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NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK TO PUT SPOTLIGHT ON ATTITUDES

This Sunday is Father's Day, which also marks the beginning of National Child Protection Week across Australia.

The national association organising the week has called on Australians to put children first and give parents the support they need to do the important job of raising children.

NAPCAN - the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect – says surprising findings from recent research with almost 8,000 Australians suggests giving 'good parenting' advice often has the opposite affect, with vulnerable parents not seeking assistance when they feel stigmatised.

"Our language around parenting can at times be very judgmental, but we know confident parents with strong networks helps their children to thrive, so we need to focus on the best ways to support families," says Lesley Taylor, National Prevention Strategies, NAPCAN.

The National Child Protection Week campaign this year likens the journey of bringing up children to sailing a boat.

"For healthy development, children need life to be on an even keel as much as possible. But for families with challenges like poverty or stress, raising children can be like trying to sail through rough waters. We need to create safe harbours for all parents."

Creating these safe harbours is a valuable investment in prevention, before abuse and neglect occurs.

With recent research suggesting that as many as 1 in 4 Australian children are subject to abuse or neglect, NAPCAN says all of the community can play a part in getting better outcomes for kids.

"When the narrative in community is to blame parents we are robbing them and their children of the chance to thrive. Parenting is the key to unlocking children's potential, so we need to collectively support parents, realise the many circumstances families must navigate, and help ensure they can find those safe havens in a storm."

National Child Protection Week is from 1-7 September and involves community events all around Australia.

FrameWorks Institute US CEO Nat Kendall-Taylor will also deliver keynote speeches on the issue at events in Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland.

NAPCAN invites all members of the community to get involved. Visit NAPCAN's website at www.napcan.org.au for campaign resources, background information and children's activities.

Poster and artwork images available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lxtbhj624ex6z7h/AAC48QkZLclLOqNUtuLYQpw0a?dl=0>

2019 Events

Official National Child Protection Week events will be held throughout Australia. Media are welcome to attend the following events or to request interviews with key speakers listed. For more details about events, contact Helen Fogarty on 0410 541997.

[Events open to media](#)

[Darwin](#) (2 Sept)

- Annette Michaux, Parenting Research Centre
- Shanti Raman, Paediatrician and NAPCAN Board Director

[Alice Springs](#) (3 Sept)

- Annette Michaux, Parenting Research Centre
- Shanti Raman, Paediatrician and NAPCAN Board Director
- Shirleen Campbell, Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group

Sydney (3 Sept) (closed event - media by arrangement)

- NAPCAN
- Every Child Campaign
- Parenting Research Centre

Melbourne (4 Sept) (closed event - media by arrangement)

- Anne Hollonds, Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Lesley Taylor, NAPCAN
- Derek McCormack, Parenting Research Centre

[Hobart](#) (4 Sept)

- Nat Kendall-Taylor, CEO FrameWorks Institute US
- Annette Michaux, Parenting Research Centre

[Brisbane](#) (5 Sept)

- Nat Kendall-Taylor, CEO FrameWorks Institute US
- Annette Michaux, Parenting Research Centre

[Adelaide](#) (6 Sept)

- Nat Kendall-Taylor, CEO FrameWorks Institute US
- Annette Michaux, Parenting Research Centre

About NAPCAN

The National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) was founded in 1987. Its mission is to support and encourage changes in individual and community behaviour to stop child abuse and neglect before it starts. NAPCAN contributes to the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children by raising public awareness of child abuse & neglect and by developing effective prevention strategies and programs in partnership with communities.

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