

**Media Release: 31 August 2018**

**National Child Protection Week launches in Canberra on 3 September  
with National Forum on Preventing Child Abuse**

National Child Protection Week starts annually on Fathers' Day each September (Sunday 2nd - Saturday 8th September this year) to support the message that 'Protecting children is everyone's business'.

NAPCAN's Patron, Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove is also a proud supporter of National Child Protection Week.

"All children should be able to grow up feeling safe and loved - to have opportunities and encouragement to make their dreams come true. Sadly, for too many, this is not the case. And, it is up to individuals, families, communities, businesses and governments, to work together to stop child abuse and neglect from happening," he said.

"Protecting children is everyone's business. We can do this by being part of a caring, local community. Watching out for all children, not just your own. Listening to, and believing, children. Supporting parents rather than judging them. Being friendly and kind to families. And standing up for the rights and well being of children."

"This year it is my honour, once again, to officially launch National Child Protection Week.

"Let's all take this opportunity to stop and reflect on how we can ensure every child has a safe, loving and fulfilling childhood. Because protecting children is everyone's business."

National Child Protection Week is organised by NAPCAN - the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and includes campaigns and activities across the nation to engage all members of community in the important job of keeping children safe and well.

This year's official launch is organised in partnership with ARACY - the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth.

**What:** National Play Your Part Awards Presentation and Q&A Forum

**When:** 10.30am - 1pm, Monday 3 September

**Where:** Department of Education Theatre, 50 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra

**Speakers:**

- Alasdair Roy OAM, Churchill Fellow and ARACY Middle Years Network Convenor
- Natalie Lewis, CEO, QATSICPP, and Co-chair of Family Matters
- Professor Daryl Higgins, Director, Institute of Child Protection Studies
- Lesley Taylor, National Manager Prevention Strategies and NT Manager, NAPCAN

During National Child Protection Week from 2 - 8 September, each state and territory will host its own events, including the presentation of 12 State and Territory *Play Your Part Awards*.

**National Child Protection Week is from 2 – 8 September and involves community events all around Australia. To find out what’s happening near you and when awards are being presented, visit [www.napcan.org.au](http://www.napcan.org.au)**

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