

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

Proposed Principles

In addition to objects, a Bill also needs to contain principles that underpin the intent of the proposed legislation.

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.

Proposed Principles

- a) all children and young people are valued citizens;
- b) the first 5 years of a child’s development are of particular importance;
- c) prevention and early intervention are of fundamental importance in addressing social challenges affecting children and young people and their families;
- d) strengthening communities to address economic and social disadvantage helps to improve the wellbeing and development of children and young people;
- e) services for children and young people and their families should be designed and developed—
 - i. to strengthen the capacity and efforts of families and communities to support children and young people as early as possible in their life; and
 - ii. to give the highest priority to the provision of services to children and families in communities or population groups that are known to have the greatest need;
- f) it is the shared responsibility of each member of the community to ensure every child and young person is supported to play, learn, and develop to be the best that they can at every stage of life and to participate and be responsible citizens in our society;
- g) parents, guardians and carers have the primary role in the wellbeing and development of children and young people in their care, and governments and others who provide services to children and young people should work in partnership with them;
- h) communities play an important role in providing supportive environments for children and young people and their families, and in promoting their wellbeing and development;
- i) children and young people, and their parents, guardians, carers and families—
 - i. are best able to shape their own lives and are not simply passive recipients of services; and
 - ii. have differing needs; and
 - iii. should be consulted and provided with opportunities to be involved in decision making processes that affect their lives;



- j) the diverse cultural and linguistic nature of our society is to be recognised and valued;
- k) the involvement of both government and non-government organisations in the community is essential to strengthen and improve outcomes for children and young people.

It is proposed that a Bill should also recognise that:

- a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are part of the oldest continuing cultures in human history and the cultural and linguistic heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people must be honoured, celebrated and respected; and
- b) South Australian Aboriginal peoples are the traditional owners and occupants of land and waters in South Australia, and recognises that—
 - i. their spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices come from their traditional lands and waters; and
 - ii. they maintain their cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws which are of ongoing importance; and
 - iii. they have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the State; and
- c) maintaining the connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people with their family and culture is critical to their wellbeing and development; and
- d) the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the wellbeing and development of their children and young people, and in any early intervention should that be necessary, is essential to ensuring the best outcomes for those children and young people, as well as the community generally; and
- e) the matters set out in the preceding paragraphs are best achieved by encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and State authorities to act in partnership when making decisions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and their families.

Consultation Questions

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

