

Beyond the commissions, inquiries, and reviews: we have the evidence to protect our children, now where's the action?

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EVERY CONVERSATION MATTERS

SHIFTING CONVERSATION TO ACTION

Beyond the commissions, inquiries, and reviews: we have the evidence to protect our children, now where's the action?

Presenters:

- Clare Walker Campaigns & communications Manager, NAPCAN - moderator
- Matt Tyler Associate Professor, Monash University
- Kate Fitz-Gibbon Professor, Monash University
- Shona Reid Chief Executive, Aboriginal Family Support Services

In this webinar on **Monday 7 September 2026** the speakers discussed:

- **Turning evidence into action** - Moving beyond inquiries and recommendations to sustained implementation, accountability and change.
- **Prevention and early intervention** - Acting earlier to support children, young people and families before harm reaches crisis point.
- **Children's voices and participation** - Ensuring children and young people are not only heard, but meaningfully influence decisions that affect them.
- **Child-centred and shared systems** - Building services and systems around children's needs, with genuine partnership and shared decision-making.

Overview

This webinar explored a central challenge in child protection: Australia has extensive evidence, inquiries, reviews and recommendations, but too often this knowledge has not translated into sustained action or better outcomes for children and young people. The discussion reflected on where progress has been made, while examining the barriers that continue to prevent evidence from becoming meaningful systems change.

Speakers discussed the importance of recognising children and young people as victim survivors in their own right, strengthening genuine shared decision-making with Aboriginal communities, improving accountability and investment, and ensuring services are designed

around the needs and experiences of children rather than expecting them to navigate adult-focused systems.

The conversation also highlighted practical opportunities across prevention, early intervention, response, recovery and healing including specialist services for children and young people, stronger workforce capability, long-term therapeutic support, safe housing and better pathways for young people leaving out-of-home care.

A strong theme throughout was the need to move beyond consultation towards genuine influence and action, ensuring children and young people are not simply asked for their views, but can see how their experiences and perspectives contribute to decisions and change.

Speaker quotes

- “Children's voices isn't just about us, it's also about them and giving children the opportunity to make their own choices about how they engage with the world around them” - **Shona Reid**
- “if governments retain authority over all of these things and then invites Aboriginal organisations to participate, that is not shared decision-making” - **Shona Reid**
- We also need to facilitate public understanding that those same young people who are doing the wrong thing have first and foremost almost always been victims of violence and abuse themselves and they have not had a response to their own victimisation” - **Matt Tyler**
- “It's not about punishing parents, but it is about ensuring they've got all the tools that they need in order to support their kids without the use of physical punishment.” - **Matt Tyler**
- “I think there's got to be patience that anything worth doing is likely to take time and so stick with it and continue the efforts to evaluate and understand what's likely to work over a decent chunk of time...” - **Matt Tyler**
- “We want a system that goes, how can we intervene? How can we best support a young person at the earliest point possible to get them onto a different trajectory and that doesn't mean removing them from the home in all cases. Some children desperately want to remain within a safe home.” - **Kate Fitz-Gibbon**
- “Recovery is not linear. Children and young people will need support at different points, in different intensities and from different services over the journey. And we should make sure that that's available to them”. - **Kate Fitz-Gibbon**

Resources and links:

- [From Those Who Know: Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility](#)
- 54 Reasons Report: [From Recognition to Action](#) and [youth-friendly version](#)

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Theme

The theme for National Child Protection Week (6 - 12 September 2026) is

Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation to Action

The following sheet provides links to resources and topics that were mentioned in the above webinar, to help us **shift this conversation into action**.



Recordings & Resource Sheets for the National Child Protection Week 2026 webinars will all be available on the [NAPCAN website](https://www.napcan.org.au).

Social media tiles from the webinar are available on our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/napcan), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/napcan) or [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/napcan)

For more information, contact:

NAPCAN Campaigns and Communications Manager, Clare Walker
clare.walker@napcan.org.au



Thank you for your commitment to ensuring every child in every community has a fair go.

Child Protection Week 2026, 6-12 September

National Child Protection Week is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services