

# Prevent and Respond to the Abuse of Children and Young People

ANZPAA

Australia and New Zealand  
Policing Advisory Agency

## Vision

We work collaboratively to prevent the abuse of children and young people, and to provide consistent and compassionate responses to victims.



| Scope   | Principles  |  |   |   | Context  |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| This Strategy addresses policing responses to the abuse of children and young people. Abuse can encompass neglect; physical, sexual and emotional abuse; and any form of abuse enabled by technology. | <b>To support the vision of this Strategy, we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ensure the interest and safety of the victim is at the centre of the policing response</li><li>treat all victims with respect and empathy, including victims of historical sexual abuse</li><li>form and maintain productive partnerships to enhance the safety of children and young people</li><li>provide our people with the capabilities, resources and support required to prevent and respond to the abuse of children and young people.</li></ul> |  |   |   | <p>The abuse of children and young people is a serious crime that impacts victims, families and communities. While all children and young people are vulnerable, the presence of risk factors can increase vulnerability. Risk factors may include age, physical or mental disability, language and culture, presence of family violence, living situation and geographical remoteness. The absence of protective factors can increase vulnerability of children and young people.</p> <p>We are committed to providing a consistent, compassionate and collaborative response to victims, families and communities. A whole-of-community response is required to ensure the safety, wellbeing and protection of children and young people, and to hold offenders to account. This involves police, the criminal justice system, government departments, non-governmental support services, the private sector, and the community.</p> |
| Focus areas   | Activities  |  |   |   |  |
| Prevention and Early Intervention   | Support, participate in or lead community awareness and education programs.   | Respond and refer harmful sexual behaviour where it is exhibited by children and young people.   | Encourage the early reporting of abuse and suspected abuse.   | Consider the safety, wellbeing and vulnerability of children and young people in initial police responses and investigations, particularly in the context of family violence. |  |
|   | Support and encourage initiatives that aim to reduce offending or reoffending.  | Manage reportable and registered offenders in accordance with jurisdictional requirements.   | Engage with individuals and communities to build trust, taking into account particular needs and vulnerabilities.             |   |  |
| Capability Building   | Facilitate reporting by providing clear and accessible methods to report abuse.   | Contribute to and share research to inform evidence-based responses.   | Support and influence the development of legislation.   | Safeguard the mental health and wellbeing of our people by supporting safe working practices and ensuring a range of support services are available.                          |  |
|   | Align with national and international strategies and structures to ensure collaborative and consistent responses.   | Develop, implement and review policies, procedures and training.   | Continue to improve and adapt technical capability and infrastructure to respond to new and emerging trends.                  |   |  |
| Responses and Investigations  | Tailor investigations and responses to account for individual needs and vulnerabilities.  | Apply intelligence-led and evidence-based approaches to child protection.  | Provide timely information and support to victims and families.   | Draw on specialist cross-jurisdictional capabilities to provide comprehensive responses.  |  |
|   | Continue to enhance covert capability for child protection investigations.  | Continue to invest in technical skills, infrastructure and training to identify victims who are subject to abuse, to safeguard against further harm. | Continue to improve practices in interviewing, evidence collection, forensic analysis and brief preparation.                  | Use technology in investigations to reduce trauma and improve outcomes for victims, families and investigators.   |  |
| Partnerships and Collaboration  | Promote a nationally consistent approach to education and training.   | Share information and intelligence within and between jurisdictions.   | Engage with stakeholders to promote the provision of accessible support services that meet the needs of victims and families. | Engage with international networks, law enforcement agencies and stakeholders to enhance transnational cooperation.   |  |
|   | Support and expand cooperation, communication and information sharing with stakeholders and communities.  | Develop and maintain partnerships with the private sector, including technology companies.   |   |   |  |