



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020

Our next plan

Questions for you to think about

Easy Read version



How to use this document



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) wrote this document with other state and territory governments.



When you see the word 'we', it means:

- the Australian government
- other state and territory governments.



We wrote this document in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold
Bold

We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 35.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website at engage.dss.gov.au.



You can ask for help to read this document. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What is this document about?



We know that some children might be **vulnerable**.

When a child is vulnerable, they might be in danger of:



- being hurt



- getting sick



- someone taking advantage of them.



We know that some children might be **disadvantaged**.

When a child is disadvantaged, they might not:



- have a home



- have enough money for day-to-day things, like food



- be able to fully take part in life.



We want to know what you think about our ideas to help children who are:

- vulnerable
- disadvantaged.



We want to find out what people think about our ideas before we do them.

How to tell us what you think



You can tell us what you think by answering our questions.



You don't need to answer all of our questions.



You can write your answers in this document.



There are boxes below each question where you can write your answer.

Questions to think about

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



What can we include in our next plan to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children stay safe in their homes?

Supports and services for children and families



How was your experience finding and using supports and services?



What **barriers** did you face?



A barrier is something that stops you from doing something you:

- need to do
- want to do.



Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families face barriers when they try to find and use supports and services.



What barriers do you think they face?



Some children and parents with disability use supports and services.



Some children and parents with disability face barriers when they try to find and use supports and services.



What barriers do you think they face?



Some children and families who need need extra help from different places face barriers when they try to find or use supports and services.



What barriers do you think they face?

Some children experience:



- **abuse** – when you're treated badly



- **neglect** – when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you.



Some children can't live with their families if they experience:

- abuse
- neglect.



Some of these children might face barriers when they try to find and use supports and services.



What barriers do you think they face?



How can we make supports and services easier to find and use?

A large empty rectangular box intended for writing or drawing.



How can the government work with services that help children and families who are:

- vulnerable?
- disadvantaged?

To make supports and services better, how can we work with:



- you?



- children?



- families?



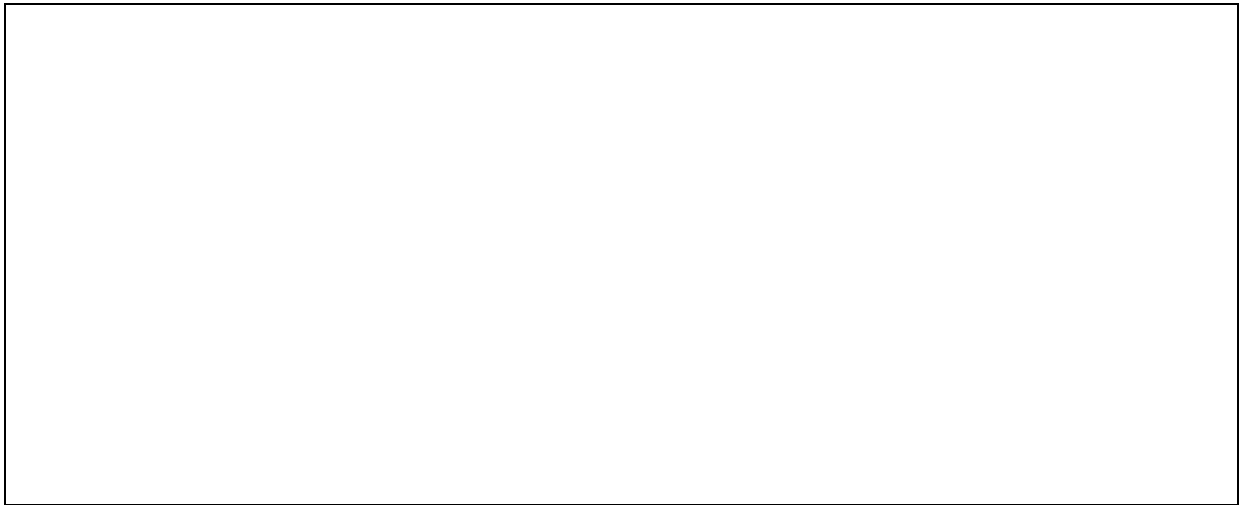
- communities?



Sharing information



What information do we need to make life better for vulnerable children?



We can make services better for vulnerable children by sharing information between:



- organisations that aren't run by the government



- Australian, state and territory governments.

