



D1: Child safe volunteering



Australian Government
National Office for Child Safety

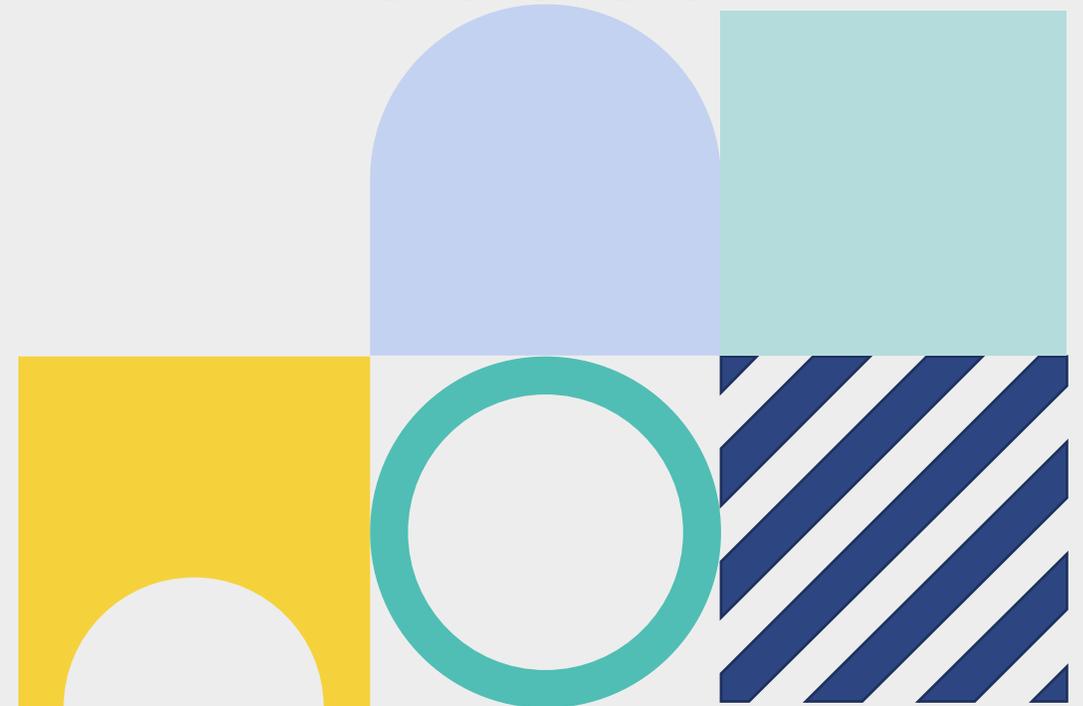
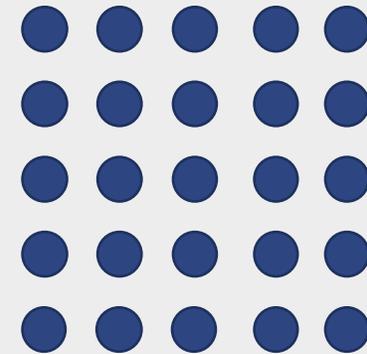
National Office for Child Safety

Considerations for Child Safe Volunteering: National Principles and Working with Children Checks

Stream D: Volunteering Across the Lifecycle Child Safe Volunteering

Toni Hunt

13 February 2023



Acknowledgement of Country

Today we are meeting on the lands of the Ngunnawal people. I acknowledge members of today's forum will also be dialling in from multiple nations across Australia and pay my respects to the traditional custodians of those lands as well.

I pay my respects for their continuing care and guardianship of the land on which we meet.

I acknowledge and pay my respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

I also acknowledge and pay my respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples attending today's forum.



Acknowledgement of victim-survivors

I wish to acknowledge any victims and survivors and their advocates who are present with us today.

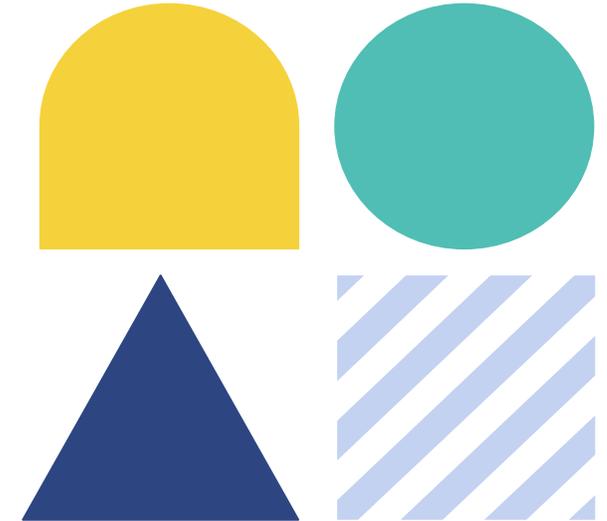
The National Office will always endeavour to centre your views and experiences.

