary - Population Health Programs Branch		Department of Health and Ageing
Mr David Cain	Manager	Individual and Family Support	Department for Child Protection, WA
Mr Warren Cann	Chief Executive Officer		Parenting Research Centre
Dr Gervase Chaney	President	Paediatrics	RACP
Ms Marie Coleman PSM	Chair	Security4Women	NFAW Social Policy Committee
Ms Sally Cowling	Manager, Research and Program Development	Social Justice Unit	UnitingCare Burnside
Professor Mary Crock	Professor of Public Law		University of Sydney
Mr Andrew Cummings	Executive Director		Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
Ms Miriam Daley	Director	Strategic Initiatives	Department of Education and Children's Services, SA
Mr Ian Dalton	President		Australian Parents Council
Ms Catherine Davis	Federal Women's Officer		Australian Education Union
Ms Margaret Dawkins	A/Executive Director	Department for Communities, WA Government	
Mr Richard Deniss	Executive Director		The Australia Institute
Mr Gordan Duff			National Disability Service
Dr Richard Eckersley	Visiting Fellow	National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health	The Australian National University
Mr Nick Evans	Director	Community Development Division	Department of Health and Human Services, TAS
Dr Rhonda Galbally AO			
Dr Lisa Gibbs		Child Health Special Interest Group	Public Health Association of Australia
Ms Megan Giles	Director, Child and Family Policy		Department of Communities, QLD Government
Mr Tim Goodwin	ARACY Board Member		Allens Arthur Robinson
Ms Lisa Hillan	Programs Director		Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation
Ms Sarah Hoff			National Children's Youth Law Centre
Mr Peter Homel	Manager	Crime Reduction and Review Program	Australian Institute of Criminology
Mr Peta Huta	Section Manager, Family Policy	Family and Child Support Policy Branch	FaHCSIA
Mr Frank Hytten	Chief Executive Officer		Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
Ms Helen Innes	Project Director	APS 200 Youth Project	DEEWR

Ms Lee-Anne Jarrett Sims	Manager -Families and Children		Department of Health and Families, NT
Ms Ruth Johnstone	Executive Director		Caledonia Foundation
Ms Kathryn Jordan	Director, Early Childhood Development Strategy		Dept Education and Children's Services, SA
Dr Nick Kowalenko	Deputy Chair		Australian Infant, Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Association
Ms Judy Kynaston	National Project Manager	KidsMatter	Early Childhood Australia
Hon Sussan Ley MP	Shadow Minister for Childcare and Early Childhood Learning	Federal Member for Farrer	
Professor Lyn Littlefield	Executive Director		Australian Psychological Society
Mr James MacDougall	Chair	Child Rights Taskforce	National Children's Youth Law Centre
Ms Cheryl Mangan	Acting Director of Policy		Inspire
Ms Christine Mason			Secondary Principals' Council of NSW
Professor Geoff Masters	Chief Executive Officer		Australian Council for Educational Research
Ms Emma McCarthy	Manager	Policy and Training	Hands On Learning
Ms Mary McCartney	Strategic Communications and Policy Officer		Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia
Ms Cate McKenzie	Group Manager – Children and family Safety Branch		FaHCSIA
Ms Sally McManus	Branch Secretary	NSW & ACT (Services) Branch	Australian Council of Trade Unions
Mrs Jayne Meyer-Tucker	Chief Executive Officer		Good Beginnings
Dr Robyn Mildon	Director	Knowledge Transfer	Parenting Research Centre
Ms Megan Mitchell	Commissioner		Commissioner for Children and Young People NSW
Hon Judi Moylan MP	Federal Member for Pearce, WA		
Ms Linda Muir	Manager	Clubs/Juniors/Women	Australian Sports Commission
Professor Louise Newman	Director		Monash University Centre for Developmental Psychiatry & Psychology
Mr Michael Nuttall	Executive Officer		Australian Primary Principals Association
Ms Jan Owen AM	Chief Executive Officer		Foundation for Young Australians
Ms Samantha Page	Executive Officer		Family Relationships Services Australia
Ms Helen Pappas	Senior Manager, Early Intervention and Prevention Services, Office for Children, Youth and Family Support		Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, ACT
Dr Jan Pratt	Chair		ACCYPN
Ms Jacqui Reed	Chief Executive Officer		CREATE
Ms Kathryn Rendell	Committee Member		WEAVE
Ms Rachel Robinson	Centre for Community Child Health		Royal Children's Hospital
Mr Philip Robinson			Women's and Children's Hospitals Australasia
Mr Sebastian Rosenberg	Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Policy		Brain and Mind Research Institute
Ms Michelle Scott	Commissioner		Commissioner for Children & Young People WA
A/Professor Jill Sewell	Deputy Director	Centre for Community Child Health	Royal Children's Hospital
Mr Greg Sharman	Chair		Good Beginnings
Senator Rachel Siewert			Australian Greens
Dr Norman Swan	ARACY Board Member		ABC
Ms Joanne Townsend	Acting Director of Youth Services	NT Families and Children	Department of Health and Families, NT
Ms Rebecca Vassarotti	Board Member		Australian Council of Social Service
Professor Graham Vimpani	Chair		NIFTeY
Ms Leanne Wells	Senior Policy Officer	The Network Primary Health Care Policy Consultative Group	Australian General Practice Network
Ms Mary Welsh	Section Manager, ECD Policy and Implementation	Early Childhood Development & Workforce Branch, Office of Early Childhood Education and Child Care	DEEWR
Dr Les White	Chief Paediatrician		New South Wales Health