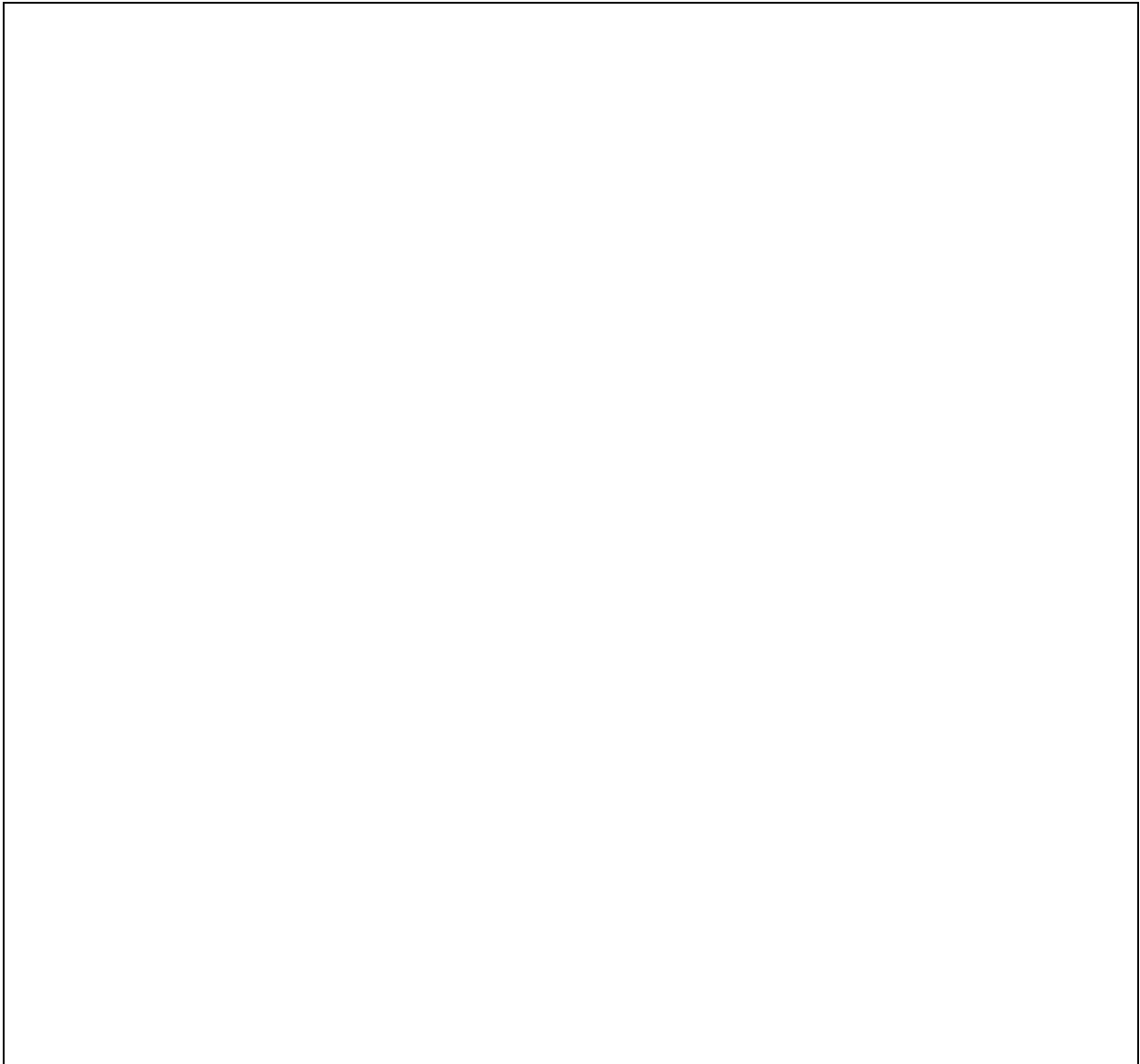
What information should be shared between:



- organisations that aren't run by the government?



- different levels of government?





How should we tell you about our progress on the next plan?

For example, should we:



- write a report each year?



- have a website?

A stronger child and family workforce



What skills do you think the child and family **workforce** need to support vulnerable children?

