

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF  
**THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

RECOMMENDATION	NT GOVERNMENT POSITION	COMMENTS
<p><b>2.1</b>                      The Australian Government should conduct and publish a nationally representative prevalence study on a regular basis to establish the extent of child maltreatment in institutional and non-institutional contexts in Australia.</p>	<p><b>NOTED</b></p>	<p>Work is underway nationally to progress this recommendation.</p> <p>The future Territory Families Case Management System, announced as part of the <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families</i> Implementation Plan, will provide greater data and research capability.</p> <p>This recommendation aligns with the findings of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.</p>
<p><b>CREATING CHILD SAFE COMMUNITIES THROUGH PREVENTION</b></p>		
<p><b>6.1</b>                      The Australian Government should establish a mechanism to oversee the development and implementation of a national strategy to prevent child sexual abuse. This work should be undertaken by the proposed National Office for Child Safety (see Recommendations 6.16 and 6.17) and be included in the National Framework for Child Safety (see Recommendation 6.15).</p>	<p><b>NOTED</b></p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government agrees to prioritise collaboration with other jurisdictions to progress a new National Framework on Child Safety. The new framework will focus on prevention, education, evaluation and cultural change.</p>
<p><b>6.2</b>                      The national strategy to prevent child sexual abuse should encompass the following complementary initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. social marketing campaigns to raise general community awareness and increase knowledge of child sexual abuse, to change problematic attitudes and behaviour relating to such abuse, and to promote and direct people to related prevention initiatives, information and help-seeking services</li> <li>b. prevention education delivered through preschool, school and other community institutional settings that aims to increase children’s knowledge of child sexual abuse and build practical skills to assist in strengthening self-protective skills and strategies. The education should be integrated into existing school curricula and link with related areas such as respectful relationships education and sexuality education. It should be mandatory for all preschools and schools</li> <li>c. prevention education for parents delivered through day care, preschool, school, sport and recreational settings, and other institutional and community settings. The education should aim to increase knowledge of child sexual abuse and its impacts, and build skills to help reduce the risks of child sexual abuse</li> <li>d. online safety education for children, delivered via schools. Ministers for education, through the Council of Australian Governments, should establish a nationally consistent curriculum for online safety education in schools. The Office of the eSafety Commissioner should be consulted on the design of the curriculum and contribute to the development of course content and approaches to delivery (see Recommendation 6.19)</li> <li>e. online safety education for parents and other community members to better support children’s safety online. Building on their current work, the Office of the eSafety Commissioner should oversee the delivery of this education nationally (see Recommendation 6.20)</li> <li>f. prevention education for tertiary students studying university, technical and further education, and vocational education and training courses before entering child related occupations. This should aim to increase awareness and understanding of the prevention of child sexual abuse and potentially harmful sexual behaviours in children</li> <li>g. information and help-seeking services to support people who are concerned they may be at risk of sexually abusing children. The design of these services should be informed by the Stop It Now! model implemented in Ireland and the United Kingdom</li> <li>h. information and help seeking services for parents and other members of the community concerned that:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. an adult they know may be at risk of perpetrating child sexual abuse</li> <li>ii. a child or young person they know may be at risk of sexual abuse or harm</li> <li>iii. a child they know may be displaying harmful sexual behaviours.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>NOTED</b></p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government recognises that a range of initiatives are required in a range of settings, targeting the different risk and protective behaviours for abuse. The Northern Territory Government will work proactively with the Australian Government to develop a national strategy which incorporates these initiatives.</p>

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<p><b>6.3</b>                      The design and implementation of these initiatives should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. aligning with and linking to national strategies for preventing violence against adults and children, and strategies for addressing other forms of child maltreatment</li> <li>b. tailoring and targeting initiatives to reach, engage and provide access to all communities, including children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with disability, and regional and remote communities</li> <li>c. involving children and young people in the strategic development, design, implementation and evaluation of initiatives</li> <li>d. using research and evaluation to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. build the evidence base for using best practices to prevent child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours in children</li> <li>ii. guide the development and refinement of interventions, including the piloting and testing of initiatives before they are implemented.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>NOTED</b>	Jurisdictions have agreed, through national fora, to work together in this area through existing mechanisms, wherever possible.
<b>WHAT MAKES INSTITUTIONS SAFER FOR CHILDREN</b>		
<p><b>6.4</b>                      All institutions should uphold the rights of the child. Consistent with Article 3 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, all institutions should act with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration. In order to achieve this, institutions should implement the Child Safe Standards identified by the Royal Commission.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	Community Services Ministers, including the NT Minister for Territory Families, have agreed to adopt the National Child Safe Principles.  Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i> .
<p><b>6.5</b>                      The Child Safe Standards are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Child safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture</li> <li>2. Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously</li> <li>3. Families and communities are informed and involved</li> <li>4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account</li> <li>5. People working with children are suitable and supported</li> <li>6. Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused</li> <li>7. Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training</li> <li>8. Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur</li> <li>9. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved</li> <li>10. Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe.</li> </ol>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	Community Services Ministers have agreed to adopt the National Child Safe Principles.  Jurisdictions recognise flexibility in implementation will be required.  Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i> .
<p><b>6.6</b>                      Institutions should be guided by the following core components when implementing the Child Safe Standards:  <b>Standard 1: Child safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The institution publicly commits to child safety and leaders champion a child safe culture.</li> <li>b. Child safety is a shared responsibility at all levels of the institution.</li> <li>c. Risk management strategies focus on preventing, identifying and mitigating risks to children.</li> <li>d. Staff and volunteers comply with a code of conduct that sets clear behavioural standards towards children.</li> <li>e. Staff and volunteers understand their obligations on information sharing and recordkeeping.</li> </ul> <p><b>Standard 2: Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Children are able to express their views and are provided opportunities to participate in decisions that affect their lives.</li> <li>b. The importance of friendships is recognised and support from peers is encouraged, helping children feel safe and be less isolated.</li> <li>c. Children can access sexual abuse prevention programs and information.</li> <li>d. Staff and volunteers are attuned to signs of harm and facilitate child-friendly ways for children to communicate and raise their concerns.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	Community Services Ministers have agreed to adopt the National Child Safe Principles.  Jurisdictions recognise flexibility in implementation will be required.  Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i> .

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<p><b>Standard 3: Families and communities are informed and involved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Families have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of their child and participate in decisions affecting their child.</li> <li>b. The institution engages in open, two-way communication with families and communities about its child safety approach and relevant information is accessible.</li> <li>c. Families and communities have a say in the institution’s policies and practices.</li> <li>d. Families and communities are informed about the institution’s operations and governance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The institution actively anticipates children’s diverse circumstances and responds effectively to those with additional vulnerabilities.</li> <li>b. All children have access to information, support and complaints processes.</li> <li>c. The institution pays particular attention to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children with disability, and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.</li> </ul> <p><b>Standard 5: People working with children are suitable and supported</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Recruitment, including advertising and screening, emphasises child safety.</li> <li>b. Relevant staff and volunteers have Working with Children Checks.</li> <li>c. All staff and volunteers receive an appropriate induction and are aware of their child safety responsibilities, including reporting obligations.</li> <li>d. Supervision and people management have a child safety focus.</li> </ul> <p><b>Standard 6: Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The institution has a child-focused complaint handling system that is understood by children, staff, volunteers and families.</li> <li>b. The institution has an effective complaint handling policy and procedure which clearly outline roles and responsibilities, approaches to dealing with different types of complaints and obligations to act and report.</li> <li>c. Complaints are taken seriously, responded to promptly and thoroughly, and reporting, privacy and employment law obligations are met.</li> </ul> <p><b>Standard 7: Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Relevant staff and volunteers receive training on the nature and indicators of child maltreatment, particularly institutional child sexual abuse.</li> <li>b. Staff and volunteers receive training on the institution’s child safe practices and child protection.</li> <li>c. Relevant staff and volunteers are supported to develop practical skills in protecting children and responding to disclosures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Standard 8: Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Risks in the online and physical environments are identified and mitigated without compromising a child’s right to privacy and healthy development.</li> <li>b. The online environment is used in accordance with the institution’s code of conduct and relevant policies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Standard 9: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The institution regularly reviews and improves child safe practices.</li> <li>b. The institution analyses complaints to identify causes and systemic failures to inform continuous improvement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Standard 10: Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Policies and procedures address all Child Safe Standards.</li> <li>b. Policies and procedures are accessible and easy to understand.</li> <li>c. Best practice models and stakeholder consultation inform the development of policies and procedures.</li> <li>d. Leaders champion and model compliance with policies and procedures.</li> <li>e. Staff understand and implement the policies and procedures.</li> </ul>		

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<b>IMPROVING CHILD SAFE APPROACHES</b>		
<p><b>6.7</b>                      The national Child Safe Standards developed by the Royal Commission and listed at Recommendation 6.5 should be adopted as part of the new National Statement of Principles for Child Safe Organisations described by the Community Services Ministers’ Meeting in November 2016. The National Statement of Principles for Child Safe Organisations should be endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>Community Services Ministers have worked with the National Children’s Commissioner on the wording of the Standards and principles and the National Children’s Commissioner has conducted public consultation.</p> <p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>
<p><b>6.8</b>                      State and territory governments should require all institutions in their jurisdictions that engage in child-related work to meet the Child Safe Standards identified by the Royal Commission at Recommendation 6.5.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>The Northern Territory accepts the intent of this recommendation, while noting that a flexible approach to implementation in the Northern Territory service context is likely to be required.</p> <p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>
<p><b>6.9</b>                      Legislative requirements to comply with the Child Safe Standards should cover institutions that provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. accommodation and residential services for children, including overnight excursions or stays</li> <li>b. activities or services of any kind, under the auspices of a particular religious denomination or faith, through which adults have contact with children</li> <li>c. childcare or childminding services</li> <li>d. child protection services, including out-of-home care</li> <li>e. activities or services where clubs and associations have a significant membership of, or involvement by, children</li> <li>f. coaching or tuition services for children</li> <li>g. commercial services for children, including entertainment or party services, gym or play facilities, photography services, and talent or beauty competitions</li> <li>h. services for children with disability</li> <li>i. education services for children</li> <li>j. health services for children</li> <li>k. justice and detention services for children, including immigration detention facilities</li> <li>l. transport services for children, including school crossing services.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>The Northern Territory accepts the intent of this recommendation, while noting that a flexible approach to implementation in the Northern Territory service context is likely to be required.</p> <p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p> <p>Through the employment of a Sport Integrity Officer (from June 2018), in the Department of Tourism and Culture, the Northern Territory Government will review the Child Safe Standards and consider additional activities to support compliance by sport stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>6.10</b>                      State and territory governments should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an independent oversight body in each state and territory is responsible for monitoring and enforcing the Child Safe Standards. Where appropriate, this should be an existing body.</li> <li>b. the independent oversight body is able to delegate responsibility for monitoring and enforcing the Child Safe Standards to another state or territory government body, such as a sector regulator.</li> <li>c. regulators take a responsive and risk-based approach when monitoring compliance with the Child Safe Standards and, where possible, utilise existing regulatory frameworks to monitor and enforce the Child Safe Standards.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p> <p>This recommendation will be considered as a part of the review of the functions of the NT Children’s Commissioner.</p>

