

Annual Report 2018-19

'Every young South Australian counts'



Government of
South Australia



Child
Development
Council

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Letter of transmission

Hon John Gardner MP
Minister for Education

Dear Minister

I submit to you for presentation to Parliament the Child Development Council's annual report 2018-19.

This annual report has been prepared to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* (Act) and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

In compliance with the *Public Sector Act 2009* and the *Public Finance and audit Act 1987*, reporting of the management of human resources and financial issues has been included in the annual report 2018-19 of the Department for Education.

Submitted on behalf of the Child Development Council by:

Dr Anne Glover AO

Presiding Member

11/10/2019

Date



Signature

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Glossary

Act	<i>Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016</i>
Charter	Charter for Children and Young People
Commissioner	Commissioner for Children and Young People
Council	Child Development Council
Department	Department for Education
Framework	Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People
FTE	Full-time equivalent
Guardian	Guardian for Children and Young People
Minister	Minister for Education
Regulations	<i>Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Regulations 2017</i>
YACSA	Youth Affairs Council of South Australia

Executive summary

There are 366,700 children and young people under 18 years estimated to be living in South Australia, including 16,700 Aboriginal children and young people. Each year around 20,000 babies are born, an average of 55 per day.

To monitor the development and wellbeing of children and young people and to gain a picture of how they are faring overall – thus providing an impetus for cooperation and collaboration by state and local government authorities to improve their outcomes – in 2018-19, the Council consulted extensively to inform the development of an Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People.

The framework is organised around a Charter for Children and Young People, which presents 20 required conditions for all children and young people to thrive. Linked to the Charter are five high-level outcomes ie that young South Australians:

- are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy
- are safe and nurtured
- are happy, inspired and engaged
- are successful learners
- participate actively in society.

Preliminary tracking towards these high-level outcomes shows that overall children and young people in South Australia are doing well. For example, more than 95% of all five-year olds are fully immunised (96% of Aboriginal five-year olds) and nine in 10 children and young people report having good to excellent overall health. Areas needing attention include an increase in the numbers of children and young people in out-of-home-care and a lack of data in key areas such as young children meeting developmental milestones at two and four years of age.

The Council will submit the framework to the Minister for Education (Minister) for approval early in 2019-20. Following ministerial approval, the framework will be published in the South Australian Government Gazette and on the Council's website and the Council will promote implementation of the framework across South Australia.

Introduction

Children and young people under 18 years made up 21.3% of the South Australian population in 2018.

By passing into law the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* (Act) the Parliament of South Australia established four oversight and advocacy bodies to promote and improve the rights, development and wellbeing outcomes of children and young people in South Australia.

The Child Development Council (Council) is one of the four entities in the Act, the other three being the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Commissioner), Guardian for Children and Young People (Guardian) and the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee.

The Council was set up in February 2018 pursuant to Part 6 of the Act with a mandate to:

- develop and maintain a *whole-of-state, whole-of-government* Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People (framework) including a Charter for Children and Young People (Charter)
- promote the implementation of the framework across state and local government
- report to the Government of South Australia on the effectiveness of the framework in improving the outcomes of children and young people (birth to 18 years).

The Council's functions of developing and maintaining the framework, promoting implementation and reporting on its effectiveness are depicted in the following figure.