Mr Reg Williams RFD	Chief Commissioner	Scouts Australia
A/Professor Geoff Woolcock	Research Fellow	Urban Research Centre Griffith University

Attachment B: Running Sheet – 2 December Workshop

9.00am	Participants arrive, refreshments available.
9.30am	Dr Norman Swan opens. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledgement of Country: Tim Goodwin on the plan & Indigenous children and young people
9.40am	Purpose of workshop and expected outcomes – Dr Norman Swan
9.45am	The case for a National Action Plan – Dr Lance Emerson
9.50am	Politician(s) statement of support <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Hon Sussan Ley MP (Shadow Minister Early Childhood), The Liberal Party• Senator Rachel Siewert (Spokesperson on Health and Aboriginal issues), The Australian Greens
10.00am	Rationale for the Action Plan for Young Australians <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children & young people’s views on their wellbeing – Ms Michelle Scott (Children’s Commissioner Western Australia)• Current trends, causality & emerging issues – Richard Eckersley (Australia 21 and ANU)• Discussion on whether group supports a National Plan led by Dr Swan
11.00am	Statement from the Hon Gai Brodtmann, MP, on Behalf of the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP (Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth)
11.10am	Break - Refreshments and morning tea
11.30am	How the Action Plan will be developed & what it will look like (Ms Gill Calvert).
11.35am	Group work – groups to discuss <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you agree these 6 result areas adequately reflect the results we want for children and young people and that we want to consult on? If not, what alternative? What’s the benefit of the new areas over the 6 proposed areas?• Do you agree with the age range? If not, what’s the alternative? What’s the benefit of the new age range over the 0-24 age range?• Do you agree we should use RBA? If not, what’s the alternative? What’s the benefit of the new approach over RBA?
12.45pm	Launch of Change for Children website Caledonia Foundation (Ms Ruth Johnstone) and Dr Lance Emerson
12.50 pm	Lunch