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<p><b>6.11</b>  Each independent state and territory oversight body should have the following additional functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. provide advice and information on the Child Safe Standards to institutions and the community.</li> <li>b. collect, analyse and publish data on the child safe approach in that jurisdiction and provide that data to the proposed National Office for Child Safety</li> <li>c. partner with peak bodies, professional standards bodies and/or sector leaders to work with institutions to enhance the safety of children</li> <li>d. provide, promote or support education and training on the Child Safe Standards to build the capacity of institutions to be child safe</li> <li>e. coordinate ongoing information exchange between oversight bodies relating to institutions' compliance with the Child Safe Standards.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>The Northern Territory Government accepts the intent of this recommendation, however the approach to implementing it in the Northern Territory context will be informed by the current review of the NT Children's Commissioner.</p>
<p><b>6.12</b>  With support from governments at the national, state and territory levels, local governments should designate child safety officer positions from existing staff profiles to carry out the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. developing child safe messages in local government venues, grounds and facilities</li> <li>b. assisting local institutions to access online child safe resources</li> <li>c. providing child safety information and support to local institutions on a needs basis</li> <li>d. supporting local institutions to work collaboratively with key services to ensure child safe approaches are culturally safe, disability aware and appropriate for children from diverse backgrounds.</li> </ul>	<b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b>	<p>The Northern Territory Government will work with local government councils and the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory to explore options to progress implementation of this recommendation, noting that local government is a separate and independent sphere of government.</p> <p>Wherever possible, the Northern Territory Government will progress local implementation through community engagement and local decision making, noting that child safety messages should be culturally appropriate and place-based.</p>
<p><b>6.13</b>  The Australian Government should require all institutions that engage in child-related work for the Australian Government, including Commonwealth agencies, to meet the Child Safe Standards identified by the Royal Commission at Recommendation 6.5.</p>	<b>NOTED</b>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>
<p><b>6.14</b>  The Australian Government should be responsible for the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. evaluate, publicly report on, and drive the continuous improvement of the implementation of the Child Safe Standards and their outcomes</li> <li>b. coordinate the direct input of children and young people into the evaluation and continuous improvement of the Child Safe Standards</li> <li>c. coordinate national capacity building and support initiatives and opportunities for collaboration between jurisdictions and institutions</li> <li>d. develop and promote national strategies to raise awareness and drive cultural change in institutions and the community to support child safety.</li> </ul>	<b>NOTED</b>	<p>This recommendation is under consideration nationally by Community Services Ministers.</p>
<p><b>6.15</b>  The Australian Government should develop a new National Framework for Child Safety in collaboration with state and territory governments. The Framework should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. commit governments to improving the safety of all children by implementing long term child safety initiatives, with appropriate resources, and holding them to account</li> <li>b. be endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments and overseen by a joint ministerial body</li> <li>c. commence after the expiration of the current National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children, no later than 2020</li> <li>d. cover broader child safety issues, as well as specific initiatives to better prevent and respond to institutional child sexual abuse including initiatives recommended by the Royal Commission</li> <li>e. include links to other related policy frameworks.</li> </ul>	<b>NOTED</b>	<p>The Northern Territory Government agrees to prioritise collaboration with other jurisdictions to progress a new National Framework on Child Safety. The new framework will focus on prevention, education, evaluation and cultural change.</p> <p>This recommendation is under consideration nationally by Community Services Ministers.</p>

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<p><b>6.16</b>                      The Australian Government should establish a National Office for Child Safety in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, to provide a response to the implementation of the Child Safe Standards nationally, and to develop and lead the proposed National Framework for Child Safety. The Australian Government should transition the National Office for Child Safety into an Australian Government statutory body within 18 months of this Royal Commission’s Final Report being tabled in the Australian Parliament.</p>	<b>NOTED</b>	The Australian Government has agreed to establish a National Office for Child Safety from 1 July 2018.
<p><b>6.17</b>                      The National Office for Child Safety should report to Parliament and have the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. develop and lead the coordination of the proposed National Framework for Child Safety, including national coordination of the Child Safe Standards</li> <li>b. collaborate with state and territory governments to lead capacity building and continuous improvement of child safe initiatives through resource development, best practice material and evaluation.</li> <li>c. promote the participation and empowerment of children and young people in the National Framework and child safe initiatives</li> <li>d. perform the Australian Government’s Child Safe Standards functions as set out at Recommendation 6.15</li> <li>e. lead the community prevention initiatives as set out in Recommendation 6.2.</li> </ul>	<b>NOTED</b>	The Australian Government has agreed to establish a National Office for Child Safety from 1 July 2018.
<p><b>6.18</b>                      The Australian Government should create a ministerial portfolio with responsibility for children’s policy issues, including the National Framework for Child Safety.</p>	<b>NOTED</b>	The Northern Territory Government supports the establishment of a Council of Australian Governments’ Council for Children and Families.
<b>PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN INSTITUTIONS</b>		
<p><b>6.19</b>                      Ministers for education, through the Council of Australian Governments, should establish a nationally consistent curriculum for online safety education in schools. The Office of the eSafety Commissioner should be consulted on the design of the curriculum and contribute to the development of course content and approaches to delivery. The curriculum should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. be appropriately staged from Foundation year to Year 12 and be linked with related content areas to build behavioural skills as well as technical knowledge to support a positive and safe online culture</li> <li>b. involve children and young people in the design, delivery and piloting of new online safety education, and update content annually to reflect evolving technologies, online behaviours and evidence of international best practice approaches</li> <li>c. be tailored and delivered in ways that allow all Australian children and young people to reach, access and engage with online safety education, including vulnerable groups that may not access or engage with the school system.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	This recommendation is being progressed through the Council of Australian Governments’ Education Council, which will report back to the Council of Australian Governments in late 2018.
<p><b>6.20</b>                      Building on its current work, the Office of the eSafety Commissioner should oversee the delivery of national online safety education aimed at parents and other community members to better support children’s safety online. These communications should aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. keep the community up to date on emerging risks and opportunities for safeguarding children online</li> <li>b. build community understanding of responsibilities, legalities and the ethics of children’s interactions online</li> <li>c. encourage proactive responses from the community to make it ‘everybody’s business’ to intervene early, provide support or report issues when concerns for children’s safety online are raised</li> <li>d. increase public awareness of how to access advice and support when online incidents occur.</li> </ul>	<b>NOTED</b>	

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<p><b>6.21</b>                      Pre-service education and in-service staff training should be provided to support child-related institutions in creating safe online environments. The Office of the eSafety Commissioner should advise on and contribute to program design and content. These programs should be aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. tertiary students studying university, technical and further education, and vocational education and training courses, before entering child-related occupations; and could be provided as a component of a broader program of child sexual abuse prevention education (see Recommendation 6.2)</li> <li>b. staff and volunteers in schools and other child-related organisations, and could build on the existing web-based learning programs of the Office of the eSafety Commissioner.</li> </ul>	<p><b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b></p>	<p>Consultation with the Australian Government, tertiary education sector and private sector will be required.</p>
<p><b>6.22</b>                      In partnership with the proposed National Office of Child Safety (see Recommendations 6.16 and 6.17), the Office of the eSafety Commissioner should oversee the development of an online safety framework and resources to support all schools in creating child safe online environments. This work should build on existing school-based eSafety frameworks and guidelines, drawing on Australian and international models.</p> <p>The school-based online safety framework and resources should be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. support schools in developing, implementing and reviewing their online codes of conduct, policies and procedures to help create an online culture that is safe for children</li> <li>b. guide schools in their response to specific online incidents, in coordination with other agencies. This should include guidance in complaint handling, understanding reporting requirements, supporting victims to minimise further harm, and preserving digital evidence to support criminal justice processes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b></p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government looks forward to working collaboratively with the Australian Government to develop and share relevant policy and resources.</p>
<p><b>6.23</b>                      State and territory education departments should consider introducing centralised mechanisms to support government and non-government schools when online incidents occur. This should result in appropriate levels of escalation and effective engagement with all relevant entities, such as the Office of the eSafety Commissioner, technical service providers and law enforcement. Consideration should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. adopting the promising model of the Queensland Department of Education and Training’s Cyber Safety and Reputation Management Unit, which provides advice and a centralised coordination function for schools, working in partnership with relevant entities to remove offensive online content and address other issues</li> <li>d. strengthening or re-establishing multi-stakeholder forums and case-management for effective joint responses involving all relevant agencies, such as police, education, health and child protection.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government looks forward to working collaboratively with the Australian Government and other States and Territories to develop and share relevant policy and resources.</p>
<p><b>6.24</b>                      In consultation with the eSafety Commissioner, police commissioners from states and territories and the Australian Federal Police should continue to ensure national capability for coordinated, best practice responses by law enforcement agencies to online child sexual abuse. This could include through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. establishing regular meetings of the heads of cybersafety units in all Australian police departments to ensure a consistent capacity to respond to emerging incidents and share best practice approaches, tools and resources</li> <li>b. convening regular forums and conferences to bring together law enforcement, government, the technology industry, the community sector and other relevant stakeholders to discuss emerging issues, set agendas and identify solutions to online child sexual abuse and exploitation</li> <li>c. building capability across police departments, through in-service training for:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. frontline police officers to respond to public complaints relating to issues of online child sexual abuse or harmful sexual behaviours</li> <li>ii. police officers who liaise with young people in school and community settings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT</b></p>	<p>Implementation of this recommendation supports and builds on continuing national efforts in a range of Police fora.</p>

