

Safety in Action

2022-2024



Our first action plan for preventing and responding to problematic and harmful sexual behaviours by children and young people

Acknowledgements

The NSW Government recognises Aboriginal people as the first peoples of Australia and the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways where we live and work. We pay our respects to Aboriginal elders past, present, and emerging and acknowledge that Aboriginal people are part of the oldest surviving culture in the world. We value Aboriginal people's history, culture, knowledge, and deep connection to country and the many ways that this enriches the lives of all our communities.

The NSW Government also acknowledges the lived experience of victims and survivors and hopes that Children First contributes to our collective vision for all children and young people to experience respectful and caring relationships and live healthy and safe lives.

Glossary

Term	Description
CAIS	Common Assessment to Identification and Support
Children First	Children First 2022-2031: Our shared framework for preventing and responding to problematic and harmful sexual behaviours by children and young people
DCJ	Department of Communities and Justice
DoE	Department of Education
DPC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
ECAV	Education Centre Against Violence, NSW Health
NAPCAN	National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
National Strategy	National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030
NESA	NSW Education Standards Authority
NSWPF	NSW Police Force
OCG	NSW Office of the Children's Guardian
PDHPE	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
PHSB	problematic and harmful sexual behaviours
Safe and Supported	Safe and Supported: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031
Treasury	NSW Treasury



Safety In Action

Universal and targeted prevention

Strategic Priorities	Action	Lead agency	Year		
			2022	2023	2024
1.1	Implement Statement of Intent: Our Shared Commitment: DoE, Catholic and Independent Schools to strengthen children and young people's understanding of consent and preventing and responding to sexual assault and sexual violence among young people.	DoE, Catholic Schools NSW and Association. of Independent Schools NSW			
1.1	Delivery of professional learning to support the explicit teaching of respectful relationships education (inclusive of consent and coercive control) through Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)	DoE			
1.1	Delivery of professional learning to support the explicit teaching of pornography influences on young people as part of the PDHPE syllabus and Life Ready course.	DoE			
1.1	Review the NSW K-10 PDHPE syllabus to ensure high quality, contemporary, respectful relationships content that is benchmarked against the revised Australian Curriculum for Health and Physical Education.	NESA / DoE			
1.1	Development and publishing of new respectful relationships education teaching and learning materials to align with NESA PDHPE K-10 syllabus to be released as part of Curriculum Reform.	DoE			
1.1	Review and amendment of existing child protection education and respectful relationships education teaching and learning materials to align with NESA PDHPE K-10 syllabus to be released as part of Curriculum Reform.	DoE			
1.1 1.2 1.3	Sex & Ethics for Young People: Training the Trainer will be implemented across NSW using a train-the-trainer model, training up to 100 program educators from across non-government and government sector agencies.	Full Stop Australia			
1.2	Co-design and implement a centralised NSW Government PHSB website including accessible information, tools and resources for children and young people, parents, caregivers, service providers and the broader community. The website will provide accessible and tailored information and resources for priority cohorts.	NSW Health			
1.3	Develop and implement an onboarding platform to support local communities in NSW to coordinate the delivery of Love Bites programs. The platform will also host resources and enable networking and data collection.	NAPCAN			



Strategic Priorities	Action	Lead agency	Year		
			2022	2023	2024
2.1 2.2	Adapt and implement the NAPCAN Safer Communities for Children (SCC) program across all Local Health Districts. SCC is a primary prevention approach targeting children aged 4-8 years old.	NAPCAN			
2.1 2.2	Broaden accessibility of NAPCAN Love Bites and Love Bites Junior respectful relationships education program in NSW for priority cohorts.	NAPCAN			
2.1 2.2	Continue to deliver <i>Strong Aboriginal Men and Strong Aboriginal Women</i> community development programs. Strong Aboriginal Men is a series of workshops delivered by Aboriginal men to Aboriginal men, talking in a safe way about the trauma associated with domestic family violence and child sexual assault. Strong Aboriginal Women is a related program where Aboriginal women can connect and talk about keeping themselves and children safe from domestic and family violence and child abuse with the aim of 'helping women to say NO to violence'.	NSW Health			
2.1 2.2	Continue to deliver the <i>Power to Kids Respecting Sexual Safety</i> program in residential care agencies and offer to all residential care agencies in NSW. This program supports residential care workers to engage with young people in Out of Home Care settings to raise awareness of respectful relationships and sexual safety.	MacKillop Institute / DCJ			
2.2	Implement "Beyond the Walls", an arts-health program to decrease risk factors for children and young people aged 10-17 years in contact with the criminal justice system.	Phunktional Arts Inc			



