

Australian Child Rights Taskforce

Strategic Plan

2025



2028

Strategic objectives

Vision	All children in Australia have the greatest opportunity to develop and reach their full potential, in circumstances where children's rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled
Aim	Facilitate civil society engagement in child rights accountability mechanisms
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To produce a comprehensive, evidence-based report for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, that represents the priorities and concerns of civil society and children in Australia2. To provide a platform for the meaningful participation of children and young people in Australia to better influence policy, practice and legislation that impacts their lives; including through meaningful participation in the Taskforce3. To provide a platform for thought leadership in child rights; to encourage community engagement and support for child rights; and to identify key and emerging issues.4. To provide a comprehensive briefing to the Committee on the Rights of the Child at the pre-sessional working group, reflecting the priorities and concerns of civil society and children in Australia and recommendations for the protection, promotion, and fulfilment of children's right.5. To provide a platform for constructive engagement, dialogue, and negotiation with Australian Government/s in implementing children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.6. To enhance positive technical cooperation between civil society groups in support of children's rights in Australia.7. To provide and support the engagement of First Nations voices and perspectives in all aspects the work of the Taskforce as critical to the fulfillment of children's rights in Australia.8. To promote information sharing in civil society in relation to children's rights in Australia, and to support credible, actionable, and strategically framed solutions to improve the implementation of children's rights in legislation, policy, and practice in Australia.9. To promote public awareness and scrutiny of the implementation of children's rights in Australia.

Strategic initiatives

1

Advocate for child
rights and reforms

2

Drive child and youth
participation

3

Coordinate child
rights reporting

4

Build sector
engagement and
collaboration

Key Activities

Strategy 1: Advocate

1. Proactively advocate for General Measures of CRC implementation
2. Proactively advocate for Youth Justice reform as a priority issue
3. Advocate on thematic priorities through lead agency model
4. Undertake reactive advocacy on child rights issues as required
5. Develop policy positions, submissions, statements on key child rights issues

Strategy 2: Participation

1. Ongoing review and support for building better participation in public policy decision making
2. Partner with youth-led organisations to support participation of children and young people in policy decision making
3. Platform children and young people's voices in meetings and events
4. Ensure ACRT strategy and actions are informed by and aligned with advice from youth-led partners

Strategy 3: Reporting

1. Develop List of Issues Prior to Reporting
2. Review strategy engaging children and young people in reporting
3. Provide strategic input into Child Centered Evidence Project
4. Develop UNCRC Report
5. Engage with other UN Human Rights processes

Strategy 4: Sector

1. Facilitate thought spaces for emerging issues and challenges
2. Engage membership through regular communications and meetings
3. Build partnerships with peak organisations, stakeholders and advocacy networks
4. Deliver social media advocacy through ACRT channels
5. Mobilise membership around key moments

Governance

	Role	Activities
Strategic Group	Provides strategic direction, decision-making authority, and oversight for Australian Child Rights Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Drive advocacy on General measures and priority issue● Coordinate meetings and communication among members● Facilitate information sharing and collaboration between different groups● Serve as a central point of contact for external stakeholders and inquiries
Policy Working Group	Drive specific areas of work or thematic priorities and share ideas and expertise for collective action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Drive advocacy on thematic priorities● Support the functions and activities of Australian Child Rights Taskforce
Taskforce members	Share ideas and expertise for collective action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Guide child rights activities within their organisations● Coordinate with other organisations to drive collective action
Child & Youth Voices	Share perspectives and expertise to drive the strategic direction and activities of the Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provide advice on engagement with children and young people● Highlight issues and experiences of concern to children and young people

Advocacy Priorities

	Proactive advocacy priorities	Thematic advocacy priorities
Lead	Steering Committee with support from policy working group as required	Policy Working Group with support from Taskforce members where required
Type	Mostly institutional reform	Mostly policy reform
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General measures of CRC implementation• Youth justice	<p>Includes (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital environments• Child safety

Proactive Advocacy: General Measures

Policy goal	Key stakeholders	Potential levers/opportunities
Children and young people are elevated as a national priority through a National Children's Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM&C, Treasury DSS, DoE NCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy plan for Blueprint - build conversations around child rights governance Support the use of effective framing in communications Examine Blueprint to address structural problems e.g. poverty; cost of living; discrimination; inequity
Children and young people are considered in policy and budgets (e.g child rights impact assessments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM&C, Treasury DSS, DoE, DoH, DCCEEW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review appropriate mechanisms for accountability to children (including a Minister in Cabinet; an Office for Children; structures that support leadership and accountability across the federated system of government); Build evidence that Federal Parliament can legislate for children.
Children and young people directly participate in policy decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM&C, Treasury DSS, DoE, DoH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop clear 'asks' and mechanisms that government should implement to achieve best practice
Appropriate data and measurement of child rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM&C, AGD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop clear asks - consider QFCC/ANZCCG work on data requests Strategic advice into Child Centered Evidence project Map child rights indicators to identify gaps and opportunities; build data partnerships