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<b>REPORTING INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE</b>		
<p><b>7.1</b>            State and territory governments that do not have a mandatory reporter guide should introduce one and require its use by mandatory reporters.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>Mandatory reporting provisions, which apply to all adults in the Northern Territory, are contained in existing Northern Territory legislation. Additional mandatory reporting guidelines for professional and community notifiers are to be developed in accordance with recommendations of the NT Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory's response to Recommendation 32.4 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.</p>
<p><b>7.2</b>            Institutions and state and territory governments should provide mandatory reporters with access to experts who can provide timely advice on child sexual abuse reporting obligations.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>Mandatory reporting provisions, which apply to all adults in the Northern Territory, are contained in existing Northern Territory legislation. To maximise the effectiveness of access to experts, the Northern Territory considers that its implementation should relate to 'professional reporters'.</p>
<p><b>7.3</b>            State and territory governments should amend laws concerning mandatory reporting to child protection authorities to achieve national consistency in reporter groups. At a minimum, state and territory governments should also include the following groups of individuals as mandatory reporters in every jurisdiction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. out-of-home care workers (excluding foster and kinship/relative carers)</li> <li>b. youth justice workers</li> <li>c. early childhood workers</li> <li>d. registered psychologists and school counsellors</li> <li>e. people in religious ministry.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>The Northern Territory's existing mandatory reporting regime currently includes these groups.</p> <p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>
<p><b>7.4</b>            Laws concerning mandatory reporting to child protection authorities should not exempt persons in religious ministry from being required to report knowledge or suspicions formed, in whole or in part, on the basis of information disclosed in or in connection with a religious confession.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>
<p><b>7.5</b>            The Australian Government and state and territory governments should ensure that legislation provides comprehensive protection for individuals who make reports in good faith about child sexual abuse in institutional contexts. Such individuals should be protected from civil and criminal liability and from reprisals or other detrimental action as a result of making a complaint or report, including in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. mandatory and voluntary reports to child protection authorities under child protection legislation</li> <li>b. notifications concerning child abuse under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>
<p><b>7.6</b>            State and territory governments should amend child protection legislation to provide adequate protection for individuals who make complaints or reports in good faith to any institution engaging in child-related work about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. child sexual abuse within that institution, or</li> <li>b. the response of that institution to child sexual abuse. Such individuals should be protected from civil and criminal liability and from reprisals or other detrimental action as a result of making a complaint or report.</li> </ul> <p>Such individuals should be protected from civil and criminal liability and from reprisals or other detrimental actions as a result of making a complaint or report.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>

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<b>IMPROVING INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO COMPLAINTS</b>		
<p><b>7.7</b>            Consistent with Child Safe Standard 6: Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused, institutions should have a clear, accessible and child-focused complaint handling policy and procedure that sets out how the institution should respond to complaints of child sexual abuse. The complaint handling policy and procedure should cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. making a complaint</li> <li>b. responding to a complaint</li> <li>c. investigating a complaint</li> <li>d. providing support and assistance</li> <li>e. achieving systemic improvements following a complaint.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>Mandatory reporting, out-of-home care and complaints processes in the NT are all subject to current reform as outlined in <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families 2018-2023</i>, the Northern Territory Government’s plan to implement reforms to better support children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability.</p>
<p><b>7.8</b>            Consistent with Child Safe Standard 1: Child safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture, institutions should have a clear code of conduct that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. outlines behaviours towards children that the institution considers unacceptable, including concerning conduct, misconduct or criminal conduct</li> <li>b. includes a specific requirement to report any concerns, breaches or suspected breaches of the code to a person responsible for handling complaints in the institution or to an external authority when required by law and/or the institution’s complaint handling policy</li> <li>c. outlines the protections available to individuals who make complaints or reports in good faith to any institution engaging in child-related work (see Recommendation 7.6 on reporter protections).</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	
<b>OVERSIGHT OF INSTITUTIONAL COMPLAINT HANDLING</b>		
<p><b>7.9</b>            State and territory governments should establish nationally consistent legislative schemes (reportable conduct schemes), based on the approach adopted in New South Wales, which oblige heads of institutions to notify an oversight body of any reportable allegation, conduct or conviction involving any of the institution’s employees.</p>	<b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b>	<p>Further legislative reform on processes and systems to receive and act on complaints from carers, clients and families in the Northern Territory is currently being considered as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>

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<p><b>7.10</b>                      Reportable conduct schemes should provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an independent oversight body</li> <li>b. obligatory reporting by heads of institutions</li> <li>c. a definition of reportable conduct that covers any sexual offence, or sexual misconduct, committed against, with, or in the presence of, a child</li> <li>d. a definition of reportable conduct that includes the historical conduct of a current employee</li> <li>e. a definition of employee that covers paid employees, volunteers and contractors</li> <li>f. protection for persons who make reports in good faith</li> <li>g. oversight body powers and functions that include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. scrutinising institutional systems for preventing reportable conduct and for handling and responding to reportable allegations, or reportable convictions</li> <li>ii. monitoring the progress of investigations and the handling of complaints by institutions</li> <li>iii. conducting, on its own motion, investigations concerning any reportable conduct of which it has been notified or otherwise becomes aware</li> <li>iv. power to exempt any class or kind of conduct from being reportable conduct</li> <li>v. capacity building and practice development, through the provision of training, education and guidance to institutions</li> <li>vi. public reporting, including annual reporting on the operation of the scheme and trends in reports and investigations, and the power to make special reports to parliaments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b></p>	<p>Further legislative reform on processes and systems to receive and act on complaints from carers, clients and families in the Northern Territory is currently being considered as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>
<p><b>7.11</b>                      State and territory governments should periodically review the operation of reportable conduct schemes, and in that review determine whether the schemes should cover additional institutions that exercise a high degree of responsibility for children and involve a heightened risk of child sexual abuse.</p>	<p><b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b></p>	<p>Further legislative reform on processes and systems to receive and act on complaints from carers, clients and families in the Northern Territory is currently being considered as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>
<p><b>7.12</b>                      Reportable conduct schemes should cover institutions that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• exercise a high degree of responsibility for children</li> <li>• engage in activities that involve a heightened risk of child sexual abuse, due to institutional characteristics, the nature of the activities involving children, or the additional vulnerability of the children the institution engages with. At a minimum, these should include institutions that provide:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. accommodation and residential services for children, including:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. housing or homelessness services that provide overnight beds for children and young people</li> <li>ii. providers of overnight camps</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. activities or services of any kind, under the auspices of a particular religious denomination or faith, through which adults have contact with children</li> <li>c. childcare services, including:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. approved education and care services under the Education and Care Services National Law</li> <li>ii. approved occasional care services</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. child protection services and out-of-home care, including:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. child protection authorities and agencies</li> <li>ii. providers of foster care, kinship or relative care</li> <li>iii. providers of family group homes</li> <li>iv. providers of residential care</li> </ul> </li> <li>e. disability services and supports for children with disability, including:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. disability service providers under state and territory legislation</li> <li>ii. registered providers of supports under the National Disability Insurance Scheme</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b></p>	<p>Further legislative reform on processes and systems to receive and act on complaints from carers, clients and families in the Northern Territory is currently being considered as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>

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<p>f. education services for children, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. government and non-government schools</li> <li>ii. TAFEs and other institutions registered to provide senior secondary education or training, courses for overseas students or student exchange programs</li> </ul> <p>g. health services for children, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. government health departments and agencies, and statutory corporations</li> <li>ii. public and private hospitals</li> <li>iii. providers of mental health and drug or alcohol treatment services that have inpatient beds for children and young people</li> </ul> <p>h. justice and detention services for children, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. youth detention centres</li> <li>ii. immigration detention facilities.</li> </ul>		
<b>RECORDS AND RECORDKEEPING</b>		
<p><b>8.1</b></p> <p>To allow for delayed disclosure of abuse by victims and take account of limitation periods for civil actions for child sexual abuse, institutions that engage in child-related work should retain, for at least 45 years, records relating to child sexual abuse that has occurred or is alleged to have occurred.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>The Northern Territory Government supports a consistent approach across all Australian jurisdictions and will prioritise collaboration, led by archives and records authorities, to develop advice and information about records retention.</p> <p>Existing retention periods for relevant records are often more than 45 years, and where there is a longer retention period, this will be retained. The Northern Territory Government implemented a records freeze in 2013 in relation to records relevant to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.</p> <p>Implementation of this recommendation in the Northern Territory may require a flexible approach given practical limitations to implementation.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will encourage non-government institutions to comply with this record retention standard and will consider whether it is necessary to introduce additional regulatory measures.</p>
<p><b>8.2</b></p> <p>The National Archives of Australia and state and territory public records authorities should ensure that records disposal schedules require that records relating to child sexual abuse that has occurred or is alleged to have occurred be retained for at least 45 years.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>The Northern Territory Government supports a consistent approach across all Australian jurisdictions and will prioritise collaboration, led by archives and records authorities, to develop advice and information about records retention.</p> <p>Existing retention periods for relevant records are often more than 45 years, and where there is a longer retention period, this will be retained. The Northern Territory Government implemented a records freeze in 2013 in relation to records relevant to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.</p> <p>Implementation of this recommendation in the Northern Territory may require a flexible approach given practical limitations to implementation.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will encourage non-government institutions to comply with this record retention standard and will consider whether it is necessary to introduce additional regulatory measures.</p>
<p><b>8.3</b></p> <p>The National Archives of Australia and state and territory public records authorities should provide guidance to government and non-government institutions on identifying records which, it is reasonable to expect, may become relevant to an actual or alleged incident of child sexual abuse; and on the retention and disposal of such records.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>The Northern Territory Government supports a consistent approach across all Australian jurisdictions and will prioritise collaboration, led by archives and records authorities, to develop advice and information about records retention.</p> <p>Existing retention periods for relevant records are often more than 45 years, and where there is a longer retention period, this will be retained. The Northern Territory Government implemented a records freeze in 2013 in relation to records relevant to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.</p>

