

# A proposed Bill for Children and Young People – Wellbeing, Development and Early Intervention

## Proposed Objects

A Bill needs to contain objects that identify what the legislation could achieve.

This fact sheet sets out the draft objects that have been developed for this proposed new Bill. They reflect the primary purpose of the proposed Bill, with an emphasis on early intervention; health and development; education; and the community.

We are interested in your views on the Proposed Objects. Some guiding questions have been included at the end of this fact sheet, for your consideration.

## Definitions

- a reference to the **rights** of children and young people means rights recognised in accordance with statutory and common law, rights set out from time to time in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and rights set out in any other relevant international human rights instruments;
- a reference to the **development** of children and young people includes reference to the physical, social, emotional, cognitive and health growth of each individual from birth through to adulthood;
- a reference to the **wellbeing** of children and young people means a state of being—
- characterised by satisfactory conditions of health, happiness and prosperity; and
- enhanced by positive psychology and by building protective factors and resilience to be better equipped to respond to adversity and enjoy fulfilling life experiences;
- a reference to **early intervention** in relation to children and young people, means the provision of services and supports, and taking of preventative measures, soon after a particular problem is identified;
- a reference to **prevention** includes a wide range of activities or interventions aimed at reducing risks or threats to health and development;
- a reference to the **parents** of children and young people, will be taken to include a reference to—
- a step-parent of the child or young person; and
- a person who stands in *loco parentis* to the child or young person.
- a reference to the **family** of a child or young person will be taken to be a reference to—
  - the biological family of the child or young person;
  - the extended families of child or young person;
  - a person who, in accordance with the cultural background of the child or young person, has a relationship of responsibility for the child or young person.



## Proposed Objects

- 1) The primary object of a proposed Bill is to improve outcomes for all children and young people in this State by—
  - a. establishing a legislative framework to ensure that—
    - i. a coordinated and collaborative approach is taken across the government, non-government and community sectors to address the underlying factors that adversely affect the wellbeing and development of children and young people;
    - ii. reasonable and practicable measures are taken to build capacity and strengthen families and communities to facilitate improvements in the wellbeing and development of children and young people; and
    - iii. reasonable and practicable measures are taken to develop and implement prevention and early intervention services that support the wellbeing and development of children and young people and their families; and
    - iv. appropriate services to support the wellbeing and development of children and young people and their families are made available for all families, with additional services provided to those families that need additional assistance, with the delivery of those services to focus on prevention and early intervention;
    - v. the rights, wellbeing and development of children and young people are considered in relation to government, non-government and community policies in any area that affects them; and
  - b. recognising the importance of positive family and community wellbeing approaches in improving the wellbeing and development of children and young people;
  - c. recognising the importance of building and strengthening communities, and reducing economic and social disadvantage, to the improvement of the wellbeing and development of children and young people and their families;
  - d. promoting a child and young person's rights-based approach in relation to matters affecting children and young people;
  - e. to respect the interests and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, and to give due recognition to the ability of those people and communities to make a significant contribution to furthering the purposes of a bill as it relates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people; and
  - f. ensuring that interests and views of all members of the community are respected, and giving due recognition to the ability of members of the community to make a significant contribution to furthering the purposes of a bill;
  - g. ensuring that the Minister plays an active role in furthering the purposes of a bill (including by advocating for appropriate levels of resourcing to be made available for furthering the purposes of a bill); and



- h. furthering and achieving—
  - i. the early intervention objectives; and
  - ii. the health objectives; and
  - iii. the education objectives; and
  - iv. the community objectives.

2) The **early intervention objectives** could include:

- a. to provide services and support mechanisms early in a child's life;
- b. to provide services and support mechanisms as soon as is reasonably practicable after a particular problem is identified in respect of a child or young person or their family;
- c. to ensure increased assistance is made available to vulnerable children and young people, and their families, who experience crises and are living with the impacts of abuse, neglect or other trauma, so as to improve long-term outcomes, and reduce negative impacts, for children and young people and their families.

3) The **health and development objectives** could include:

- a. to provide integrated service systems that respond to the health and development needs of children and young people and their families;
- b. to ensure the development of effective referral pathways and links to health and development services for children and young people and their families;
- c. to provide up to date and evidence based health and development advice, information and support regarding children and young people's development, parenting and health and family services;
- d. to reduce the stigmatisation of mental health challenges of children and young people;
- e. to provide additional, targeted support for children and young people with additional needs and their families,  
so as to improve health and development outcomes, and reduce negative impacts arising out of poor health and development, for children and young people and their families.

4) The **education objectives** could include:

- a. to ensure all children and young people receive a quality education, whatever their circumstances;
- b. to support families, as the first educators of children and young people, to enhance learning in the family home, including in the years prior to compulsory schooling age;
- c. to ensure children and young people are prepared for work in a transforming South Australian economy;



- d. to provide education programs that have high achievement standards and support all children and young people to achieve their potential;
- e. to ensure students, teachers, schools, families and communities work together to support optimal learning outcomes for children and young people.

2) The **community objectives** could include:

- a. to promote the welfare of the community generally, and of individuals, families and groups within the community, to improve the wellbeing and development of children and young people;
- b. to promote and facilitate community action that embraces and promotes the wellbeing and development of children and young people and their families;
- c. to build the capacity of the community to provide environments conducive to improving the wellbeing and development of children and young people and their families.

## Consultation Questions

- Of the objects proposed for the new draft Bill, what are the top 3 that you consider most important?
- Are there any objects that you feel are missing, out of place or need revision?