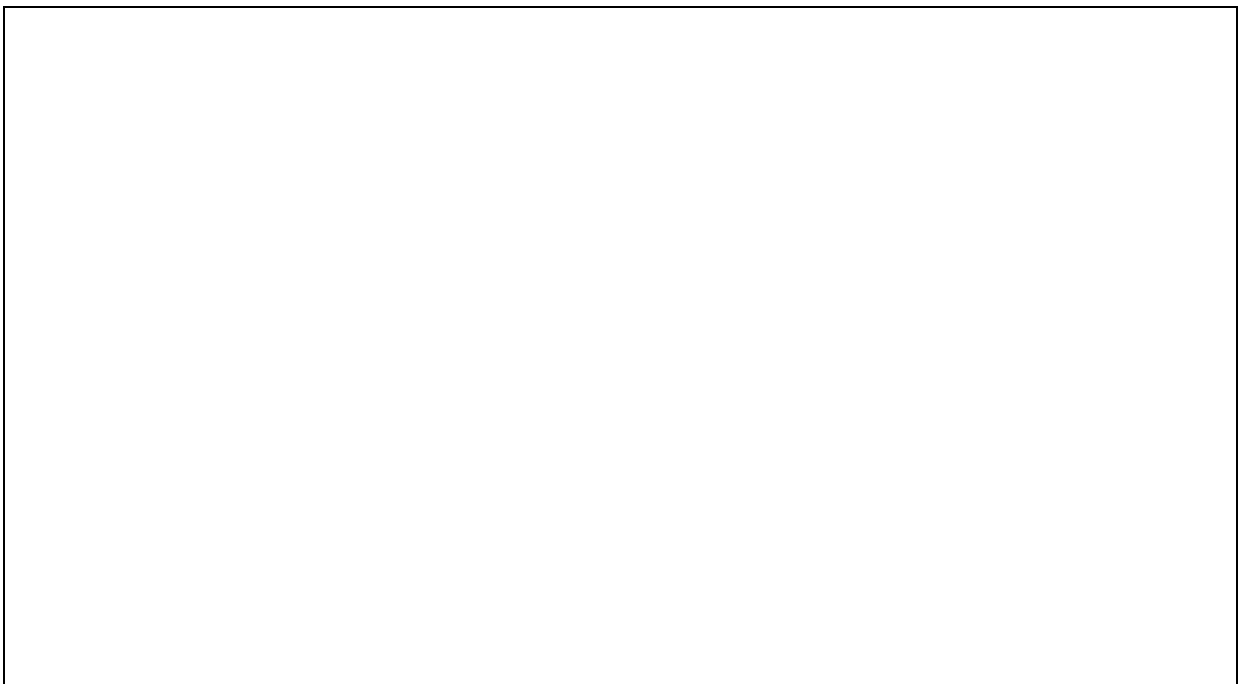
A workforce is a group of people who:



- work in the same type of job



- offer the same services.



How can we change the child and family workforce to stop people:



- leaving?



- being too tired from doing their job?



How can we help the child and family workforce learn the right skills for their job?

Priority groups



Our **priority groups** are groups of people in our community who might need extra help.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families use supports and services.



What should we know about their experiences when they use these supports and services?