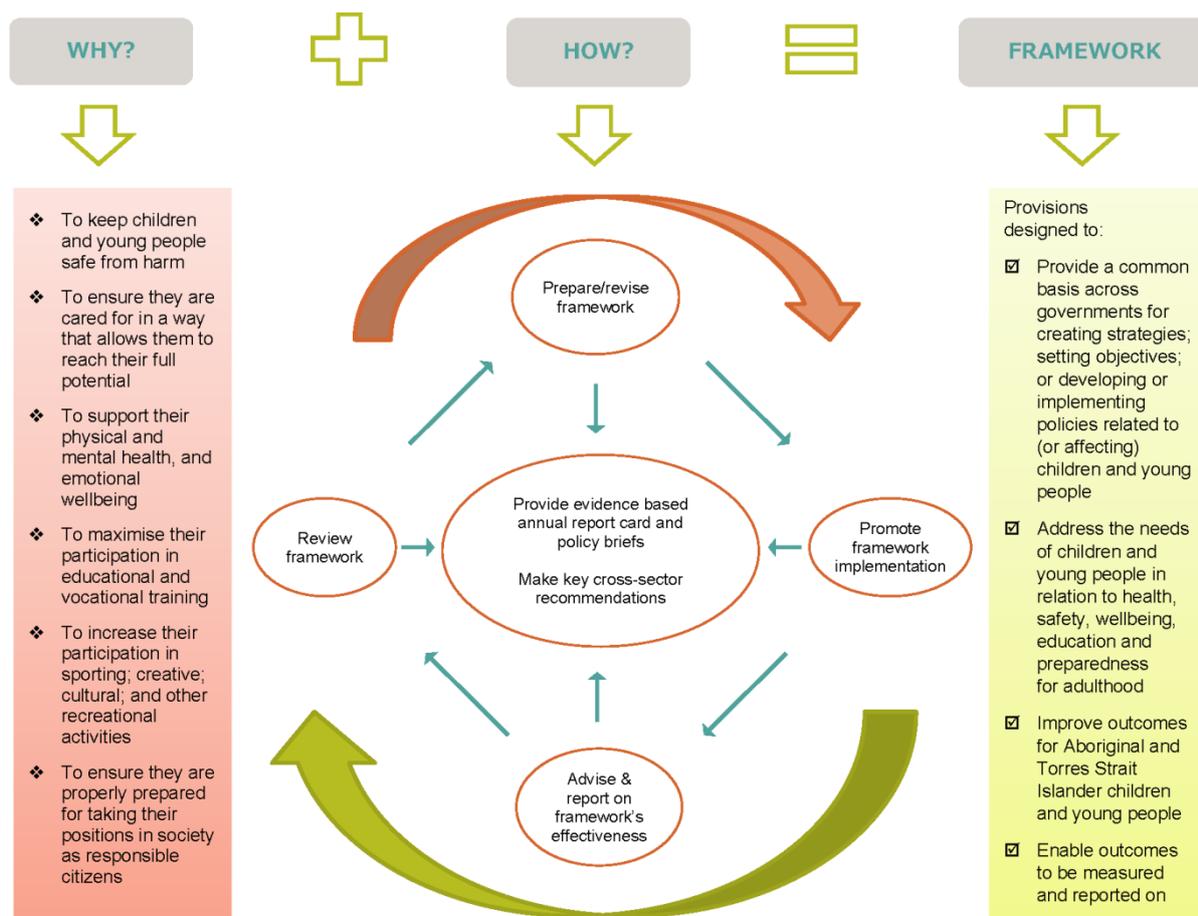


Figure 1 Map of the process to be followed regarding the framework.

By focusing on population level outcomes, reporting under the framework will inform a whole-of-government approach to creating strategies, setting objectives and developing and implementing policies that relate to or affect children and young people.

Reporting in the five dimensions set by the Act, will create an overall picture of how children and young people are faring, thus providing an impetus for cooperation and collaboration by state and local government authorities to improve the outcomes of the youngest South Australians.

The Council will submit the framework to the Minister for approval early in 2019-20. Once approved, the framework will be published in the South Australian Government Gazette with a hyperlink to the framework on the Council's website and the Council will proactively promote implementation of the framework across South Australia.

Development of the outcomes framework

Consultation

As required by the Act, the Council has consulted extensively with children and young people and their parents, families, carers and other key stakeholders (section 57(4)(a)-(e)). In December 2018 and January 2019, 40 key stakeholders were invited to review the proposed indicators and measures for the framework and face-to-face consultation included seeking guidance from the Social Affairs Cabinet Committee on 6 December 2018.