- 1.30pm Next steps – Consultation process, Governance and consultation and Funding (Presentation by Ms Gill Calvert)
- 2pm Small group questions
- Consultation questions
 - Is there anything missing in this approach?
 - What events or activities are coming up that could be used to promote the consultation?
 - What additional approaches would you suggest for the targeted consultations?
 - Governance questions
 - Do you feel you can influence the Plan?
 - Are the pathways for children and young people’s views strong enough?
 - Is anything missing?
 - Funding questions
 - What opportunities for funding are there?
 - Are there ways to reduce costs?
 - How could the Plan be developed with less funding?
- 2.40pm Afternoon tea**
- 3pm Large group discussion Dr Norman Swan
- 4.30 Finish

Attachment C: Summary of discussion 2 December – National Action Plan

1. The case for a National Action Plan

- *Support on the need for the Plan. However, need to clarify the purpose of the Plan, e.g.*
 - *Is the Plan intended to be developed in such a way that Government will be asked to pick it up and implement it?*
 - *Is the Plan intended to be an advocacy platform or an implementation blue print?*
 - *Is it Murray Darling Basin Plan by the Wentworth Group or a 'Get Up' Campaign?*
- *Need to make clearer the intended audience of the Plan - is it for micro or macro use?*
- *Need to work on short and sharp key messages that make this much clearer – e.g. children and young people matter*
- *Think about a change name of Plan – to National Action Plan for Children and Young People in Australia (as distinct from 'young Australians') This was mentioned a few times and there was general support – recognises refugee children etc*

2. The draft NAP itself

- *universal support for 0 -24*
- *agreement that a consistent approach to carving up the age range is needed. 0-8, 9-14, 12/14 – 24 was suggested and there seemed to be general support for this. Note that 18 was raised as a key transition point especially re legal status etc. There was also discussion about defining "0".*
- *Interest in including words like belonging / connectedness / contribute / acceptance in the Key Result Areas*
- *Need to include more discussion about context – so that the complexity of environment is understood. This included advocacy to strengthen the big picture narrative (i.e. impacts of consumerism, individualism etc) as well as concern that the recent and still emerging knowledge (e.g. early years development) isn't picked up enough in current context narrative*
- *The issue of the importance of culture and spirituality (Indigenous) was raised a number of times during the day – this isn't currently reflected in the KRAs*
- *Include concept of Freedom - either in KRAs or context setting*
- *Need to add in a set of Values to the Plan – including something that picks up Respect and Diversity*
- *There was support for the existing KRAs with a small number of revisions as shown below.*
 - KRA 1. *"Children and young people are loved"*
 - *Suggestions include:*
 - *and accepted*
 - *and belong*
 - *or loved, looked after and nurtured.*
 - *experience positive relationships and care for others*
 - KRA 2. *"Children and young people are healthy" – no suggestions*
 - KRA 3. *"Children and young people are safe and supported"*
 - *Suggestions include:*
 - *Both physically and emotionally*
 - *Both culturally and spiritually*

KRA 4. *“Children and young people are learning and developing”*

- *Suggestions include:*
 - *Delete developing*
 - *Include:*
 - *Meeting relevant developmental milestones*
 - *Something about responsible care giving*
 - *Engaged in lifelong learning*
 - *In a fun environment*
 - *Developing independence*

KRA 5. *“Children and young people are contributing”*

- *Suggestions include:*
 - *Delete contributing*
 - *Include are involved or are engaged and heard*

KRA 6. *“Children and young people are achieving material basics”*

- *Suggestions include:*
 - *Delete achieving material basics*
 - *Include:*
 - *Something like “Live in households free from low income”*
 - *“Live in households with adequate income”*
 - *Access appropriate opportunities to work*

- *The issue of the importance of culture and spirituality (Indigenous) was raised a number of times during the day*
- *Include fun and play somewhere in KRAs or underneath*
- *Need to show the KRAs in a more ecological way (e.g. circle?) rather than a list which implies a hierarchy*
- *There were many positive comments and support on the use of RBA - there was strong support for this approach and no-one proposed an alternative approach*
- *There was a concern expressed that if the context description isn't right it would bias what is measured*
- *Two comments from groups were that the context will need to be properly set for the KRAs to be properly understood.*
- *Someone advocated “Rights Based Accountability” – agreed at the end of the day that this objective is met within existing approach.*
- *Need to explicitly show the links between NAP and other government plans and frameworks*
- *Make sure that hard to measure things don't get dropped off*