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		<p>Implementation of this recommendation in the Northern Territory may require a flexible approach given practical limitations to implementation.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will encourage non-government institutions to comply with this record retention standard and will consider whether it is necessary to introduce additional regulatory measures.</p>
<p><b>8.4</b></p> <p>All institutions that engage in child-related work should implement the following principles for records and recordkeeping, to a level that responds to the risk of child sexual abuse occurring within the institution.</p> <p><b>Principle 1: Creating and keeping full and accurate records relevant to child safety and wellbeing, including child sexual abuse, is in the best interests of children and should be an integral part of institutional leadership, governance and culture.</b></p> <p>Institutions that care for or provide services to children must keep the best interests of the child uppermost in all aspects of their conduct, including recordkeeping. It is in the best interest of children that institutions foster a culture in which the creation and management of accurate records are integral parts of the institution's operations and governance.</p> <p><b>Principle 2: Full and accurate records should be created about all incidents, responses and decisions affecting child safety and wellbeing, including child sexual abuse.</b></p> <p>Institutions should ensure that records are created to document any identified incidents of grooming, inappropriate behaviour (including breaches of institutional codes of conduct) or child sexual abuse and all responses to such incidents.</p> <p>Records created by institutions should be clear, objective and thorough. They should be created at, or as close as possible to, the time the incidents occurred, and clearly show the author (whether individual or institutional) and the date created.</p> <p><b>Principle 3: Records relevant to child safety and wellbeing, including child sexual abuse, should be maintained appropriately.</b></p> <p>Records relevant to child safety and wellbeing, including child sexual abuse, should be maintained in an indexed, logical and secure manner. Associated records should be collocated or cross-referenced to ensure that people using those records are aware of all relevant information.</p> <p><b>Principle 4: Records relevant to child safety and wellbeing, including child sexual abuse, should only be disposed of in accordance with law or policy.</b></p> <p>Records relevant to child safety and wellbeing, including child sexual abuse, must only be destroyed in accordance with records disposal schedules or published institutional policies.</p> <p>Records relevant to child sexual abuse should be subject to minimum retention periods that allow for delayed disclosure of abuse by victims, and take account of limitation periods for civil actions for child sexual abuse.</p> <p><b>Principle 5: Individuals' existing rights to access, amend or annotate records about themselves should be recognised to the fullest extent.</b></p> <p>Individuals whose childhoods are documented in institutional records should have a right to access records made about them. Full access should be given unless contrary to law. Specific, not generic, explanations should be provided in any case where a record, or part of a record, is withheld or redacted.</p> <p>Individuals should be made aware of, and assisted to assert, their existing rights to request that records containing their personal information be amended or annotated, and to seek review or appeal of decisions refusing access, amendment or annotation.</p>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government will prioritise collaboration with agencies and organisations to develop appropriate guidance on assessing risk and developing recordkeeping principles.</p>
<p><b>8.5</b></p> <p>State and territory governments should ensure that non-government schools operating in the state or territory are required to comply, at a minimum, with standards applicable to government schools in relation to the creation, maintenance and disposal of records relevant to child safety and wellbeing, including child sexual abuse.</p>	<p><b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b></p>	<p>Implementation of this recommendation would require a legislative review of the role of the Northern Territory Government in ensuring compliance of non-government schools.</p>
<b>IMPROVING INFORMATION SHARING ACROSS SECTORS</b>		
<p><b>8.6</b></p> <p>The Australian Government and state and territory governments should make nationally consistent legislative and administrative arrangements, in each jurisdiction, for a specified range of bodies (prescribed bodies) to share information related to the safety and wellbeing of children, including information relevant to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts (relevant information). These arrangements should be made to establish an information exchange scheme to operate in and across Australian jurisdictions.</p>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government will prioritise collaboration with other jurisdictions to promote legislative and administrative arrangements for information sharing.</p> <p>Implementation of this recommendation will require intergovernmental discussions and agreement.</p>

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<p><b>8.7</b>                      In establishing the information exchange scheme, the Australian Government and state and territory governments should develop a minimum of nationally consistent provisions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. enable direct exchange of relevant information between a range of prescribed bodies, including service providers, government and non-government agencies, law enforcement agencies, and regulatory and oversight bodies, which have responsibilities related to children’s safety and wellbeing</li> <li>b. permit prescribed bodies to provide relevant information to other prescribed bodies without a request, for purposes related to preventing, identifying and responding to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts</li> <li>c. require prescribed bodies to share relevant information on request from other prescribed bodies, for purposes related to preventing, identifying and responding to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts, subject to limited exceptions</li> <li>d. explicitly prioritise children’s safety and wellbeing and override laws that might otherwise prohibit or restrict disclosure of information to prevent, identify and respond to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts</li> <li>e. provide safeguards and other measures for oversight and accountability to prevent unauthorised sharing and improper use of information obtained under the information exchange scheme</li> <li>f. require prescribed bodies to provide adversely affected persons with an opportunity to respond to untested or unsubstantiated allegations, where such information is received under the information exchange scheme, prior to taking adverse action against such persons, except where to do so could place another person at risk of harm.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government will work with other jurisdictions to identify and remove barriers to information sharing and to develop methods to promote and enable information sharing.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will seek to build on existing arrangements within and across jurisdictions in preparation for developing an agreed information sharing scheme.</p> <p>Implementation of this recommendation will require intergovernmental discussions and agreement.</p>
<p><b>8.8</b>                      The Australian Government, state and territory governments and prescribed bodies should work together to ensure that the implementation of our recommended information exchange scheme is supported with education, training and guidelines. Education, training and guidelines should promote understanding of, and confidence in, appropriate information sharing to better prevent, identify and respond to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts, including by addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. impediments to information sharing due to limited understanding of applicable laws</li> <li>b. unauthorised sharing and improper use of information.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government will continue to collaborate with other jurisdictions to provide awareness raising, education and training around information sharing obligations and requirements.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will work with relevant bodies and government agencies, such as the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, children’s commissioners and advocates, and relevant or prescribed bodies.</p> <p>Implementation of this recommendation will require intergovernmental discussions and agreement.</p>
<b>IMPROVING INFORMATION SHARING IN KEY SECTORS</b>		
<p><b>8.9</b>                      The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Education Council should consider the need for nationally consistent state and territory legislative requirements about the types of information recorded on teacher registers. Types of information that the council should consider, with respect to a person’s registration and employment as a teacher, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the person’s former names and aliases</li> <li>b. the details of former and current employers</li> <li>c. where relating to allegations or incidents of child sexual abuse:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. current and past disciplinary actions, such as conditions on, suspension of, and cancellation of registration</li> <li>ii. grounds for current and past disciplinary actions</li> <li>iii. pending investigations</li> <li>iv. findings or outcomes of investigations where allegations have been substantiated</li> <li>v. resignation or dismissal from employment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Implementation of this recommendation is subject to ongoing engagement with the Teacher Registration Board of the Northern Territory and associated national fora, noting that work is progressing through the COAG Education Council.</p>

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<p><b>8.10</b>                      The COAG Education Council should consider the need for nationally consistent provisions in state and territory teacher registration laws providing that teacher registration authorities may, and/or must on request, make information on teacher registers available to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. teacher registration authorities in other states and territories</li> <li>b. teachers' employers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Implementation of this recommendation is subject to ongoing engagement with the Teacher Registration Board of the Northern Territory and associated national fora, noting that work is progressing through the COAG Education Council.</p>
<p><b>8.11</b>                      The COAG Education Council should consider the need for nationally consistent provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. in state and territory teacher registration laws or</li> <li>b. in administrative arrangements, based on legislative authorisation for information sharing under our recommended information exchange scheme</li> </ul> <p>providing that teacher registration authorities may or must notify teacher registration authorities in other states and territories and teachers' employers of information they hold or receive about the following matters where they relate to allegations or incidents of child sexual abuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. disciplinary actions, such as conditions or restrictions on, suspension of, and cancellation of registration, including with notification of grounds</li> <li>b. investigations into conduct, or into allegations or complaints</li> <li>c. findings or outcomes of investigations</li> <li>d. resignation or dismissal from employment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Implementation of this recommendation is subject to ongoing engagement with the Teacher Registration Board of the Northern Territory and associated national fora, noting that work is progressing through the COAG Education Council.</p>
<p><b>8.12</b>                      In considering improvements to teacher registers and information sharing by registration authorities, the COAG Education Council should also consider what safeguards are necessary to protect teachers' personal information.</p>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Implementation of this recommendation is subject to ongoing engagement with the Teacher Registration Board of the Northern Territory and associated national fora, noting that work is progressing through the COAG Education Council.</p>
<p><b>8.13</b>                      State and territory governments should ensure that policies provide for the exchange of a student's information when they move to another school, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the student may pose risks to other children due to their harmful sexual behaviours or may have educational or support needs due to their experiences of child sexual abuse and</li> <li>b. the new school needs this information to address the safety and wellbeing of the student or of other students at the school.</li> </ul> <p>State and territory governments should give consideration to basing these policies on our recommended information exchange scheme (Recommendations 8.6 to 8.8).</p>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>To support the implementation of legislation, the Northern Territory Government has developed guidelines and online training modules regarding information sharing. Within the guidelines, school principals are classed as Authorised Information Sharers.</p> <p>In order to implement this recommendation, consideration of national proposals and how they would be applied, will be required.</p>
<p><b>8.14</b>                      State and territory governments should ensure that policies for the exchange of a student's information when they move to another school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. provide that the principal (or other authorised information sharer) at the student's previous school is required to share information with the new school in the circumstances described in Recommendation 8.13 and</li> <li>b. apply to schools in government and non-government systems.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>To support the implementation of legislation, the Northern Territory Government has developed guidelines and online training modules regarding information sharing. Within the guidelines, school principals are classed as Authorised Information Sharers.</p> <p>In order to implement this recommendation, consideration of national proposals and how they would be applied, will be required.</p>
<p><b>8.15</b>                      State and territory governments should ensure that policies about the exchange of a student's information (as in Recommendations 8.13 and 8.14) provide the following safeguards, in addition to any safeguards attached to our recommended information exchange scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. information provided to the new school should be proportionate to its need for that information to assist it in meeting the student's safety and wellbeing needs, and those of other students at the school</li> <li>b. information should be exchanged between principals, or other authorised information sharers, and disseminated to other staff members on a need-to-know basis.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT</b></p>	