The Minister launched open consultation for the framework with a media release on 5 April 2019. The open consultation included YourSAy; advertisements in 16 country newspapers; email invitations to 378 stakeholders (leading to an 'open' rate of 6,103); and face to face meetings eg with the South Australian Aboriginal Advisory Committee and the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People. Thirty one stakeholders responded with submissions and/or comments.

Children and young people influenced the framework's development through forums or focus groups, an online survey, postcards to the Minister and a Charter Summit.

The Council held two focus groups with children and/or young people with the Services to Youth Council and the Women's and Children's Health Network Youth Advisory Group. A third focus group was held with Year 3 to Year 12 Roxby Downs Area School student leaders and Roxby Downs Youth Advisory Council members.

The Youth Advisory Council of South Australia (YACSA) consulted young people 12 to 18 years on behalf of the Council at six forums; three across metropolitan Adelaide, one in the Adelaide Hills and two in Whyalla.

The *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Regulations 2017* (Regulations) prescribe additional consultation (regulation 12(1) (a)-(g)), most of which has been scheduled for August 2019. In addition, the Presiding Member will consult the Senior Management Council on 26 August 2019.

The framework consultation is depicted in the following figure.

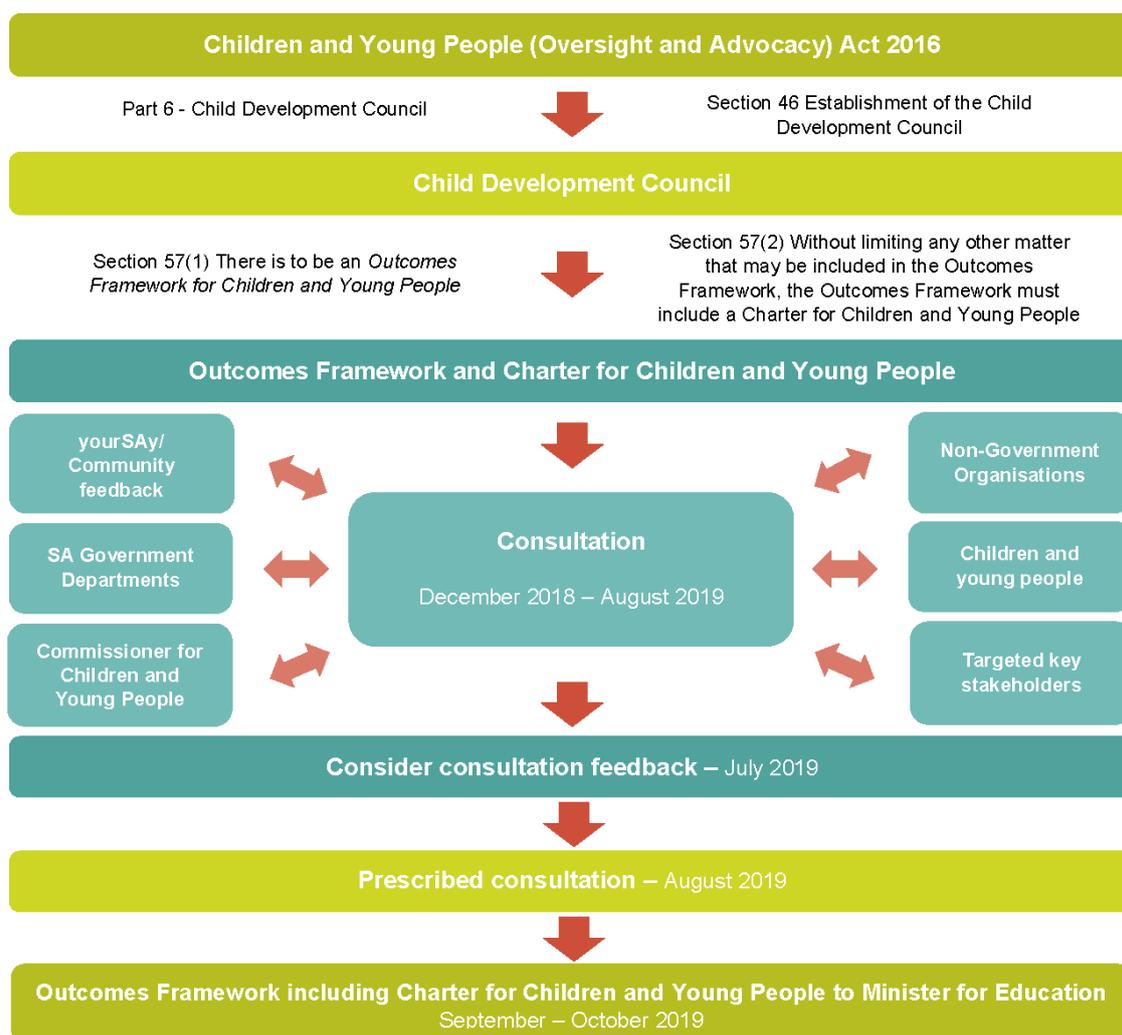


Figure 2 Map of the consultation process for the indicators and measures.