3. Consultation

- *There was general support for the proposed overall approach proposed with some refinements suggested.*
- *Need to ensure that consultation and participation of young people is meaningfully threaded throughout the development and implementation process*
- *The feedback loop back to people consulted is currently missing and needs to be embedded*
- *Use “share point” data to collect feedback*
- *The consultation questions need to be framed so that they are strengths based and aspirational, not deficit based*
- *Need to be able to disaggregate data from various groups (e.g. CALD, etc.)*
- *Need to have early and very broad engagement on the plan*

- *Need to consult differently with different groups – develop material accordingly. Create have a good consultation policy re consulting with children and young people that might be useful.*
- *Need to start with very broad consultation questions*
- *Questions must focus on wellbeing*
- *Must make use of existing data where possible – no need to reinvent the wheel*
- *Questions should be far more open ended rather than quantitative in nature*
- *Need to reduce the number of proposed questions*
- *ARACY should use survey monkey for the consumer questions*
- *Can also use existing processes of champion organisations (e.g. tap the questions onto existing surveys)*
- *Need to ensure that there are researchers evaluating the questionnaire responses, and also need to use appropriately skilled people for focus groups*
- *Could use IT software games as a method of consultation with children*
- *Need to use language that will resonate with children and young people – use the consultation process to refine the language used in KRAs*
- *NGOs are time poor and will need to piggyback on other activities, even if only able to consult using a subset of questions. Don't be too dictatorial about how to conduct the consultation*
- *Use the consultation as part of a social marketing and media campaign – maximize Face Book etc*
- *Need to recognise role and contribution of local government*
- *Need to capture people's imagination – do something "out of the box", model respect for children in the way the consultation is implemented.*
- *Ensure appropriate coverage and mitigate bias. (Noting this is consultation not research)*
- *Capitalise on National Youth Week next April*
- *ARACY to work with relevant NGOs in partnership*
- *Will be hard to sell to people on the ground without clearer key messages and purpose*

4. Governance

- *There was general support for the approach proposed with the following suggestions.*
- *Ensure members of a Steering Committee are skills based - Clarify what skills / expertise is needed then call for nominations*
- *Steering committee needs someone from education and someone from mental health included, and someone explicitly from a youth organisation*
- *Job is too large for one steering committee – need several task forces groups (e.g. fundraising, etc..) – have the steering group decide this in the first meeting. There could be the need to establish Reference Groups along functional lines – e.g. communications, performance indicators, funding etc*
- *There was significant discussion about the role and involvement of Government. The need for bi-partisan support was noted and an aggressive engagement strategy with relevant MPs was proposed (Government, Opposition and Independents)*
- *There were questions about the level of Commonwealth Government support and an implication of concern about wasting time and \$\$ proceeding without it.*
- *Need to clarify nature of support (or not) from Government and then develop strategy accordingly. If there is support we may need to change the governance arrangements to ensure Govt properly recognised. If no Govt support then suggestions that we should just "go it alone" anyway.*

5. Funding

- *Need to clarify nature of support (or not) from Government and then develop strategy accordingly.*
- *Need to 'tap into' existing conversations on this issue*
- *Need to do a more comprehensive mapping and gap analysis*
- *Need to use social media as a means of fundraising*
- *Suggestions of*
 - *developing targets for government contributions – e.g. 50% of total with proportional contribution from 4 key Commonwealth agencies plus State/Territories*
 - *Get a campaign up like the Qantas / Unicef campaign – Change for Children*
 - *Possibly attract corporate and philanthropic \$\$*
 - *Unlikely to attract individual contributions*