Proactive Advocacy: Youth justice

Policy goal	Key stakeholders	Potential levers/opportunities
National enforceable minimum standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Children's Commissioner• ACCGGs• AGD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build evidence from constitutional lawyers that the Federal Parliament can legislate for children• Continue to use the Help Way Earlier report as a shorthand next steps pathway on youth justice reform• Explore ways to support the ACCGG's united voice on youth justice• Prepare a targeted strategy to 'persuade' AGD to lead a more substantive response on reform
Ratification of CRC 3rd Optional Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AGD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in Access to Justice conversation including for General Comment 27
Withdraw reservation to CRC Art 37(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AGD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore opportunities to remove reservation for child detention with adults

Thematic Advocacy: Digital Policy

Policy goal	Key stakeholders	Potential levers/opportunities
Embed child rights into policy and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Privacy Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children's' Online Privacy Code and developing effective complaints mechanism for OIAC

Thematic Advocacy: Child Safety

Policy goal	Key stakeholders	Potential levers/opportunities
Build effective monitoring of child rights and child safety in all settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Protection NGOs• National Office of Child Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation of Royal Commission implementation• Monitoring of existing national plans and strategies• Respond to ongoing media and research• Call for coordination of plans and strategies

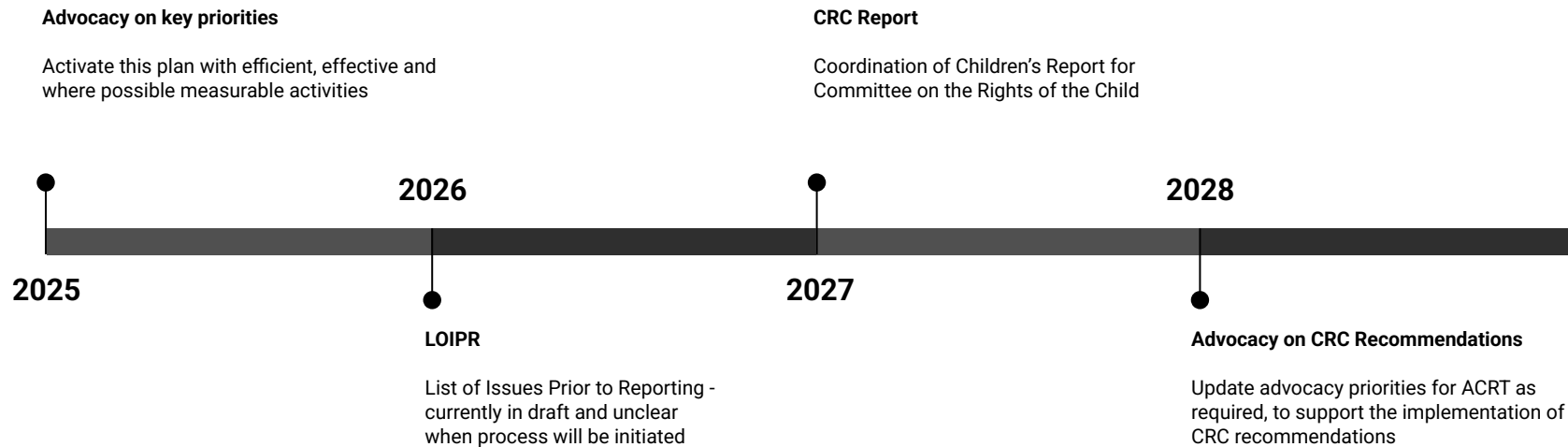
Supporting documents

- Government Engagement Plan
- National Children's Plan Advocacy
- Position Statement on Child & Youth Participation

Stakeholders - Government

	Who	Relevant policy area(s)
Ministers / Shadows	Attorney General /Shadow	General Measures, youth justice & child safety
	Minister for International Development	General Measures
	Anne Aly / Angie Bell, Amanda Rishworth / Shadow, Malarndirri McCarthy/Shadow	Youth justice
MPs/Senators/ Committees	Senator Shoebridge & Senator Cox	Youth justice
	Mrs Bridget Archer MP	Youth justice & child safety
	Ms Alicia Payne MP	Child safety
Parliamentary Friendship Groups	Justice - Senator Lidia Thorpe, Senator Fatima Payman, Mrs Bridget Archer MP	Youth justice
	Young People - Mr Andrew Wilkie MP & Ms Rebekha Sharkie MP	General measures, youth justice
	Early Childhood - Senator Marielle Smith, Senator Andrew Bragg, Ms Allegra Spender MP	General measures, child safety
	Prevention of child abuse and neglect (Bilyk and Smith) & EVAWC (Senator Larissa Waters)	Child safety
Departments/ Agencies	AGD	General Measures, youth justice, child safety & digital policy
	PM&C	General Measures
	DSS	Child safety
	NOCS	Child safety

Strategy Roadmap



Landscape mapping (2025)

Milestone	Timeframe
Act for Children campaign sprint	April - November
Federal Election & First 100 days	May - August
Child safety review	11 June
Justice Reform Initiative Conference	25 - 26 June
UPR Report	26 June
General Comment on Access to Justice (No. 27) submissions	30 June
Youth Justice Inquiry Final Report	1 July
World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights	27 July – 30 July
LOIPR initiation	September
Child Rights Symposium (54 Reasons)	November
State of Australia's Children Report (ARACY & UNICEF)	November
Children's Online Privacy Code	December