Charter for children and young people

As an integral part of the framework, the Charter reflects a commitment to create the conditions in South Australia for all children and young people to thrive. The 20 Charter conditions are informed by state, national and international children’s rights.

On 5 June 2019, more than 120 children and young people participated in a Charter Summit to inform the writing of the Charter. Three artists created a visual image – ‘the Wall’ – to show what is important for children and young people to have a good life. All aspects of the summit were captured on video and in photographs. At the conclusion of the summit, each child or young person had an opportunity to send a personal message on a postcard to the Minister.

The statements in the Charter represent the voices of children and young people, and reflect what is important eg having a good home life, having support from trusted adults, being listened to, participating in decisions that affect them, opportunity for a quality education, employment and most importantly, being respected and valued.

Outcomes reporting

A population snapshot

South Australia has 366,700 children and young people under 18 years, including 16,700 Aboriginal children and young people, as depicted below.

Table 1 Number of children and young people estimated to be living in South Australia.

Age Range	2008	2013	2018
0-17 years	349,900	358,100	366,700
0-2 years	56,900	60,700	59,400
3-5 years	54,600	60,700	62,100
6-8 years	56,300	58,900	63,300
9-11 years	58,500	57,300	62,900
12-14 years	60,800	59,200	59,400
15-17 years	62,600	61,400	59,700
South Australia population	1,588,700	1,671,500	1,736,300

