



## National Strategy Advisory Group Model Public Consultation Paper

The *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030* (National Strategy) is a 10-year, whole-of-nation framework recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The National Strategy is the first of its kind in Australia, and establishes a coordinated, nationally consistent approach to preventing and better responding to child sexual abuse in all settings.

The National Strategy was developed in partnership between the Australian and state and territory governments, and in consultation with hundreds of stakeholders. The National Office for Child Safety (National Office), within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, is now leading implementation of the National Strategy.

The National Office is committed to consultation with non-government stakeholders over the National Strategy's lifetime, including on the development, implementation and evaluation of its measures. An important consultative mechanism will be the establishment of a non-government Advisory Group (or groups), which will provide regular advice and input on the implementation of the National Strategy's First National Action Plan and First Commonwealth Action Plan.

The National Strategy and its action plans are available from the National Office's website: <https://childsafety.pmc.gov.au/what-we-do/national-strategy-prevent-child-sexual-abuse>.

### Request for submissions

This Consultation Paper seeks feedback, by way of short written submissions, on the proposed model for an Advisory Group and complementary non-government consultation mechanisms. Should you wish to provide feedback in another way, please let us know and we can arrange alternative options.

Consultation questions are included to guide feedback. However, stakeholders are welcome to provide further information and suggestions.

Submissions can be sent to [NationalOfficeForChildSafety@pmc.gov.au](mailto:NationalOfficeForChildSafety@pmc.gov.au).

**The closing date for submissions is Thursday, 10 February 2022.**



## Background

### National Strategy action plans

The National Strategy will initially be driven by two four-year (2021-2024) action plans.

- The First National Action Plan includes measures that the Australian, state and territory governments will deliver together. It focuses on priorities of shared responsibility between governments and those requiring national coordination, such as community education and awareness raising.
- The First Commonwealth Action Plan works alongside the First National Action Plan. It includes measures that the Australian Government will largely deliver on its own. It focuses on Australian Government priorities and responsibilities, such as preventing and responding to online child sexual abuse.

The First Action Plans will focus on five themes:

- Awareness raising, education and building child safe cultures
- Supporting and empowering victims and survivors
- Enhancing national approaches to children with harmful sexual behaviours
- Offender prevention and intervention
- Improving the evidence base

### Priority groups

The National Office recognises the need to design and implement measures in a way that meets the diverse needs of all Australians, including the National Strategy's priority groups. Our priority groups are:

- victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and their advocates
- children and young people and their support networks
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities
- people with disability
- LGBTQIA+ people
- people living in regional and remote communities



## National Strategy consultation mechanisms

### Proposed model for Advisory Group

A key way the National Office proposes to engage and partner with non-government stakeholders is through a National Strategy Advisory Group (Advisory Group), or groups.

Following a review of existing government advisory groups and initial feedback from non-government stakeholders, the National Office has developed a proposed model for an Advisory Group:

- **Membership:** Approximately 15 members from non-government organisations, academic institutions, and community members and individuals. Membership would include organisations and individuals who would be able to represent the National Strategy's priority groups listed on page 2. Members of the Advisory Group would be remunerated in recognition of their time and expertise on the Advisory Group.
- **Role:** To ensure the views and experiences of our priority groups, as well as non-government organisations, academics, community members and individuals, are embedded in the design, implementation and evaluation of the National Strategy's measures. Members, where representing organisations or specific cohorts, will be asked to consult internally or with relevant networks where appropriate.
- **Time-limited working groups:** Subject to advice from Advisory Group members, smaller, time-limited working groups may be established under the Advisory Group to provide advice and expertise on certain measures under the National Strategy.
- **Meetings:** Advisory Group meetings would likely be held both virtually and in person to allow people from across Australia to join. The National Office would work with members to determine the best way to work together, including the frequency and format of meetings.
- **Term:** The Advisory Group would advise on the National Strategy's First Action Plans, which will run for four years (2021-2024). A review of the Advisory Group would be held midway through the First Action Plans, likely in the first half of 2023. The review would aim to ensure the focus and membership of the Advisory Group aligns with changing priorities over the life of the First Action Plans.
- **Expression of interest process:** Once feedback from this Consultation Paper has been considered, and should this proposed model receive general support, the National Office would request Expression of Interests (EOIs) for those interested in joining the Advisory Group. The National Office would send the request for EOIs to our mailing lists, publish it on our website, and promote it through social media. The EOI would include further details on the role, commitment, remuneration of Advisory Group members, and selection process.