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<p><b>8.16</b>                      The COAG Education Council should review the Interstate Student Data Transfer Note and Protocol in the context of the implementation of our recommended information exchange scheme (Recommendations 8.6 to 8.8).</p>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Implementation of this recommendation is currently being considered by the COAG Education Council.</p>
<p><b>8.17</b>                      State and territory governments should introduce legislation to establish carers registers in their respective jurisdictions, with national consistency in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the inclusion of the following carer types on the carers register:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. foster carers</li> <li>ii. relative/kinship carers</li> <li>iii. residential care staff</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. the types of information which, at a minimum, should be recorded on the register</li> <li>c. the types of information which, at a minimum, must be made available to agencies or bodies with responsibility for assessing, authorising or supervising carers, or other responsibilities related to carer suitability and safety of children in out-of-home care.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will also consider how the Territory Families Case Management System, announced as part of the <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families</i> Implementation Plan can align with this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>8.18</b>                      Carers registers should be maintained by state and territory child protection agencies or bodies with regulatory or oversight responsibility for out-of-home care in that jurisdiction.</p>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will also consider how the Territory Families Case Management System, announced as part of the <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families</i> Implementation Plan can align with this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>8.19</b>                      State and territory governments should consider the need for carers registers to include, at a minimum, the following information (register information) about, or related to, applicant or authorised carers, and persons residing on the same property as applicant/ authorised home-based carers (household members):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. lodgement or grant of applications for authorisation</li> <li>b. status of the minimum checks set out in Recommendation 12.6 as requirements for authorisation, indicating their outcomes as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory</li> <li>c. withdrawal or refusal of applications for authorisation in circumstances of concern (including in relation to child sexual abuse)</li> <li>d. cancellation or surrender of authorisation in circumstances of concern (including in relation to child sexual abuse)</li> <li>e. previous or current association with an out-of-home care agency, whether by application for authorisation, assessment, grant of authorisation, or supervision</li> <li>f. the date of reportable conduct allegations, and their status as either current, finalised with ongoing risk-related concerns, and / or requiring contact with the reportable conduct oversight body.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will also consider how the Territory Families Case Management System, announced as part of the <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families</i> Implementation Plan can align with this recommendation.</p>

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RECOMMENDATION	NT GOVERNMENT POSITION	COMMENTS
<p><b>8.20</b>            State and territory governments should consider the need for legislative and administrative arrangements to require responsible agencies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. record register information in minimal detail</li> <li>b. record register information as a mandatory part of carer authorisation</li> <li>c. update register information about authorised carers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will also consider how the Territory Families Case Management System, announced as part of the <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families Implementation Plan</i> can align with this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>8.21</b>            State and territory governments should consider the need for legislative and administrative arrangements to require responsible agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. before they authorise or recommend authorisation of carers, to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. undertake a check for relevant register information, and</li> <li>ii. seek further relevant information from another out-of-home care agency where register information indicates applicant carers, or their household members (in the case of prospective home-based carers) have a prior or current association with that other agency</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. in the course of their assessment, authorisation, or supervision of carers, to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. seek further relevant information from other agencies or bodies, where register information indicates they hold, or may hold, additional information relevant to carer suitability, including reportable conduct information.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>State and territory governments should give consideration to enabling agencies to seek further information for these purposes under our recommended information exchange scheme (Recommendations 8.6 to 8.8).</p>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will also consider how the Territory Families Case Management System, announced as part of the <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families Implementation Plan</i> can align with this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>8.22</b>            State and territory governments should consider the need for effective mechanisms to enable agencies and bodies to obtain relevant information from registers in any state or territory holding such information. Consideration should be given to legislative and administrative arrangements, and digital platforms, which will enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. agencies responsible for assessing, authorising or supervising carers</li> <li>b. other agencies, including jurisdictional child protection agencies and regulatory and oversight bodies, with responsibilities related to the suitability of persons to be carers and the safety of children in out-of-home care</li> </ul> <p>to obtain relevant information from their own and other jurisdictions' registers for the purpose of exercising their responsibilities and functions.</p>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will also consider how the Territory Families Case Management System, announced as part of the <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families Implementation Plan</i> can align with this recommendation.</p>
<p><b>8.23</b>            In considering the legislative and administrative arrangements required for carers registers in their jurisdiction, state and territory governments should consider the need for guidelines and training to promote the proper use of carers registers for the protection of children in out-of-home care. Consideration should also be given to the need for specific safeguards to prevent inappropriate use of register information.</p>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will also consider how the Territory Families Case Management System, announced as part of the <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families Implementation Plan</i> can align with this recommendation.</p>
<b>DEDICATED COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS</b>		
<p><b>9.1</b>            The Australian Government and state and territory governments should fund dedicated community support services for victims and survivors in each jurisdiction, to provide an integrated model of advocacy and support and counselling to children and adults who experienced childhood sexual abuse in institutional contexts. Funding and related agreements should require and enable these services to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. be trauma-informed and have an understanding of institutional child sexual abuse</li> <li>b. be collaborative, available, accessible, acceptable and high quality</li> <li>c. use case management and brokerage to coordinate and meet service needs</li> <li>d. support and supervise peer-led support models.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>The Northern Territory has formally opted into the National Redress Scheme for people have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.</p> <p>The Sexual Assault Referral Centre, provided by Northern Territory Health Services, also provides counselling and support for victims of sexual abuse. Service arrangements will continue to be assessed and prioritised in the context of overall service need.</p>

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RECOMMENDATION	NT GOVERNMENT POSITION	COMMENTS
<p><b>9.2</b>                      The Australian Government and state and territory governments should fund Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healing approaches as an ongoing, integral part of advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment service system responses for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. These approaches should be evaluated in accordance with culturally appropriate methodologies, to contribute to evidence of best practice.</p>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>The Sexual Assault Referral Centre, provided by Northern Territory Health Services, will continue to work with Aboriginal health organisations in the NT. In addition, the development and implementation of the <i>NT Aboriginal Cultural Security Framework 2016-2026</i> has fostered the development of policies in support of improved outcomes for vulnerable people and populations across NT Health by the application of the Framework's priority action areas.</p> <p>Implementation of this recommendation will be subject to joint service and funding needs assessment.</p>
<p><b>9.3</b>                      The Australian Government and state and territory governments should fund support services for people with disability who have experienced sexual abuse in childhood as an ongoing, integral part of advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment service system responses for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.</p>	<p><b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b></p>	<p>The Sexual Assault Referral Centre, provided by Northern Territory Health Services, will continue to work with non-government organisations that support people with disability.</p> <p>The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides therapeutic supports for eligible people with disability. The Northern Territory will progress this issue as part of the negotiation of the full rollout of the NDIS in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Implementation of this recommendation will be subject to joint service and funding needs assessment.</p>
<b>NATIONAL SERVICE TO NAVIGATE LEGAL PROCESSES</b>		
<p><b>9.4</b>                      The Australian Government should establish and fund a legal advice and referral service for victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. The service should provide advice about accessing, amending and annotating records from institutions, and options for initiating police, civil litigation or redress processes as required. Support should include advice, referrals to other legal services for representation and general assistance for people to navigate the legal service system.</p> <p>Funding and related agreements should require and enable these services to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. trauma-informed and have an understanding of institutional child sexual abuse</li> <li>b. collaborative, available, accessible, acceptable and high quality.</li> </ul>	<p><b>NOTED</b></p>	
<b>NATIONAL TELEPHONE HELPLINE AND WEBSITE</b>		
<p><b>9.5</b>                      The Australian Government should fund a national website and helpline as a gateway to accessible advice and information on childhood sexual abuse. This should provide information for victims and survivors, particularly victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse, the general public and practitioners about supporting children and adults who have experienced sexual abuse in childhood and available services. The gateway may be operated by an existing service with appropriate experience and should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. be trauma-informed and have an understanding of institutional child sexual abuse</li> <li>b. be collaborative, available, accessible, acceptable and high quality</li> <li>c. provide telephone and online information and initial support for victims and survivors, including independent legal information and information about reporting to police</li> <li>d. provide assisted referrals to advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment services.</li> </ul>	<p><b>NOTED</b></p>	

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RECOMMENDATION	NT GOVERNMENT POSITION	COMMENTS
<b>ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF SPECIALIST SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES</b>		
<p><b>9.6</b></p> <p>The Australian Government and state and territory governments should address existing specialist sexual assault service gaps by increasing funding for adult and child sexual assault services in each jurisdiction, to provide advocacy and support and specialist therapeutic treatment for victims and survivors, particularly victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. Funding agreements should require and enable services to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. be trauma-informed and have an understanding of institutional child sexual abuse</li> <li>b. be collaborative, available, accessible, acceptable and high quality</li> <li>c. use collaborative community development approaches</li> <li>d. provide staff with supervision and professional development.</li> </ul>	<b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b>	Implementation of this recommendation will be subject to joint service and funding needs assessment, as well as targeted resources and training to deliver this specialised service.
<p><b>9.7</b></p> <p>Primary Health Networks, within their role to commission joined up local primary care services, should support sexual assault services to work collaboratively with key services such as disability-specific services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services, culturally and linguistically diverse services, youth justice, aged care and child and youth services to better meet the needs of victims and survivors.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	The Northern Territory Government looks forward to working with the Australian Government in relation to the commissioning of Primary Health Networks.
<b>RESPONSIVE MAINSTREAM SERVICES</b>		
<p><b>9.8</b></p> <p>The Australian Government and state and territory government agencies responsible for the delivery of human services should ensure relevant policy frameworks and strategies recognise the needs of victims and survivors and the benefits of implementing trauma informed approaches.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory’s response to Recommendation 20.3 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.
<b>NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TO REDUCE STIGMA, PROMOTE HELP-SEEKING AND SUPPORT GOOD PRACTICE</b>		
<p><b>9.9</b></p> <p>The Australian Government, in conjunction with state and territory governments, should establish and fund a national centre to raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of child sexual abuse, support help-seeking and guide best practice advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment. The national centre’s functions should be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. raise community awareness and promote destigmatising messages about the impacts of child sexual abuse</li> <li>b. increase practitioners’ knowledge and competence in responding to child and adult victims and survivors by translating knowledge about the impacts of child sexual abuse and the evidence on effective responses into practice and policy. This should include activities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. identify, translate and promote research in easily available and accessible formats for advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment practitioners</li> <li>ii. produce national training materials and best practice clinical resources</li> <li>iii. partner with training organisations to conduct training and workforce development programs</li> <li>iv. influence national tertiary curricula to incorporate child sexual abuse and trauma-informed care</li> <li>v. inform government policy making</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. lead the development of better service models and interventions through coordinating a national research agenda and conducting high-quality program evaluation.</li> </ul> <p>The national centre should partner with survivors in all its work, valuing their knowledge and experience.</p>	<b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b>	The Northern Territory Department of Health will work collaboratively with the Australian Government to raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of child sexual abuse, support help-seeking and guide best practice advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment. The Northern Territory does not have the capacity to contribute funding to the proposed national centre.