We strive to learn from you to better protect children and young people, and dedicate our ongoing efforts to improving supports for all victims and survivors.



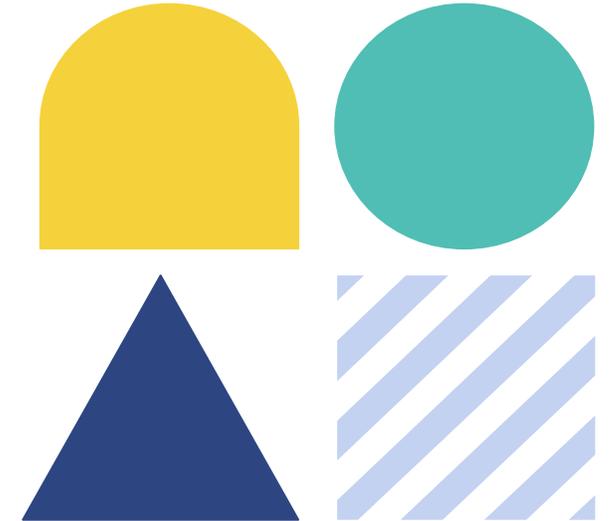
Overview of workshop session

- ▶ Overview of the National Office for Child Safety and SHINE
- ▶ Overview of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations
 - Interactive activity: Creating Child Safe Organisations – Sli.do
- ▶ Overview of Working with Children Check (WWCC) reforms
 - Interactive activity: WWCC processes – Sli.do



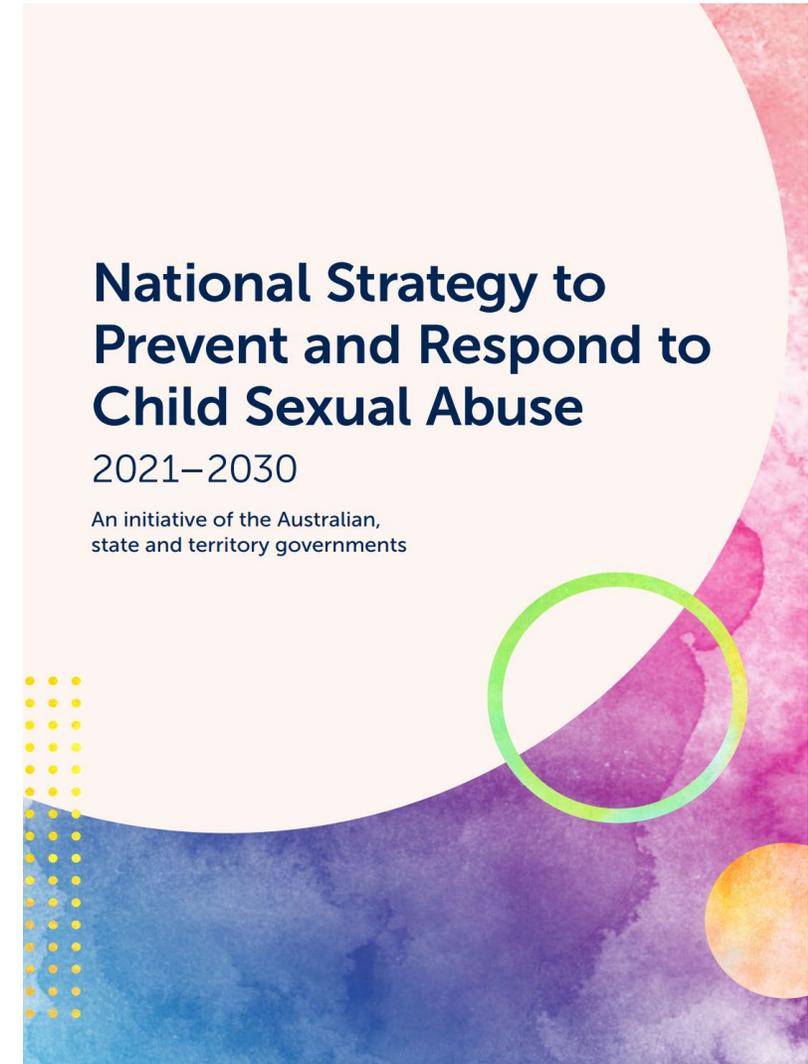
National Office for Child Safety

- ▶ Key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
- ▶ Established July 2018 to enhance children's safety and prevent future harm.



The National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse (2021-2030)

- ▶ The National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030.
- ▶ 10 year, whole-of-nation policy framework for preventing and responding to child abuse in all settings.