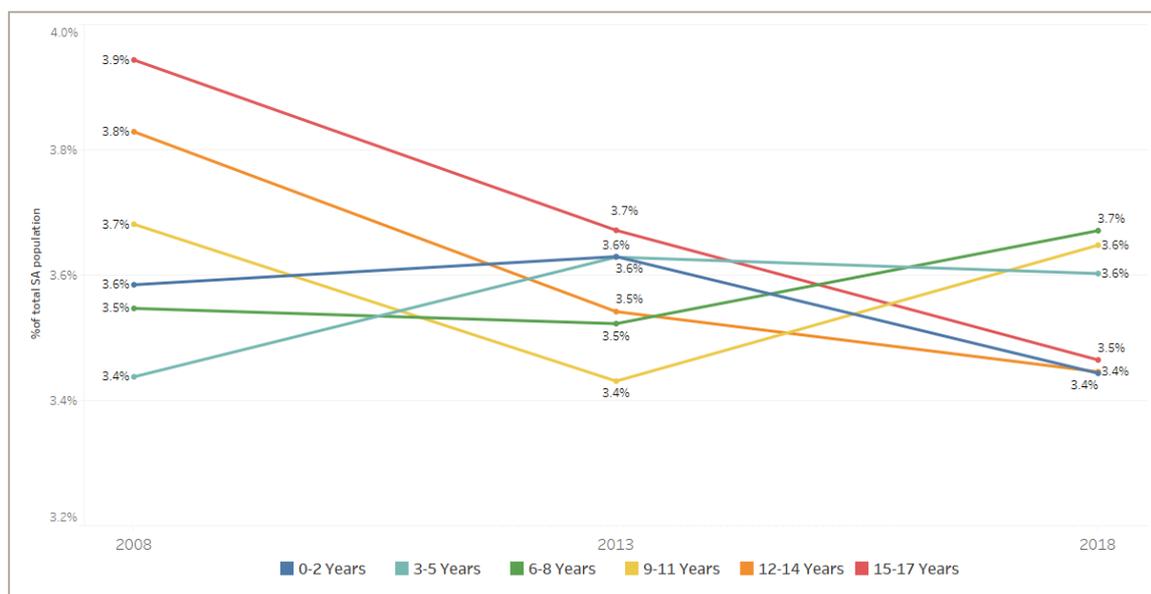


Figure 3 Children and young people under 18 years as a proportion of the total population in SA.

Score card

The Council has liaised with government departments and other data holders including the Office for Data Analytics, Justice Policy and Analytics, the Early Intervention Research Directorate and the SACE Board of South Australia to facilitate and inform whole-of-government reporting that:

- provides evidence of inequalities for specific communities of children and young people to identify where improvements are needed
- identifies emerging trends, and current and potential challenges
- provides evidence for decision-making for policy and collective action to improve the lives of all children and young people.

Commencing in 2019-20, an annual score card *How are they faring? A Report Card for South Australia* will report population-level outcomes for children and young people in the five key dimensions. The score card will identify excellence, inequality and priority areas for whole-of-state effort.

In anticipation, the Council has developed an *Outcomes Framework Data and Technical Report* in 2018-19 with the following information for each indicative measure in the framework:

- rationale for inclusion
- measure details (including age range, and reporting time frame)
- definition of the data calculation (numerator and denominator) and relative frequency (rate, proportion and percentage)
- data sources (with embedded links)
- data availability (baseline year, frequency, age and next likely release date)
- data breakdown (disaggregated into sub-categories)
- benchmarking (potential comparability with state, national or international data)
- further information (where relevant).

Throughout 2018-19, the *Outcomes Framework Data and Technical Report* was updated with new data and used as the basis for reporting the evidence in snapshots published on the Council's website. Where possible, the snapshots included data breakdowns and state, national or international benchmarking.

Preliminary tracking and snapshot publications on the Council's website throughout 2018-19 indicated that, in South Australia:

- more than 94% of one year olds are fully immunised and almost 95% of all five year olds are fully immunised (96% of Aboriginal five year olds) (2019)
- 8 in 10 Aboriginal three year olds (81%) are enrolled in a preschool program, more than twice the national average (40%) (2018)
- more than 94% of Aboriginal four year olds are enrolled in a preschool program
- almost 75% of Year 4 to 9 students participate in organised sport after school
- on average, 70% of children and young people 5 to 14 years attended at least one cultural event or venue in the previous 12 months (2017-18)
- one in 20 young people 15 to 17 years provides unpaid assistance to a person with disability (2016)
- the average weekly hours of paid employment for a 17 year old living in a low socioeconomic area is 13.4; for a high socioeconomic area the average is 11.6 (2017)
- the rate of homelessness was lower than the national average (38 as opposed to 47 per 10 000 population) with young people 12 to 18 years more likely to be homeless than children 11 years and younger (2016)
- the proportion of 15 to 19 year olds fully engaged¹ in education, training or work increased from 81.4% in 2010 to 89.6% (2018)
- almost 80% of those who started the South Australian Certificate of Education in Year 10 completed it in a three-year period to Year 12 (2018)
- approximately 76% of young people 16 to 19 years have a driver's licence (2019)

¹ Definition of 'Fully engaged' – employed full-time and/or in full-time study, or employed part-time combined with part-time study.