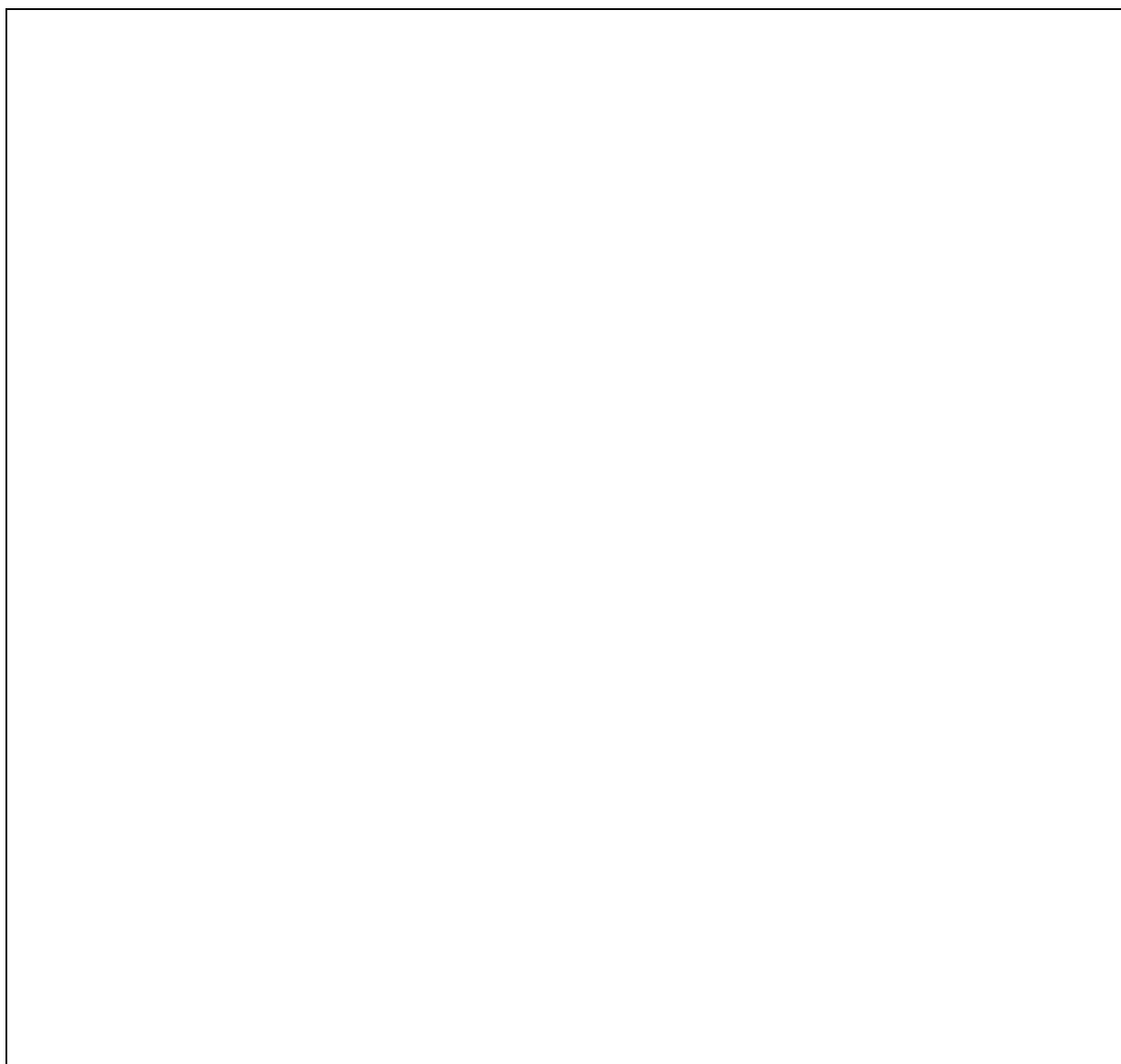
Children and families with different needs



Some children who need extra help might need to use different supports and services to meet their needs.



What can work well when they need to find and use supports and services?



Children who have experienced abuse and neglect

What supports and services can help children who have experienced:



- abuse?
- neglect?

What supports and services can help children who can't live in their home because they experience:



- abuse?
- neglect?

What supports and services can help children stay in their homes if they have experienced:



- abuse?
- neglect?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for writing answers to the questions listed above.

Young people who are leaving the place they lived in



What do you think helps young people when they start to become an adult?

For example, this could be:



- good health



- somewhere to live.



Some people might use the **Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)**.



The TILA is a payment from the government to help young people when they leave **out-of-home care**.

When a child or young person is in out-of-home care, it means they:



- can't live with their parents or carer



- might live in a home with a different family.

Did you:



- know about the TILA?
- use the TILA?



If you have used the TILA, what did you find:



- helpful?



- hard to understand?

Children with disability

What are good ways to keep children with disability safe from:



- abuse?
- neglect?



What do you think children with disability experience when they use extra supports and services?



Parents with disability might use different types of supports and services.



What do you think parents with disability experience when they use these services?

Organisations working together

When we say everyone, we mean:



- the government



- organisations that aren't part of the government.



How can everyone work well together to make life better for children?



