



**Child &
Family Welfare
Association of
Australia Inc.**

ABN 65 962 251 319

ADMINISTRATION &
CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Locked Bag 13
Haymarket
NSW 1240

Ph (02) 9281 8822
Fax (02) 9281 8827
cafwa@acwa.asn.au
www.cafwaa.org.au

STATE MEMBER
ORGANISATIONS

- Association of
Childrens Welfare
Agencies (NSW)
- Child & Family
Welfare Association of
South Australia
- Child & Family Welfare
Association of Tasmania
- Child, Youth &
Family Agencies
of the ACT
- Centre for Excellence
in Children & Family
Welfare, Victoria
- Children's Youth &
Family Agencies
Association (WA)
- PeakCare (Qld)

Incorporated in Victoria
No A0032610M
Registered office
Level 5,50 Market
Street,Melbourne, VIC, 3000

Media Release

Outlook grim for nation's child protection workforce

The Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia (CAFWAA) is today calling for the establishment of a national strategy to tackle a looming workforce crisis within Australia's child protection services.

The national peak body says the sector's ongoing battle to recruit and retain qualified staff is worsening as the demand for child, youth and family services rise and labour pools decline.

The outlook is grim according to CAFWAA Chair Lisa Hillan, who says future demand scenario modelling demonstrates a time to come when both government and community service organisations will no longer be able to staff services that support struggling families in need.

"Without a skilled and stable workforce, the goals of the National Child Protection Framework are doomed to fail," Ms Hillan said.

"Both major parties have a responsibility to mobilise political will to develop and fund a comprehensive national workforce development strategy that will attract and retain qualified staff.

"A failure to start addressing this crucial problem today will only result in chaos and crisis in the future, as rising numbers of notifications threaten to engulf a child protection system that is already struggling and often failing children."

CAFWAA is calling for a national Community Services workforce development strategy to be implemented that provides increased investment and continued incentives for workers, including fair and competitive salaries, comprehensive entitlements, training and career development opportunities.

"So far none of the major parties have committed to continuing to fund the involvement of the non-government sector in the implementation of the national child protection framework," Ms Hillan said.

"As people make up their mind on who to vote for this Saturday, we call on the major parties to make clear their intentions to providing resources for vulnerable children."

For information in relation to this media release, please contact CAFWAA Chairperson Lisa Hillan on 0409 847 284.

The Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia (CAFWAA) is the national peak body representing community service organisations working with vulnerable children, young people and families, including those experiencing neglect and abuse and those living in an Out of Home Care environment.