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RECOMMENDATION	NT GOVERNMENT POSITION	COMMENTS
<b>A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVING RESPONSES</b>		
<p><b>10.1</b>                      The Australian Government and state and territory governments should ensure the issue of children’s harmful sexual behaviours is included in the national strategy to prevent child sexual abuse that we have recommended (see Recommendations 6.1 to 6.3). Harmful sexual behaviours by children should be addressed through each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. primary prevention strategies to educate family, community members, carers and professionals (including mandatory reporters) about preventing harmful sexual behaviours</li> <li>b. secondary prevention strategies to ensure early intervention when harmful sexual behaviours are developing</li> <li>c. tertiary intervention strategies to address harmful sexual behaviours.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	The Northern Territory Government will work with other jurisdictions to prioritise the inclusion of the complex issue of children’s harmful sexual behaviours in the national strategy to prevent child sexual abuse to support the wellbeing and safety of all children.
<b>IMPROVING ASSESSMENT AND THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION</b>		
<p><b>10.2</b>                      The Australian Government and state and territory governments should ensure timely expert assessment is available for individual children with problematic and harmful sexual behaviours, so they receive appropriate responses, including therapeutic interventions, which match their particular circumstances.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	Northern Territory Health will continue to provide expert assessment and support to children with problematic and harmful sexual behaviours.  Implementation of this recommendation will be subject to service, funding needs and specialised workforce assessment.  This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory’s response to Recommendations 36.1 – 36.5 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.
<p><b>10.3</b>                      The Australian Government and state and territory governments should adequately fund therapeutic interventions to meet the needs of all children with harmful sexual behaviours. These should be delivered through a network of specialist and generalist therapeutic services. Specialist services should also be adequately resourced to provide expert support to generalist services.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	Northern Territory Health will continue to provide expert assessment and support to children with problematic and harmful sexual behaviours, and it will support linkages to therapeutic interventions, which match their particular circumstances.  This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory’s response to Recommendations 36.1 – 36.5 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.
<p><b>10.4</b>                      State and territory governments should ensure that there are clear referral pathways for children with harmful sexual behaviours to access expert assessment and therapeutic intervention, regardless of whether the child is engaging voluntarily, on the advice of an institution or through their involvement with the child protection or criminal justice systems.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	Northern Territory Health will continue to provide referral pathways for children with harmful sexual behaviours to access expert assessment and therapeutic interventions.  This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory’s response to Recommendations 36.1 – 36.5 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.
<p><b>10.5</b>                      Therapeutic intervention for children with harmful sexual behaviours should be based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a contextual and systemic approach should be used</li> <li>b. family and carers should be involved</li> <li>c. safety should be established</li> <li>d. there should be accountability and responsibility for the harmful sexual behaviours</li> <li>e. there should be a focus on behaviour change</li> <li>f. developmentally and cognitively appropriate interventions should be used</li> <li>g. the care provided should be trauma-informed</li> <li>h. therapeutic services and interventions should be culturally safe</li> <li>i. therapeutic interventions should be accessible to all children with harmful sexual behaviours.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	Northern Territory Health will continue to provide expert assessment and support to children with problematic and harmful sexual behaviours.  This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory’s response to Recommendations 36.1 – 36.5 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

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RECOMMENDATION	NT GOVERNMENT POSITION	COMMENTS
<b>STRENGTHENING THE WORKFORCE</b>		
<b>10.6</b> The Australian Government and state and territory governments should ensure that all services funded to provide therapeutic intervention for children with harmful sexual behaviours provide professional training and clinical supervision for their staff.	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	Northern Territory Health will work collaboratively with the Australian Government to ensure funded services include professional training and clinical supervision for their staff.  This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory's response to Recommendations 36.1 – 36.5 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.
<b>IMPROVING EVALUATION</b>		
<b>10.7</b> The Australian Government and state and territory governments should fund and support evaluation of services providing therapeutic interventions for problematic and harmful sexual behaviours by children.	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory's response to Recommendations 36.1 – 36.5 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.
<b>DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING</b>		
<b>12.1</b> The Australian Government and state and territory governments should develop nationally agreed key terms and definitions in relation to child sexual abuse for the purpose of data collection and reporting by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Productivity Commission.	<b>ACCEPT</b>	The Northern Territory Government will work with other jurisdictions to achieve nationally agreed key terms and definitions in relation to child sexual abuse through relevant agencies and portfolios.  Governments will work together to agree research priorities and timeframes, noting the complexity and importance of establishing nationally agreed terms and definitions to provide a basis for further national research.
<b>12.2</b> The Australian Government and state and territory governments should prioritise enhancements to the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. data identifying children with disability, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children</li> <li>b. the number of children who were the subject of a substantiated report of sexual abuse while in out-of-home care</li> <li>c. the demographics of those children</li> <li>d. the type of out-of-home care placement in which the abuse occurred</li> <li>e. information about when the abuse occurred</li> <li>f. information about who perpetrated the abuse, including their age and their relationship to the victim, if known.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	The Northern Territory Government will continue to work with other jurisdictions to achieve enhancements to the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set through relevant agencies and portfolios.
<b>12.3</b> State and territory governments should agree on reporting definitions and data requirements to enable reporting in the Report on Government Services on outcome indicators for 'improved health and wellbeing of the child', 'safe return home' and 'permanent care'.	<b>ACCEPT</b>	The Northern Territory Government will work with other jurisdictions to agree on reporting definitions and data requirements through relevant agencies and portfolios.
<b>ACCREDITATION OF OUT-OF-HOME CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS</b>		
<b>12.4</b> Each state and territory government should revise existing mandatory accreditation schemes to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. incorporate compliance with the Child Safe Standards identified by the Royal Commission</li> <li>b. extend accreditation requirements to both government and non-government out-of-home care service providers.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i> .  This recommendation is consistent with the Northern Territory Government's commitment to establish an Out-of-Home Care accreditation scheme.

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<p><b>12.5</b>            In each state and territory, an existing statutory body or office that is independent of the relevant child protection agency and out-of-home care service providers, for example a children’s guardian, should have responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. receiving, assessing and processing applications for accreditation of out-of-home care service providers</li> <li>b. conducting audits of accredited out-of-home care service providers to ensure ongoing compliance with accreditation standards and conditions.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>This recommendation will be progressed as a part of the development of the new single Act in the Northern Territory to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>, as well as the review of the functions of the NT Children’s Commissioner.</p> <p>This recommendation is consistent with the Northern Territory Government’s commitment to establish an Out-of-Home Care accreditation scheme.</p>
<b>CARER AUTHORISATION</b>		
<p><b>12.6</b>            In addition to a National Police Check, Working With Children Check and referee checks, authorisation of all foster and kinship / relative carers and all residential care staff should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. community services checks of the prospective carer and any adult household members of home-based carers</li> <li>b. documented risk management plans to address any risks identified through community services checks</li> <li>c. at least annual review of risk management plans as part of carer reviews and more frequently as required.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p> <p>The development of the new legislation is being progressed as part of the Territory’s broader child protection reform agenda, which includes consideration of kinship care models. A flexible model in relation to kinship care checks may be required in the Northern Territory.</p>
<p><b>12.7</b>            All out-of-home care service providers should conduct annual reviews of authorised carers that include interviews with all children in the placement with the carer under review, in the absence of the carer.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>Mandatory reporting, out-of-home care and complaints processes are all subject to current reform as outlined in <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families 2018-2023</i>, the NT Government’s plan to implement reforms to better support children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability.</p>
<p><b>12.8</b>            Each state and territory government should adopt a model of assessment appropriately tailored for kinship / relative care. This type of assessment should be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. better identify the strengths as well as the support and training needs of kinship / relative carers</li> <li>b. ensure holistic approaches to supporting placements that are culturally safe</li> <li>c. include appropriately resourced support plans.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>. The development of the new legislation is being progressed as part of the Territory’s broader child protection reform agenda, which includes consideration of kinship care models.</p> <p>This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory’s response to Recommendations 33.5, 33.8 and 33.19 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.</p>
<b>CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE EDUCATION STRATEGY</b>		
<p><b>12.9</b>            All state and territory governments should collaborate in the development of a sexual abuse prevention education strategy, including online safety, for children in out-of-home care that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. input from children in out-of-home care and care-leavers</li> <li>b. comprehensive, age-appropriate and culture-appropriate education about sexuality and healthy relationships that is tailored to the needs of children in out-of-home care</li> <li>c. resources tailored for children in care, for foster and kinship/ relative carers, for residential care staff and for caseworkers</li> <li>d. resources that can be adapted to the individual needs of children with disability and their carers.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>Mandatory reporting, out-of-home care and complaints processes are all subject to current reform as outlined in <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families 2018-2023</i>, the NT Government’s plan to implement reforms to better support children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability.</p>