Making life better for children

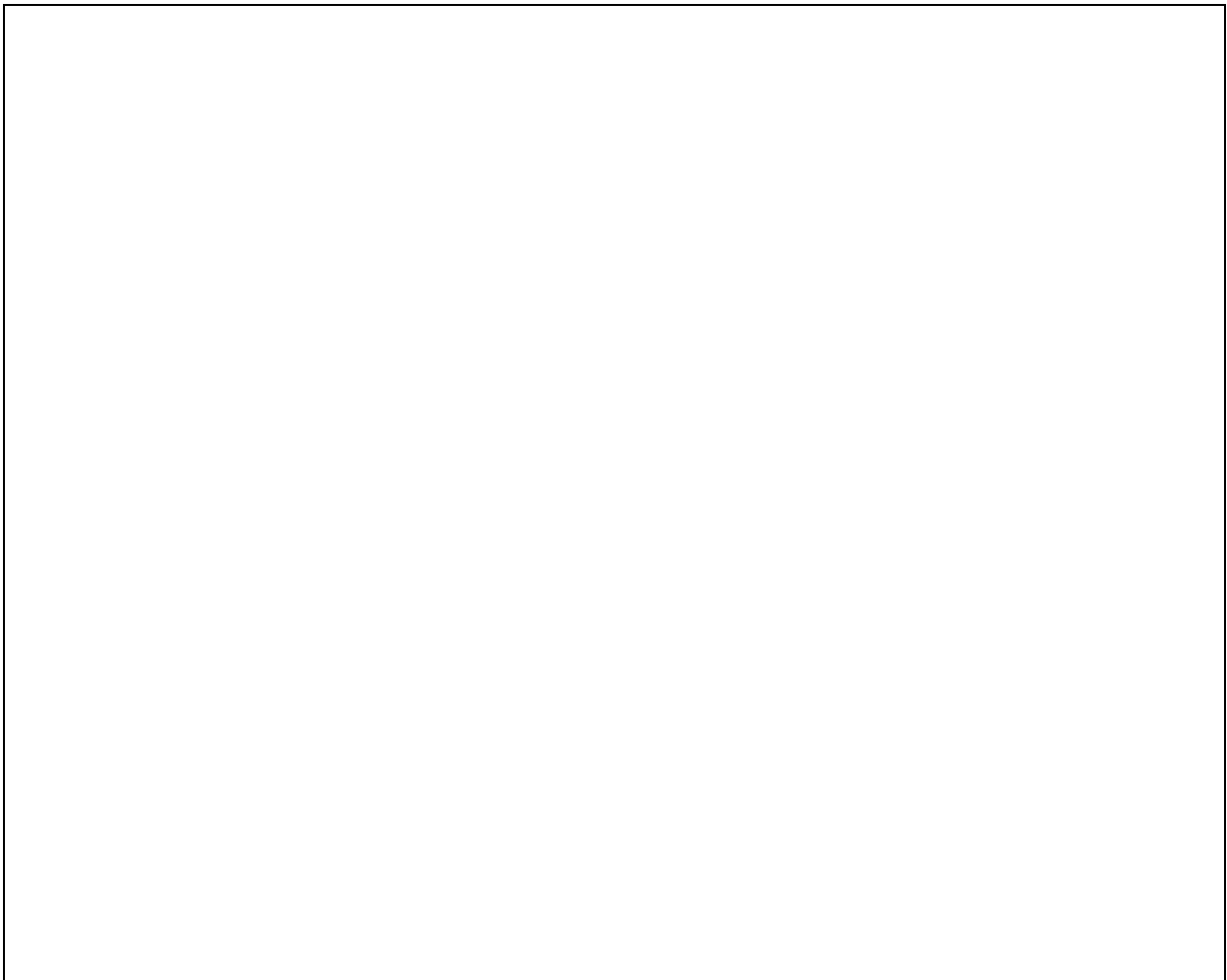
How can we change things to make life better for children:



- now?



- in the future?



Word list



Abuse

Abuse is when you're treated badly.

Barriers



A barrier is something that stops you from doing something you:

- need to do
- want to do.

Disadvantaged



When a child is disadvantaged, they might not:

- have a home
- have enough money for day-to-day things, like food
- be able to fully take part in life.



Neglect

Neglect is when someone is not helping you the way they are supposed to help you.



Out-of-home care

When a child or young person is in out-of-home care, it means they:

- can't live with their parents or carer
- might live in a home with a different family.



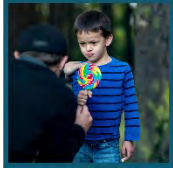
Priority groups

Our priority groups are groups of people in our community who need extra help.



Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)

The TILA is a payment from the government to help young people when they leave the place they lived in.



Vulnerable

When a child is vulnerable, they might be in danger of:

- being hurt
- getting sick
- someone taking advantage of them.



Workforce

A workforce is a group of people who:

- work in the same type of job
- offer the same services.

Where to send your answers to our questions



NationalFrameworkfeedback@dss.gov.au



Children's Strategy Section

Families Group

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