- at the 2019 Australian Federal Election, 61% of all 18 and 19 year olds were enrolled to vote (down from 73% in 2007)²
- one in five children and young people used a mental health service in the previous 12 months (2018-19)
- nine in 10 children and young people have good to excellent overall health (2018-19)
- approximately 20% of young people aged 15 to 19 years are very or extremely concerned about family conflict (2018)
- approximately 4,000 children and young people are in out of home care (2019)
- more children and young people birth to 17 years moved to another state or territory in the same year than vice versa (4,500 vs 3,500) (2016)
- approximately 14% of young people 12 to 17 years report ever having taken illicit drugs, down from 40% in 1996 (2017)
- ten per cent (10%) of young people 12 to 17 years report ever having smoked tobacco, down from 56% in 1996 (2017).

Advocacy and engagement

Formal submissions in 2018-19 included:

- *Controlled Substances (Youth Treatment Orders) Amendment Bill 2018* (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) – 20 July 2018
- *Children and Young People (Safety) Regulations (Minister for Child Protection)* – 25 July 2018

Written advice in 2018-19 included:

- *South Australian Public Health (Early Childhood Services and Immunisation) Amendment Bill* (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) – 21 September 2018
- Access to education for children and young people removed from home and placed with foster carers – 2 November 2018.

² Calculation is based on the projected resident population and includes non-Australian citizens ineligible to vote.

Advocacy and engagement in South Australia included discussions with the Social Affairs Cabinet Committee, South Australian Aboriginal Advisory Committee and the Adelaide Football Club.

National advocacy and engagement included meetings with the National Children's Commissioner and ARACY and attendance of the National Action Plan for Children's Health 2020-2030 in Melbourne in November 2018.

Operations

Review of the Act

The Minister has appointed Mr Richard Dennis AM PSM to review the operation of the Act. The Council received Mr Dennis' discussion paper on 30 June 2019, and looks forward to discussions with Mr Dennis on 6 August 2019.

Collaboration

For the Charter summit on 5 June 2019, the Council partnered with the Commissioner, the Department for Education, YACSA, the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia and Catholic Education of South Australia for the attendance of more than 120 children and young people.

For the open consultation the Council partnered with YACSA for forums with young people and the development of an online survey.

In 2018-19, the Council also partnered with the Guardian for a review and analysis of the *Youth Justice Administration Act 2016* and the *Youth Justice Administration Regulations 2016*.

Council operation and reporting

The Council's reporting obligations are set out in Part 6 of the Act (Division 1, section 56 (1)-(3)). This includes reporting to the Minister on the performance of the Council's functions or other matters at the Minister's request.

The Council's annual report must be provided to the Minister no later than 31 October each year for tabling in both Houses of Parliament within six sitting days of receipt.

Council members

On 27 July 2018 the Council welcomed Ms Kelly Ryan, a lawyer, as a new member. On 30 April 2019, Mr Daniel Hyndman resigned and the Minister's call for expressions of interest to fill the membership vacancy closed on 25 June 2019.

Council members represent international, national and local experience and expertise, including education and child care, health and paediatrics, psychology, bullying, epidemiology, youth justice, law, mental health and guardianship.

The Council's 2018-19 membership is shown in the following table.

