

31 July 2026

Second Action Plan Consultation Team

Family Safety Group

Department of Social Services

Dear colleagues,

Re: ARACY submission on the Second Action Plan, National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032

Thank you for the thorough community consultation you have run on the Second Action Plan. ARACY staff were happy to take part in three conversations these past few weeks.

- At the Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children (IDAC) roundtable with philanthropy, the Department and Assistant Minister Ged Kearney MP, three themes stood out: supporting whole families at once, working with men, boys and fathers on healthy masculinity, and backing the workforces closest to families.
- At the Department's Parents and Carers Reference Group meeting, the discussion was just as rich: the holistic wellbeing of the child, addressing the drivers of violence, and consulting children and young people in ways that reflect best practice.
- At a services-level consultation process supported by 54 Reasons to inform their submission, the discussion underscored the constraints of child-focused specialist workforces and long wait times for children who are victims of abuse and complex trauma, and that children as victim-survivors needs better definition.

These themes run through the submission we are pleased to attach. We applaud the First Action Plan's recognition of children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right. We see how the evidence paper takes that seriously.

ARACY is not a specialist family violence body. What we bring is The Nest – the wellbeing framework most Australian services use to understand how a child is holistically faring across their whole life. As such we mapped our response to the Action Plan against a matrix: the six domains of The Nest set against the three tiers of public health prevention. It shows where support reaches a child and where it does not. It helps make gaps clear. For example, a child can be safe from harm and still not be safe to thrive.

We believe four things are worth inclusion in the Action Plan, to help shift systems to support children.:

1. Make children visible in the data, because you cannot fund or fix what you cannot see.
2. Get in earlier, addressing the drivers of violence for at-risk groups and investing in the early and middle year cohorts, where the return is greatest and the cycle between generations can be broken.
3. Judge recovery by a child's whole wellbeing, not safety alone.
4. And build a joined-up, culturally safe system, with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations resourced to lead prevention and healing for their own children and families.

Thank you for the work you are doing for Australia's children and young people. Our hopes is that the Second Action plan sees children clearly, counts how they are faring, and acts on what it finds, at every level of prevention. We would welcome a conversation, whether walking through the submission, sharing tools like The Nest and our Common Approach, or simply being useful to your team. I am happy to be contacted directly: melodie.potts@aracy.org.au

Yours sincerely,

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[Redacted name]

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