

Australian Children's Safety Alliance Terms of Reference

1. Vision

All children in Australia are safe and free from violence and abuse.

2. Purpose

To facilitate a collaborative partnership to advance, promote and implement domestic violence informed approaches to addressing the safety of women, protection of children and interventions with perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

3. Aims

The aims of the Australian Children's Safety Alliance are to:

- Provide leadership in policy and practice development for agencies, practitioners and child protections systems.
- Act as a public voice for the safety of all women and children experiencing domestic violence and abuse.
- Make visible and accountable the behaviour of perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.
- Identify opportunities to measure and evaluate the impact of the 'Safe and Together' Model and other domestic violence informed approaches in South Australia.
- Proactively identify and champion models of practice that are culturally responsive, culturally valid and endorsed by Aboriginal members, stakeholders and advisory groups such as the Family Matters Working Group in South Australia.

4. Objectives

The objectives of the Australian Children's Safety Alliance are to:

- Facilitate a collaborative approach to advance, promote and implement amongst others the 'Safe and Together' Model of Practice in Australia.
- Work closely with Aboriginal members, community groups and agencies to identify and promote models of practice that are culturally responsive and valid to engage with Aboriginal families and communities.
- Ensure that the models of practice ACSA engage with are culturally responsive and valid to fit the community of practice.
- Build strong collaborative relationships between Not for Profit, Non-Government, and Government agencies working in areas pertinent to child protection and safety of women experiencing domestic violence and abuse.
- Develop opportunities for a community of practice that includes training, forums, support and resources in the 'Safe and Together' Model of Practice to agencies and practitioners.

- Partner with research institutions to develop a body of evidence relating to among others the 'Safe and Together' Model of Practice and related areas of research.
- Contribute to public debate and dialogue on child protection and safety of women.
- Seek appropriate funding to enable the purpose and aims of the Australian Children's Safety Alliance to be realised.

5. Steering Group Membership

The Australian Children's Safety Alliance is auspiced and supported by Child and Family Focus SA, the South Australian peak body for child protection and family support.

All members must commit to the Vision, Purpose, Aims and Objectives of the Australian Children's Safety Alliance.

New membership for the Steering Group will be decided by consensus of current members.

The Australian Children's Safety Alliance must seek to have membership from a representative from the Aboriginal community at all times.

Review of Membership will occur every 12 months. Any member that has not attended the Steering Group for three (3) consecutive meetings will have their membership reviewed by the remaining Steering Group members and may have their membership revoked.

6. Roles and responsibilities of the Steering group

The Australian Children's Safety Alliance will have a Steering Group consisting of members as well as working groups in specific areas. A member of the Steering group will be responsible for convening the working groups on an as needs basis, or as decided by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group is directly accountable to its members and the Board of Child and Family Focus SA. Governance of the Steering Group and reporting on activity will take place via the chairperson and the CEO of CAFFSA.

7. The Steering Group will:

- Meet at least 6 times per year.
- Receive reports and information from the Working Groups at each meeting.
- Determine the direction of the Alliance including working groups.
- Be administered by members of the Steering Group including the Chairperson and the CEO of CAFFSA.
- Report on a semi-regular basis to the board of CAFFSA through the CEO of CAFFSA.
- Seek appropriate funding via CAFFSA to enable the purpose and aims of the ACSA to be realised.
- Contribute to public debate and dialogue on safety of women and protection of children as well as contribute to and inform CAFFSA advocacy in these areas.
- Manage development and delivery of a Train the Trainer model.

8. Current working groups

- **Model of Practice:**

Provide training, practice forums, support and resources in, amongst others the Safe and Together™ Model to agencies and practitioners. Intra and interagency training and learning programs that build a 'community of practice' from multiple agencies and sectors across Australia.

Other models of practice that are both evidence based and which are deemed culturally responsive and valid by Aboriginal member's, community groups (including the Family Matters Working Group in South Australia) and other agencies.

- **Systems Change:**

Build strong collaborative relationships between not-for-profit, non-government and government agencies to:

- Plan action on system barriers to more effective service responses identified.
- Link with and add value to existing initiatives with similar aims and agenda.

Engagement between services and workers to develop improved and more consistent practices.

- **Research and Evidence Based Practice**

Partner with research institutions to develop a body of evidence relating to the Safe and Together Model of practice, and other related areas of research.

Define methods of interagency work and for measurement and evaluation.

Membership of the working groups must be endorsed by the Steering Committee.

9. The Working Groups will:

- Hold meetings as agreed to by the members of the group that will be determined by the convener of the group, taking into account projects coordinated by its members determined by the convener of the group
- Working Group conveners are responsible for reporting back on the activities of their group to the Steering Group
- Working group members will be responsible for reporting back to their own agency and for championing the 'Safe and Together' Model of Practice in their agency.

10. Review

The Safe and Together Australian Alliance was formed on 5 June 2014 by representatives of eight Not for Profit or Non-Government agencies and one consultant and changed its name to the Australian Children's Safety Alliance in February 2016. The Alliance will review the value and relevance of its work on an annual basis.

Next review due: Jan 2020