Table 2 Council membership in 2018-19

<i>Voting members</i>	<i>Term</i>
Dr Anne GLOVER AO (Presiding Member)	15 February 2018 to 14 February 2020
Dr Neil Wigg (Deputy Presiding Member)	"
Dr Sally BRINKMAN	"
Mr Anthony MINNIECON	"
Associate Professor Barbara SPEARS	"
Ms Vivienne St John ROBB	"
Ms Joanne WICKES	"
Ms Annette WILLIAMS	"
Ms Kelly RYAN	21 July 2018 to 20 July 2020
Mr Daniel HYNDMAN	15 February 2018 to 30 April 2019
<i>Non-voting members</i>	<i>Term</i>
Ms Helen CONNOLLY	15 February 2018 to TBA*
Ms Ann-Marie HAYES	15 February 2018 to 14 February 2020

* Pursuant to Part 6, Division 1, s 52 of the Act, the Commissioner for Children and Young People (or a person authorised in writing by the Commissioner) may attend and take part in meetings and have access to meeting papers.

Council meetings

The Council must meet at least six times in any calendar year (section 51(2)).

In 2018-19, the Council held seven formal meetings on 6 August, 3 September and 3 December 2018 and 5 February, 5 March, 7 May and 25 June 2019.

Council Secretariat

The Council's administrative support was boosted to 2.8 FTE following the addition of a senior statistician on 19 November 2018 (on a 12 month contract).

Financial matters

Revenue and expenditure

The Council is funded by the South Australian Government.³ Full financial reports for the Council are consolidated into, and audited through, the Department (with the Council being reported as an *administered item* in the Department's 2018-19 financial statements).

The Council's budget for the 2018-19 financial year was \$429 000.

Table 3 Financial summary of expenditure for 2018-19

Financial summary of expenditure from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019			
Item	Actual	Budget	Variation
Salaries and wages	\$284 279	\$296 000	\$11 721
Goods and services	\$118 075	\$133 000	\$14 925
Total Operating Result	\$402 354	\$429 000	\$26 646

³ Pursuant to Part 6, Division 1, section 53 of the Act, the 'Minister must provide the Council with the staff and other resources that the Council reasonably needs for carrying out the Council's functions'.

Legislation

Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016

Part 6, Division 1—Child Development Council

55—Functions and powers of Council

- (1) The primary function of the Council is to prepare and maintain the Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People.
- (2) The Council has the following additional functions:
 - (a) to advise and report to the Government on the effectiveness of the Outcomes Framework in—
 - (i) keeping children and young people safe from harm; and
 - (ii) ensuring that children and young people are cared for in a way that allows them to realise their potential; and
 - (iii) improving the physical and mental health, and the emotional wellbeing, of children and young people; and
 - (iv) improving the participation of children and young people in educational and vocational training; and
 - (v) improving the participation of children and young people in sporting, creative, cultural and other recreational activities; and
 - (vi) ensuring that children and young people are properly prepared for taking their position in society as responsible citizens; and
 - (vii) maintaining the cultural identity of children and young people;
 - (b) to promote the implementation of the Outcomes Framework in respect of matters affecting children and young people under the laws of the State;
 - (c) such other functions as may be assigned to the Council under this or any other Act or by the Minister.
- (3) In performing the functions under this section, the Council should, as far as is reasonably practicable, seek to work collaboratively with –
 - (a) State authorities and Commonwealth agencies that have functions that are relevant to those of the Council; and
 - (b) relevant industry, professional and community groups and organisations.
- (4) Subject to this Act, the Council has such powers as may be necessary or expedient for the performance of the Council's functions.