SHINE for Kids®

THIS IS
Shine





Who we are

We are passionate about transforming the lives of children and young people affected by the criminal justice system.

What we do

We work together with children, young people and families to break the cycle of intergenerational offending and disadvantage through innovative programs and service delivery.



SHINE for Kids®

The Current Challenge

www.shineforkids.org.au

Data gap in every state and territory

Children of prisoners are **6x** more likely to end up in prison themselves

40% more likely to drop out of school

2x as likely to have disability or chronic illness

16.7% of children disability or chronic illness compared to **7.4%** of general population

NO national roadmap or state strategy



75,000 students across the country have had a parent in prison (estimated)



45,000 students are currently experiencing parental incarceration (estimated)



60% of all women and **46%** of all men in prison have children

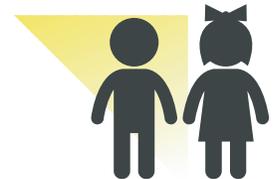
70% of Aboriginal youth in juvenile detention



50% of all youth in juvenile detention have had a parent in prison



SHINE for Kids have developed and implemented Australia's first teacher training program to develop the skills, attitudes, knowledge and confidence of teachers to support the education of students with an incarcerated parent.



CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

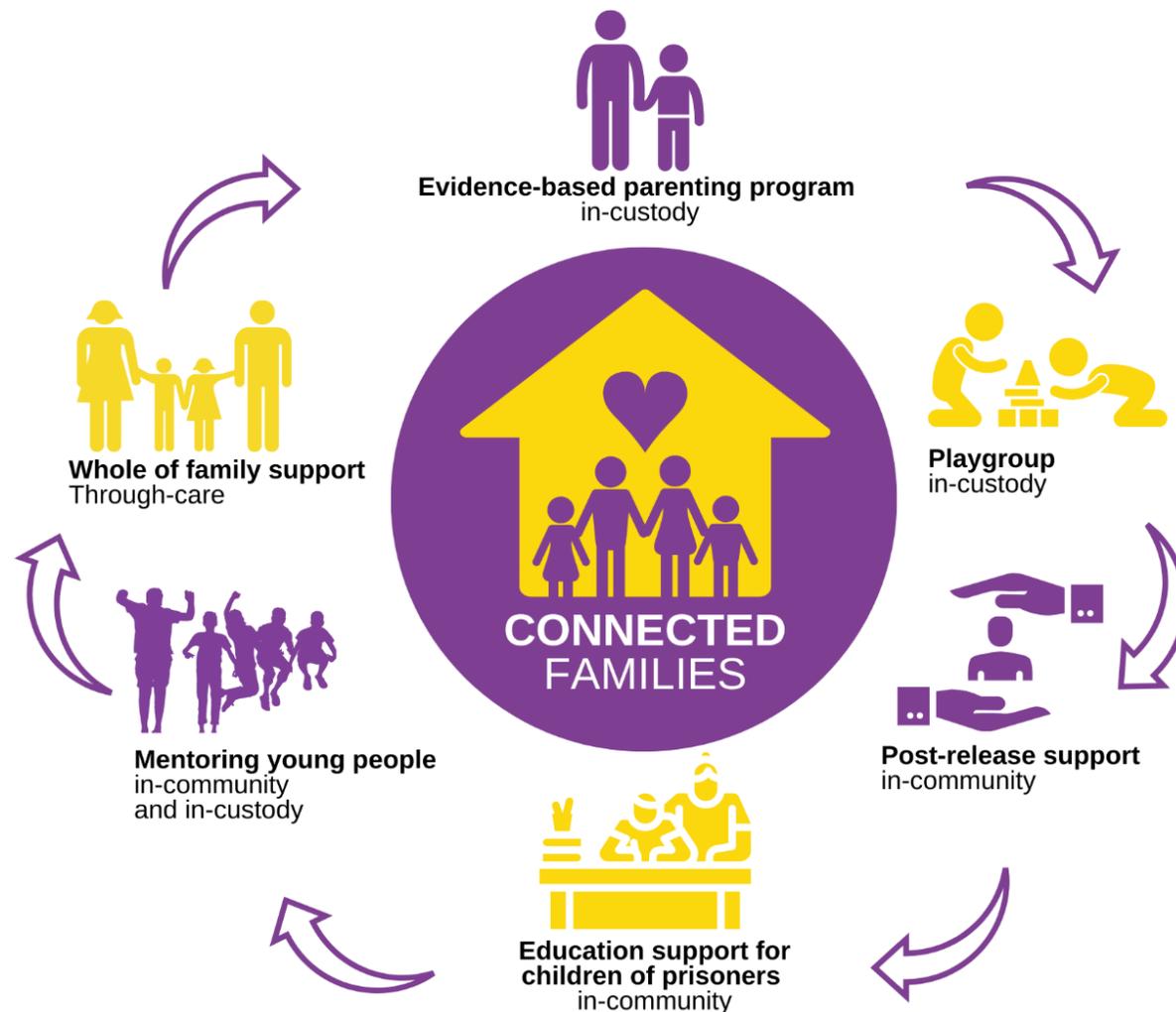




SHINE for Kids®

Our solution: Keeping kids connected

www.shineforkids.org.au





SHINE for Kids®

Volunteers at SHINE for Kids

www.shineforkids.org.au

What does volunteering look like @ SFK?