### Engaging with victims and survivors of child sexual abuse

The views and experiences of victims and survivors of child sexual abuse of all ages will shape the design, implementation and evaluation of the National Strategy's measures. While we expect victims and survivors to be represented on the Advisory Group, we understand victims and survivors may prefer to engage with the National Office in different ways. This may include a separate, dedicated victim-survivor advisory group, informal meetings with the National Office and other government agencies leading the delivery of measures, or through written requests for feedback on specific measures.



# National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse

## Stakeholder consultation list

The proposed Advisory Group will not be the only way for stakeholders to be involved in the National Strategy's design, implementation and evaluation. We also propose to establish a stakeholder consultation list to receive updates, consultation papers, workshop invitations and other information on the National Strategy and its measures. Stakeholders on the list will be given an opportunity to opt-in to consultation processes as preferred.

More general updates on the National Office and the National Strategy will also be made available through updates on our website at <https://chilfsafety.pmc.gov.au/consultations> and via our newsletter. Should you wish to sign up to our newsletter, you can do so via our website or email us at [NationalOfficeForChildSafety@pmc.gov.au](mailto:NationalOfficeForChildSafety@pmc.gov.au).

## Consultation questions

We welcome your views and comments on any part of this Consultation Paper. We are particularly interested in your feedback on the following:

1. The proposed model of the National Strategy Advisory Group and any criteria for selecting membership
2. What should be included in the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group
3. If you are a victim or survivor, or an advocate, what additional alternative ways for engaging and partnering with us would you like to see established? For example, would a separate, dedicated victim-survivor advisory group be beneficial?
4. Whether other priority groups, such as people with disability, should be engaged in additional alternative ways
5. The establishment of the proposed stakeholder consultation list

Your feedback is invaluable and will help us shape non-government stakeholder consultation mechanisms for the National Strategy.



## Privacy collection notice

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the Department) is collecting your personal information as part of consultations being conducted by the National Office for Child Safety (National Office). Providing personal information in your submission to the Department is voluntary.

Unless you indicate otherwise, the Department may:

- publish all or any part of your submission (subject to your preference on whether your name is identified or anonymous) in printed Government publications, on social media and/or on the internet, or otherwise disclose your submission,
- aggregate information received from submissions, including key themes and statistics about submissions received, which may be included in the National Office's reports, such as a Stakeholder Consultation Summary and other reports published by the National Office, and
- disclose information in your submission (including personal information) to the Australian Government, State and Territory governments and their departments and agencies; and third parties who provide services to the Department, and allow them to use all or any part of your submission in printed publications, on social media and/or on the internet.

If you choose not to provide your name and contact details, we may not be able to communicate with you about your submission or send you updates on the consultation process. The Department reserves the right not to publish all or any part of a submission.

The privacy and security of your personal information is important to us, and is protected by law. We will only disclose your personal information for a different purpose with your consent, or where we are authorised or permitted to do so by law. The Department's Privacy Policy explains how we handle and protect the information provided by you. Our Privacy Policy also explains how you can request access to, or correct, the personal information we hold about you, and who to contact if you have a privacy enquiry or complaint.

The Department's Privacy Policy is linked here: <https://www.pmc.gov.au/pmc/who-we-are/accountability-and-reporting/privacy-policy>. If you require have any questions about the Department's Privacy Policy, please email: [privacy@pmc.gov.au](mailto:privacy@pmc.gov.au).