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RECOMMENDATION	NT GOVERNMENT POSITION	COMMENTS
<b>CREATING A CULTURE THAT SUPPORTS DISCLOSURE AND IDENTIFICATION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE</b>		
<p><b>12.10</b>            State and territory governments, in collaboration with out-of-home care service providers and peak bodies, should develop resources to assist service providers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. provide appropriate support and mechanisms for children in out-of-home care to communicate, either verbally or through behaviour, their views, concerns and complaints</li> <li>b. provide appropriate training and support to carers and caseworkers to ensure they hear and respond to children in out-of-home care, including ensuring children are involved in decisions about their lives</li> <li>c. regularly consult with the children in their care as part of continuous improvement processes.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	Mandatory reporting, out-of-home care and complaints processes are all subject to current reform as outlined in <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families 2018-2023</i> , the NT Government's plan to implement reforms to better support children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability.
<b>STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF CARERS, STAFF AND CASEWORKERS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN</b>		
<p><b>12.11</b>            State and territory governments and out-of-home care service providers should ensure that training for foster and kinship / relative carers, residential care staff and child protection workers includes an understanding of trauma and abuse, the impact on children and the principles of trauma-informed care to assist them to meet the needs of children in out-of-home care, including children with harmful sexual behaviours.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	The Northern Territory Government is progressing the implementation of this recommendation through its contractual arrangements with carers, as well as the investment of additional funding for training.
<b>IDENTIFYING, ASSESSING AND SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS</b>		
<p><b>12.12</b>            When placing a child in out-of-home care, state and territory governments and out-of-home care service providers should take the following measures to support children with harmful sexual behaviours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. undertake professional assessments of the child with harmful sexual behaviours, including identifying their needs and appropriate supports and interventions to ensure their safety</li> <li>b. establish case management and a package of support services</li> <li>c. undertake careful placement matching that includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. providing sufficient relevant information to the potential carer/s and residential care staff to ensure they are equipped to support the child, and additional training as necessary</li> <li>ii. rigorously assessing potential threats to the safety of other children, including the child's siblings, in the placement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	Mandatory reporting, out-of-home care and complaints processes are all subject to current reform as outlined in <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families 2018-2023</i> , the NT Government's plan to implement reforms to better support children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability.
<p><b>12.13</b>            State and territory governments and out-of-home care service providers should provide advice, guidelines and ongoing professional development for all foster and kinship/ relative carers and residential care staff about preventing and responding to the harmful sexual behaviours of some children in out-of-home care.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	Mandatory reporting, out-of-home care and complaints processes are all subject to current reform as outlined in <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families 2018-2023</i> , the NT Government's plan to implement reforms to better support children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability.
<b>PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION</b>		
<p><b>12.14</b>            All state and territory governments should develop and implement coordinated and multi-disciplinary strategies to protect children in residential care by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. identifying and disrupting activities that indicate risk of sexual exploitation</li> <li>b. supporting agencies to engage with children in ways that encourage them to assist in the investigation and prosecution of sexual exploitation offences.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	Mandatory reporting, out-of-home care and complaints processes are all subject to current reform as outlined in <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families 2018-2023</i> , the NT Government's plan to implement reforms to better support children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability.

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RECOMMENDATION	NT GOVERNMENT POSITION	COMMENTS
<p><b>12.15</b>            Child protection departments in all states and territories should adopt a nationally consistent definition for child sexual exploitation to enable the collection and reporting of data on sexual exploitation of children in out-of-home care as a form of child sexual abuse.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	The Northern Territory Government will work with other jurisdictions adopt a nationally consistent definition for child sexual exploitation through relevant agencies and portfolios.
<b>INCREASING THE STABILITY OF PLACEMENTS</b>		
<p><b>12.16</b>            All institutions that provide out-of-home care should develop strategies that increase the likelihood of safe and stable placements for children in care. Such strategies should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. improved processes for ‘matching’ children with carers and other children in a placement, including in residential care</li> <li>b. the provision of necessary information to carers about a child, prior to and during their placement, to enable carers to properly support the child</li> <li>c. support and training for carers to deal with the different developmental needs of children as well as managing difficult situations and challenging behaviour.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory’s response to Recommendations 33.5, 33.6, 33.8, 33.12, 33.19 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.
<b>SUPPORTING KINSHIP/RELATIVE CARE PLACEMENTS</b>		
<p><b>12.17</b>            Each state and territory government should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the financial support and training provided to kinship / relative carers is equivalent to that provided to foster carers</li> <li>b. the need for any additional supports are identified during kinship / relative carer assessments and are funded</li> <li>c. additional casework support is provided to maintain birth family relationships.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory’s response to Recommendations 33.5, 33.8, and 33.19 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.
<b>RESIDENTIAL CARE</b>		
<p><b>12.18</b>            The key focus of residential care for children should be based on an intensive therapeutic model of care framework designed to meet the complex needs of children with histories of abuse and trauma.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory’s response to Recommendations 33.10 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.
<p><b>12.19</b>            All residential care staff should be provided with regular training and professional supervision by appropriately qualified clinicians.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	
<b>ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN</b>		
<p><b>12.20</b>            Each state and territory government, in consultation with appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and community representatives, should develop and implement plans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. fully implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle</li> <li>b. improve community and child protection sector understanding of the intent and scope of the principle</li> <li>c. develop outcome measures that allow quantification and reporting on the extent of the full application of the principle, and evaluation of its impact on child safety and the reunification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with their families</li> <li>d. invest in community capacity building as a recognised part of kinship care, in addition to supporting individual carers, in recognition of the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in bringing up children.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory’s response to Recommendations 31.10 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

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RECOMMENDATION	NT GOVERNMENT POSITION	COMMENTS
<b>CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY</b>		
<p><b>12.21</b>            Each state and territory government should ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the adequate assessment of all children with disability entering out-of-home care</li> <li>b. the availability and provision of therapeutic support</li> <li>c. support for disability-related needs</li> <li>d. the development and implementation of care plans that identify specific risk-management and safety strategies for individual children, including the identification of trusted and safe adults in the child's life.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will provide therapeutic supports for eligible children with disability. The NDIS does not provide support for children in out of home care.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government is currently assessing the retained service functions associated with the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.</p>
<b>CARE-LEAVERS</b>		
<p><b>12.22</b>            State and territory governments should ensure that the supports provided to assist all care-leavers to safely and successfully transition to independent living include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. strategies to assist care-leavers who disclose that they were sexually abused while in out-of-home care to access general post-care supports</li> <li>b. the development of targeted supports to address the specific needs of sexual abuse survivors, such as help in accessing therapeutic treatment to deal with impacts of abuse, and for these supports to be accessible until at least the age of 25.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>This recommendation is consistent with previous Northern Territory Government commitments.</p> <p>Northern Territory Health will continue to provide universal health services to care-leavers to safely and successfully transition to independent living.</p>
<b>CHILD SAFE STANDARDS</b>		
<p><b>13.1</b>            All schools should implement the Child Safe Standards identified by the Royal Commission.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>The Northern Territory Government will work with the Australian Government and private sector to encourage implementation of the Child Safe Standards in non-government schools.</p>
<p><b>13.2</b>            State and territory independent oversight authorities responsible for implementing the Child Safe Standards (see Recommendation 6.10) should delegate to school registration authorities the responsibility for monitoring and enforcing the Child Safe Standards in government and non-government schools.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>This recommendation will be considered by the independent oversight authority responsible for implementing the Child Safe Standards.</p>
<p><b>13.3</b>            School registration authorities should place particular emphasis on monitoring government and non-government boarding schools to ensure they meet the Child Safe Standards. Policy guidance and practical support should be provided to all boarding schools to meet these standards, including advice on complaint handling.</p>	<b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b>	<p>The Northern Territory Government will work with the Australian Government and private sector to investigate how this recommendation can be implemented, particularly in non-government boarding schools. This is likely to require the development and implementation of a national monitoring process, and funding.</p>
<b>SUPPORTING BOARDING SCHOOLS</b>		
<p><b>13.4</b>            The Australian Government and state and territory governments should ensure that needs-based funding arrangements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boarding students are sufficient for schools and hostels to create child safe environments.</p>	<b>FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION</b>	<p>Implementation of this recommendation in the Northern Territory context would require Australian Government investment.</p>
<p><b>13.5</b>            Boarding hostels for children and young people should implement the Child Safe Standards identified by the Royal Commission. State and territory independent oversight authorities should monitor and enforce the Child Safe Standards in these institutions.</p>	<b>NOTED</b>	<p>This recommendation will be considered as part of the broader review of the recommendations relating to an independent oversight body and its functions.</p>

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RECOMMENDATION	NT GOVERNMENT POSITION	COMMENTS
<b>RESPONDING TO COMPLAINTS RELATING TO CHILDREN WITH HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS</b>		
<b>13.6</b> Consistent with the Child Safe Standards, complaint handling policies for schools (see Recommendation 7.7) should include effective policies and procedures for managing complaints about children with harmful sexual behaviours.	<b>ACCEPT</b>	
<b>GUIDANCE FOR TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS</b>		
<b>13.7</b> State and territory governments should provide nationally consistent and easily accessible guidance to teachers and principals on preventing and responding to child sexual abuse in all government and non-government schools.	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	The Northern Territory looks forward to working with the Australian Government and other States and Territories to develop nationally consistent guidance material and approaches.
<b>TEACHER REGISTRATION</b>		
<b>13.8</b> The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) should consider strengthening teacher registration requirements to better protect children from sexual abuse in schools. In particular, COAG should review minimum national requirements for assessing the suitability of teachers, and conducting disciplinary investigations.	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	The Northern Territory looks forward to discussing this recommendation through the COAG Education Council, noting that the Northern Territory is currently reviewing the <i>Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act</i> .
<b>CHILD SAFE STANDARDS</b>		
<b>14.1</b> All sport and recreation institutions, including arts, culture, community and hobby groups, that engage with or provide services to children should implement the Child Safe Standards identified by the Royal Commission.	<b>ACCEPT</b>	Through employment of a Sport Integrity Officer in the Department of Tourism and Culture (from June 2018), the Northern Territory Government will review the Child Safe Standards and consider additional activity required to support implementation and compliance by relevant sport and recreation institutions.
<b>A REPRESENTATIVE VOICE FOR THE SECTOR</b>		
<b>14.2</b> The National Office for Child Safety should establish a child safety advisory committee for the sport and recreation sector with membership from government and non-government peak bodies to advise the national office on sector-specific child safety issues.	<b>NOTED</b>	This recommendation is being worked on through intergovernmental fora, and the Northern Territory Government will provide input on this, and consider any NT-specific implications, through the Committee of Australian Sport and Recreation Officials.
<b>EXPANDING PLAY BY THE RULES</b>		
<b>14.3</b> The education and information website known as Play by the Rules should be expanded and funded to develop resources – in partnership with the National Office for Child Safety – that are relevant to the broader sport and recreation sector.	<b>NOTED</b>	The Northern Territory Government will continue to promote awareness and use of Play By the Rules across the NT sport and active recreation sector.
<b>IMPROVING COMMUNICATION</b>		
<b>14.4</b> The independent state and territory oversight bodies that implement the Child Safe Standards should establish a free email subscription function for the sport and recreation sector so that all providers of these services to children can subscribe to receive relevant child safe information and links to resources.	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	This recommendation will be considered by the independent oversight authority responsible for implementing the Child Safe Standards.