Enabling early responses and improved pathways to support

Strategic Priorities	Action	Lead agency	Year		
			2022	2023	2024
3.1	Develop a Common Approach to Identification and Support (CAIS) resource, including a NSW tool to support understanding and responses for children and young people's sexual behaviour. The resource will incorporate the age, developmental stage and contextual factors relating to children and young people and their families. It will align to relevant NSW legislation and enable earlier and consistent identification of PHSB and appropriate responses and support.	NSW Health in collaboration with Professor Simon Hackett, Durham University			
3.2 3.3	Develop resources that are culturally safe and accessible for children and young people including young people with intellectual disability and deliver targeted e-learning and capacity building activities with families, carers and support providers to build awareness and capacity to identify, respond, and support, children with problematic sexual behaviour.	Rosie's Place			
3.2 3.3 4.1 4.2 4.4	<p>Design and co-commission a Pathways to Safety and Support pilot to improve access to collaborative inter-agency responses that ensure safety and support for children and young people presenting with, and impacted by, PHSB. The Pilot model will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a central intake and referral system, including a newly established "hub". This will ensure timely responses and accessible pathways to access early intervention services or specialist treatment and support for the child or young person (aged 0-17 years) presenting with PHSB. • Implementation of the CAIS • Introduction of new Coordinator roles to provide early responses and support collaborative approaches to investigations and assessments, decision-making and case planning and responses • An action research evaluation approach to evaluate the PHSB Pathways to Safety and Support pilot. • Further work will be undertaken to enable better access to therapeutic care for children that present with HSB and are under child protection assessment or police investigation or have been charged with a sexual offence. This will contribute to the safety of children who have been harmed or are at risk of harm. Young people will be supported to engage in restitution for harm caused, through safe therapeutic processes. 	DCJ / NSW Health			
3.2 4.2	Implement the new state-wide Safe Wayz program to provide evidence-based prevention, early assessment and support, as well as specialist therapeutic care to children under the age of 10 years who have displayed PHSB.	NSW Health			



Strategic Priorities	Action	Lead agency	Year		
			2022	2023	2024
3.3	In partnership with DCJ, build the capacity of early intervention services working with children, young people and families to address problematic sexual behaviours as they emerge through participation in the NSW PHSB Interagency Standards and Training Committee, implementation of the NSW PHSB screening tool and ECAV foundational training.	NSW Health			
4.1	Expand the NSW Health Sexual Assault Services Aboriginal workforce providing increased accessibility of sexual assault services for Aboriginal children and young people affected by harmful sexual behaviours.	NSW Health			



Workforce capacity building

Strategic Priorities	Action	Lead agency	Year		
			2022	2023	2024
1.3 2.3 3.3 4.3	Establish a PHSB workforce development portfolio and learning pathway, to build the capability of relevant workforces to prevent, identify and respond to PHSB.	NSW Health			
1.3 2.3 3.3 4.3	Establish a NSW interagency standards and training committee to develop and implement a Workforce Uplift Plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mapping workforce segments with a key role in the prevention of PHSB, early response and therapeutic and support services develop corresponding PHSB workforce practice frameworks including clinical and culturally appropriate tools to support professionals working with children and young people, including priority populations developing training initiatives to support key workforce segments across prevention, early response and therapeutic/support services, as a collaborative approach across agencies 	NSW Health			
1.3	Develop resources to support relevant organisations implementing the Child Safe Standards ensure approaches include responding to PHSB.	Rosie's Place			
3.1 3.3	Implement training and practice resources for education staff including a specific module on PHSB as part of mandatory child protection training to support earlier identification and appropriate response to PHSB in education settings.	DoE			
3.3	LINKS Training and Support will continue to lead the development of practice packages and training resources for caseworkers and carers in DCJ and the OOHC non-government sector on trauma informed care and managing problematic sexualised behaviour by children and young people. The LINKS Training and Support website will continue to provide access to resources such as webinars, fact sheets and support services.	DCJ			
4.3	Implement the updated Harmful Sexual Behaviours Counsellor Accreditation Scheme to foster high quality therapeutic services for children presenting with harmful sexual behaviours.	OCG			



Evidence, Governance and Accountability

Strategic Priorities	Action	Lead agency	Year		
			2022	2023	2024
<p>1.3</p> <p>1.4</p> <p>2.3</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>4.3</p>	Co-commission a PHSB Clearinghouse and Strategic Research and Practice Alliance to bring together expertise on PHSB and develop and drive the long-term 'research to practice' agenda on PHSB.	DCJ / NSW Health			
1.4	Establish the Child Safety Responses Cross Agency Group to oversee the implementation of Children First and NSW actions under the National Strategy and Safe and Supported that require cross-agency collaboration.	DCJ / DoE / DPC incl. Aboriginal Affairs / NSW Health / NSWPF / OCG / Treasury			



