

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

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## **A GOOD START ON NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION PLAN: NOW TO TURN WORDS INTO REALITY**

**64 of Australia's largest non-Government community organisations welcomed COAG's announcement today of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.**

Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children spokesperson, Brian Babington, said: "The Framework is a first for Australia and signals a major leap forward in Australia's efforts to reduce child abuse and neglect. It fulfils Kevin Rudd's 2007 election promise and gives hope for the future.

"Much now needs to be done to turn words into reality for the sake of children at risk of harm or who have been harmed, as well as for families needing help.

"The agreement of the Federal and State/Territory Governments to join efforts and work together with the non-government community sector in a series of 3-year action plans is a major advance," he said.

"We welcome the Framework's emphasis on greater early intervention and prevention efforts, whole of Government responses, enhanced collaboration between Governments and service providers, and more targeted support for vulnerable children and families.

"The commitment by Governments to work collaboratively with the Coalition to undertake the detailed planning and monitoring of action plans is also strongly endorsed as being critically important. The Coalition now looks forward to working intensively with Governments in detailed planning and action plan delivery.

Mr Babington said: "While the level of funding for the first three years of the Framework is less than was proposed by our Coalition, it represents a reasonable start. More will be needed in the future."

The 64-member Coalition was formed by the community sector in November 2007 to work with Governments to devise and implement the National Framework. Calls for a national child protection plan have been made by the non-government community sector for many years, in the light of Australia's appalling child abuse and neglect record.

**For more comment, contact Brian Babington on 0417 550 149.**

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