Child and Family Centres – Cottages on prison grounds drop-in center *

Student Placements

Prison in-visits *

Belonging To Family – First Nation Volunteering Program

Community Based Youth Mentoring *

Primary Based School Mentoring *

Head Office Volunteers

Fundraising and Promotional Volunteers

Micro Volunteering *

Virtual Volunteering

Corporate Volunteering

Supported transport *

*Child and young people facing volunteer roles

Volunteer numbers at SHINE for Kids

2018 – 205

2019 – 322

2020 – 208

2021 – 90

2022 – 106

2023 - 127

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

- ▶ The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations outline how organisations can **create a child safe culture**.



Child Safe
Organisations
National Principles



National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

- ▶ The National Principles embed the **Royal Commission's Child Safe Standards**.
- ▶ Provide a consistent approach to creating organisational cultures and practices that **promote the safety and wellbeing of children in Australia**.

1. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
2. Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
3. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
5. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
6. Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.
7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
9. Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.



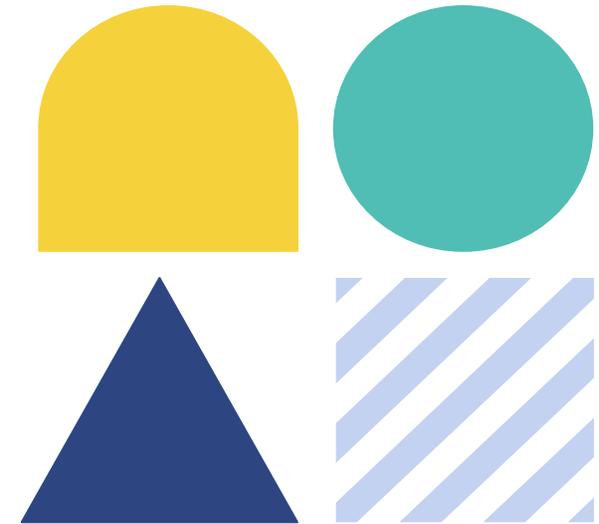
Creating Child Safe Organisations

- ▶ How do you help volunteers understand child safety expectations without increasing the administrative burden?
 - ▶ Are there additional resources or other actions that would help you in particular?
- ▶ How do you help volunteers be proactive in their approach to child safety?
- ▶ What are your problems/pain points in embedding a child safe culture in your organisation?
 - ▶ Do you have examples of solutions you've used to address these?
 - ▶ Or, do you have ideas for possible solutions?

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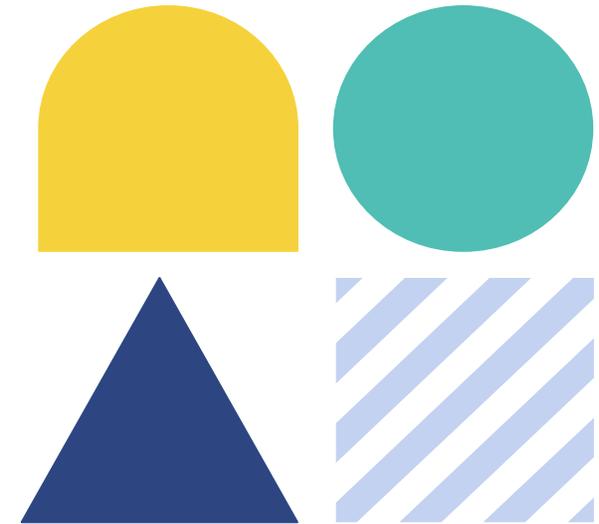
National Standards for Working with Children Checks

- ▶ The Royal Commission released the Working with Children Checks (WWCC) Report in 2015.
 - 36 recommendations to improve processes, practices and policies for screening.
- ▶ The National Standards for WWCC were agreed in 2019 and provide nationally consistent minimum benchmarks for WWCC.



Working with Children Checks processes

- ▶ How do you assess and monitor WWCC in your organisation?
- ▶ What are the biggest problems/pain points for your organisation and volunteers to access WWCCs?
- ▶ Do you have any possible solutions to these/what changes would you like to see in the future?
- ▶ What reforms would help you?



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Australian Government
National Office for Child Safety

Thank you

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