Part 6, Division 2—Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People

57—Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People

- (1) There is to be an Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People.
- (2) Without limiting any other matter that may be included in the Outcomes Framework, the Outcomes Framework must include a Charter for Children and Young People.
- (3) The Outcomes Framework is to be prepared by the Child Development Council.
- (4) The Council must, in preparing the Outcomes Framework –
 - (a) act in accordance with any instructions of the Minister; and
 - (b) consult with –
 - (i) the Commissioner; and
 - (ii) any other person or body prescribed by the regulations, and may consult with any other person or body that the Council thinks appropriate; and
 - (c) engage children and young people, and their parents, carers and families; and
 - (d) ensure an appropriate focus on the needs of priority population groups; and
 - (e) develop performance indicators against which progress in relation to the development and wellbeing of children and young people in the State can be tracked over time.
- (5) The regulations may make further provisions with regard to the Outcomes Framework including, without limiting the generality of this subsection, provisions relating to –
 - (a) how the Outcomes Framework is to be prepared; and
 - (b) the form of the Outcomes Framework and any variation of the Outcomes Framework; and
 - (c) the kinds of information to be included in the Outcomes Framework; and
 - (d) consultation requirements relating to the Outcomes Framework; and
 - (e) consideration and approval of the Outcomes Framework by the Minister; and
 - (f) requirements as to the ongoing review of the Outcomes Framework; and
 - (g) variation or substitution of the Outcomes Framework, including provisions limiting a matter referred to in a preceding paragraph.

- (6) The Outcomes Framework, and any variation or substitution of the Outcomes Framework, has effect from the time it is approved by the Minister.
- (7) The Council must, on the Outcomes Framework or a variation of the Outcomes Framework being approved by the Minister –
 - (a) cause the Outcomes Framework or variation to be published in the Gazette; and
 - (b) cause the Outcomes Framework to be published on a website determined by the Minister.

Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Regulations 2017

12—Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People

- (1) For the purposes of section 57(4)(b)(ii) of the Act, the following persons and bodies are prescribed:
 - (a) the Minister to whom the administration of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 is committed;
 - (b) the Department (within the meaning of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017);
 - (c) the Minister to whom the administration of the Education Act 1972 is committed;
 - (d) the administrative unit of the Public Service assisting a Minister with the administration of the Education Act 1972;
 - (e) the Minister to whom the administration of the Health Care Act 2008 is committed;
 - (f) the administrative unit of the Public Service assisting a Minister with the administration of the Health Care Act 2008;
 - (g) the Guardian for Children and Young People.
- (2) Pursuant to section 57(5) of the Act, the Outcomes Framework must contain provisions of the following kinds:
 - (a) provisions designed to provide a common basis across the whole of government for creating strategies, setting objectives or developing or implementing policies related to or affecting children and young people;
 - (b) provisions addressing the needs of children and young people in each of the following areas:
 - (i) health;
 - (ii) safety;
 - (iii) wellbeing;
 - (iv) education;
 - (v) preparedness for adulthood;
 - (c) provisions requiring cooperation and, where appropriate, collaboration between State authorities and other persons or bodies performing functions and duties that relate to or affect children and young people;
 - (d) provisions designed to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in each of the areas referred to in paragraph (b), as well as any other areas particularly affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people;
 - (e) provisions designed to enable outcomes for children and young people in the State to be measured and reported on (including provisions requiring the collection of specified data relating to performance indicators referred to in section 57(4)(e) of the Act), and may contain such other provisions as the Council or Minister thinks fit.
- (3) Pursuant to section 57(5) of the Act, the Council must (in addition to the consultation required under section 57(4)(b) of the Act) undertake additional consultation in respect of the preparation of the Outcomes Framework as follows:
 - (a) consultation with such persons or bodies as may be specified by the Minister;
 - (b) such other consultation (including, without limiting the generality of this paragraph, community consultation) as may be required by the Minister.
- (4) Pursuant to section 57(5) of the Act, the Child Development Council may, with the approval of the Minister, vary or substitute the Outcomes Framework.
- (5) Subject to this regulation, in preparing a variation or substitution of the Outcomes Framework, the Council must undertake the following consultation:
 - (a) in the case of a variation determined by the Minister to be a minor variation—
 - (i) consultation with the Commissioner; and
 - (ii) such other consultation as may be required by the Minister;
 - (b) in any other case—the consultation required by section 57(4)(b) of the Act and subregulation (3) in the preparation of the Outcomes Framework.
- (6) Pursuant to section 57(5) of the Act, the Child Development Council must review the Outcomes Framework at least once in each 3 year period.