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RECOMMENDATION	NT GOVERNMENT POSITION	COMMENTS
<b>CONTEMPORARY DETENTION ENVIRONMENTS</b>		
<p><b>15.1</b>            All institutions engaged in child-related work, including detention institutions and those involving detention and detention-like practices, should implement the Child Safe Standards identified by the Royal Commission.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>Community Services Ministers have agreed to adopt the National Child Safe Principles. Jurisdictions recognise flexibility in implementation will be required.</p> <p>Further legislative reform in this area is currently being considered in the Northern Territory as part of the development of a single Act to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>.</p>
<p><b>15.2</b>            Given the Australian Government’s commitment to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the National Preventive Mechanism(s) should be provided with the expertise to consider and make recommendations relating to preventing and responding to child sexual abuse as part of regularly examining the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in places of detention.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	<p>Implementation of this recommendation will be considered through current intergovernmental processes.</p>
<b>YOUTH DETENTION</b>		
<p><b>15.3</b>            Youth justice agencies in each state and territory should review the building and design features of youth detention to identify and address elements that may place children at risk. This should include consideration of how to most effectively use technology, such as closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and body-worn cameras, to capture interactions between children and between staff and children without unduly infringing children’s privacy.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>The Northern Territory Government has set aside \$70 million for the development of two new Youth Justice Centres. Both new training facilities will enable evidence-based, restorative, and culturally-and age appropriate programs that are aimed at reducing recidivism, while ensuring community safety through secure and fit-for-purpose design.</p>
<p><b>15.4</b>            As part of efforts to mitigate risks of child sexual abuse in the physical environment of youth detention, state and territory governments should review legislation, policy and procedures to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. appropriate and safe placements of children in youth detention, including a risk assessment process before placement decisions that identifies if a child may be vulnerable to child sexual abuse or if a child is displaying harmful sexual behaviours</li> <li>b. children are not placed in adult prisons</li> <li>c. frameworks take into account the importance of children having access to trusted adults, including family, friends and community, in the prevention and disclosure of child sexual abuse and provide for maximum contact between children and trusted adults through visitation, and use of the telephone and audio-visual technology</li> <li>d. best practice processes are in place for strip searches and other authorised physical contact between staff and children, including sufficient safeguards to protect children such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. adequate communication between staff and the child before, during and after a search is conducted or other physical contact occurs</li> <li>ii. clear protocols detailing when such practices are permitted and how they should be performed. The key elements of these protocols should be provided to children in an accessible format</li> <li>iii. staff training that highlights the potential for strip searching to re-traumatise children who have been sexually abused and how the misuse of search powers can lead to sexual humiliation or abuse.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>State and territory governments should consider implementing strategies for detecting contraband, such as risk assessments or body scanners, to minimise the need for strip searching children.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>To be considered as part of the Northern Territory’s current legislative reform agenda for youth justice and child protection.</p>

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<p><b>15.5</b>            State and territory governments should consider further strategies that provide for the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in youth detention including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. recruiting and developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to work at all levels of the youth justice system, including in key roles in complaint handling systems</li> <li>b. providing access to interpreters, particularly with respect to induction and education programs, and accessing internal and external complaint handling systems</li> <li>c. ensuring that all youth detention facilities have culturally appropriate policies and procedures that facilitate connection with family, community and culture, and reflect an understanding of, and respect for, cultural practices in different clan groups</li> <li>d. employing, training and professionally developing culturally competent staff who understand the particular needs and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, including the specific barriers that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children face in disclosing sexual abuse.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>Territory Families is currently developing an Aboriginal Cultural Security Framework which outlines a long term commitment to ensuring the cultural needs of Aboriginal children, family and community is embedded at the centre of all policy, system and service design, and relational practice. Territory Families is also developing an Aboriginal Workforce Plan which will address this recommendation.</p> <p>This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory's response to Recommendations 18.1 and 34.11 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.</p>
<p><b>15.6</b>            All staff should receive appropriate training on the needs and experiences of children with disability, mental health problems, and alcohol or other drug problems, and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds that highlights the barriers these children may face in disclosing sexual abuse.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory's response to Recommendations 20.3 and 36.2 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.</p>
<p><b>15.7</b>            State and territory governments should improve access to therapeutic treatment for survivors of child sexual abuse who are in youth detention, including by assessing their advocacy, support and therapeutic treatment needs and referring them to appropriate services, and ensure they are linked to ongoing treatment when they leave detention.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>The Northern Territory Government is committed to providing therapeutic treatment for survivors of child sexual abuse who are in youth detention, as set out in <i>Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families 2018-2023</i>, the NT Government's plan to implement reforms to better support children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability.</p>
<p><b>15.8</b>            State and territory governments should ensure that all staff in youth detention are provided with training and ongoing professional development in trauma-informed care to assist them to meet the needs of children in youth detention, including children at risk of sexual abuse and children with harmful sexual behaviours.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>Work has progressed in this area in 2017-18 and the Northern Territory Government has announced new investment in youth justice operations, including training.</p> <p>This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory's response to Recommendations 20.3, 21.1 and 36.2 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.</p>
<p><b>15.9</b>            State and territory governments should review the current internal and external complaint handling systems concerning youth detention to ensure they are capable of effectively dealing with complaints of child sexual abuse, including so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. children can easily access child-appropriate information about internal complaint processes and external oversight bodies that may receive or refer children's complaints, such as visitor's schemes, ombudsmen, inspectors of custodial services, and children's commissioners or guardians</li> <li>b. children have confidential and unrestricted access to external oversight bodies</li> <li>c. staff involved in managing complaints both internally and externally include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and professionals qualified to provide trauma-informed care</li> <li>d. complaint handling systems are accessible for children with literacy difficulties or who speak English as a second language</li> <li>e. children are regularly consulted about the effectiveness of complaint handling systems and systems are continually improved.</li> </ul>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>This recommendation will be considered in the development of the new single Act in the Northern Territory to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>, as well as part of the review of the recommendations relating to an independent oversight body and its functions.</p> <p>This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory's response to Recommendations 37.3 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.</p>
<p><b>15.10</b>            State and territory governments should ensure they have an independent oversight body with the appropriate visitation, complaint handling and reporting powers, to provide oversight of youth detention. This could include an appropriately funded and independent Inspector of Custodial Services or similar body. New and existing bodies should have expertise in child-trauma, and the prevention and identification of child sexual abuse.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	<p>This recommendation will be considered in the development of the new single Act in the Northern Territory to replace the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> and the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act</i>, as well as part of the broader review of the recommendations relating to an independent oversight body and its functions.</p> <p>This recommendation is being progressed through the Northern Territory's response to Recommendations 40.1 to 40.7 of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.</p>
<b>IMMIGRATION DETENTION</b>		
<p><b>15.11</b>            The Department of Immigration and Border Protection should publicly report within 12 months on how it has implemented the Child Protection Panel's recommendations.</p>		

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<p><b>15.12</b>                      a. The Australian Government should establish a mechanism to regularly audit the implementation of the Child Safe Standards in immigration detention by staff, contractors and agents of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. The outcomes of each audit should be publicly reported.                      b. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection should contractually require its service providers to comply with the Child Safe Standards identified by the Royal Commission, as applied to immigration detention.</p> <p><b>15.13</b>                      The Department of Immigration and Border Protection should identify the scope and nature of the need for support services for victims in immigration detention. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection should ensure that appropriate therapeutic and other specialist and support services are funded to meet the identified needs of victims in immigration detention and ensure they are linked to ongoing treatment when they leave detention.</p> <p><b>15.14</b>                      The Department of Immigration and Border Protection should designate appropriately qualified child safety officers for each place in which children are detained. These officers should assist and build the capacity of staff and service providers at the local level to implement the Child Safe Standards.</p> <p><b>15.15</b>                      The Department of Immigration and Border Protection should implement an independent visitors program in immigration detention.</p>	<b>NOTED</b>	These recommendations are the responsibility of the Australian Government.
<p><b>16.1 – 16.33</b>  <b>16.35 – 16.58</b></p>	<b>NOTED</b>	These recommendations are the responsibility of Religious Institutions.
<p><b>16.34</b>                      Religious organisations should work closely with relevant state and territory oversight bodies to support the implementation of and compliance with the Royal Commission’s 10 Child Safe Standards in each of their affiliated institutions.</p>	<b>NOTED</b>	
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTATION</b>		
<p><b>17.1</b>                      The Australian Government and state and territory governments should each issue a formal response to this Final Report within six months of it being tabled, indicating whether our recommendations are accepted, accepted in principle, rejected or subject to further consideration.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>	As a member of the Council of Australian Governments, the Northern Territory Government has committed to provide a response to the Final Report in June 2018.
<p><b>17.2</b>                      The Australian Government and state and territory governments should, beginning 12 months after this Final Report is tabled, report on their implementation of the Royal Commission’s recommendations made in this Final Report and its earlier Working With Children Checks, Redress and civil litigation and Criminal justice reports, through five consecutive annual reports tabled before their respective parliaments.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	The Northern Territory Government agrees to report on progress in implementing the Royal Commission’s recommendations from the Final Report, the Working with Children Checks, Redress and Civil Litigation and Criminal Justice reports. Reporting arrangements will be developed to align with the existing significant child protection and youth justice reform agenda underway.
<p><b>17.3</b>                      Major institutions and peak bodies of institutions that engage in child-related work should, beginning 12 months after this Final Report is tabled, report on their implementation of the Royal Commission’s recommendations to the National Office for Child Safety through five consecutive annual reports. The National Office for Child Safety should make these reports publicly available. At a minimum, the institutions reporting should include those that were the subject of the Royal Commission’s institutional review hearings held from 5 December 2016 to 10 March 2017.</p>	<b>ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE</b>	This recommendation will be addressed through recommendation 17.2.

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<p><b>17.4</b>                      The Australian Government should initiate a review to be conducted 10 years after the tabling of this Final Report. This review should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. establish the extent to which the Royal Commission’s recommendations have been implemented 10 years after the tabling of the Final Report</li> <li>b. examine the extent to which the measures taken in response to the Royal Commission have been effective in preventing child sexual abuse, improving the responses of institutions to child sexual abuse and ensuring that victims and survivors of child sexual abuse obtain justice, treatment and support</li> <li>c. advise on what further steps should be taken by governments and institutions to ensure continuing improvement in policy and service delivery in relation to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts.</li> </ul>	<p><b>NOTED</b></p>	<p>These recommendations are the responsibility of the Australian Government.</p>
<p><b>17.5</b>                      The Australian Government should host and maintain the Royal Commission website for the duration of the national redress scheme for victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.</p>		
<p><b>17.6</b>                      A national memorial should be commissioned by the Australian Government for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts. Victims and survivors should be consulted on the memorial design and it should be located in Canberra.</p>		