







## Our Commitments

	 <b>Hope for the future</b>	 <b>Love, connection and safety</b>	 <b>Health and wellbeing</b>	 <b>A good standard of living</b>	 <b>Environments for joy and fun</b>	 <b>Respect and acceptance</b>
<b>We will build a NSW where...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and young people's individual learning and interests are fostered through education, training and skills development which supports them to grow and prepares them for their future.</li> <li>They are supported to be independent, engage in society and to join the workforce.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and young people feel safe, loved and nurtured.</li> <li>They can connect and build friendships with others.</li> <li>They feel that they belong to a wider community, social or cultural group.</li> <li>They are free from neglect, abuse and violence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and young people's mental, physical and emotional health is nurtured and supported to enable them to flourish.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and young people are provided with the necessities they need to thrive.</li> <li>Children and young people do not live in poverty and are provided with adequate services and resources to operate in society.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and young people have spaces and opportunities to engage in activities for recreation and leisure.</li> <li>These spaces are enjoyable, welcoming and safe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and young people feel respected, accepted and included in society.</li> <li>They are part of a community that supports them to be proud of their culture, diversity and individual identity.</li> <li>They are free from discrimination, racism and structural violence.</li> </ul>
<b>Priority areas for action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stress and anxiety related to school or study.</li> <li>Lack of practical life skills resources for young people.</li> <li>Lack of employment opportunities for young people.</li> <li>Disengagement from education from early childhood to high school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bullying and cyberbullying</li> <li>Domestic and family violence</li> <li>Concerns around consent and respectful relationships</li> <li>Lack of a sense of belonging</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for children and their carers during the first 2000 days of life.</li> <li>Childhood death and accidental injury.</li> <li>Suicide and self-injury.</li> <li>Lack of informal mental health supports.</li> <li>Long waiting times for professional mental health supports.</li> <li>Lack of support for young people experiencing addiction or problematic use of alcohol and other drugs.</li> <li>COVID-19 public health response for children and young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Childhood poverty.</li> <li>Financial instability and the cost of living.</li> <li>Inability to access safe, stable and affordable accommodation.</li> <li>Youth homelessness.</li> <li>Lack of transport in regional areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of access to organised activities for socially excluded children and young people.</li> <li>Lack of safe, youth friendly and accessible spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Racism and discrimination related to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</li> <li>Overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the Youth Justice and Out-of-home care (OOHC) systems.</li> </ul>
<b>Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease the level of stress and anxiety related to school or study.</li> <li>Increase access to practical life skills resources.</li> <li>Decrease difficulty for young people in finding work.</li> <li>Increase the number of young people in employment, education or training.</li> <li>Increase engagement in learning and education, including early childhood education and transition to school.</li> <li>Decrease school exclusion and suspensions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease the prevalence of bullying (including cyberbullying).</li> <li>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing domestic or family violence.</li> <li>Create cultural shift in understanding of consent and respectful relationships.</li> <li>Increase the number of children and young people reporting connection to a community, or social group outside of their family.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the proportion of women attending their first antenatal visit within the first trimester.</li> <li>Increase the proportion of children having developmental checks at age 2, 3 and 4 years.</li> <li>Decrease in deaths among infants and children.</li> <li>Decrease in childhood injury.</li> <li>Decrease in suicide for children and young people.</li> <li>Decrease in intentional self-injury among children and young people.</li> <li>Increase mental health literacy for adults who serve children and young people.</li> <li>Increase capacity for young people to provide peer mental health support.</li> <li>Decrease waiting times for professional mental health supports.</li> <li>Increase access to youth specific services to support young people who have engaged with alcohol and other drugs.</li> <li>Increase access to and uptake of COVID-19 vaccination in accordance with public health advice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease the number of children and young people living in poverty.</li> <li>Decrease the number of young people reporting financial instability.</li> <li>Decrease the number of young people reporting difficulty in finding safe, stable and affordable accommodation.</li> <li>Decrease youth homelessness.</li> <li>Increase children and young people's access to transport in regional areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase opportunities for children and young people to participate in organised recreational activities. In particular, those engaged with Youth Justice, in OOHC, refugees, asylum seekers and those living with disability.</li> <li>Increase access to child and youth friendly spaces to gather, play, and study.</li> <li>Increase the safety of public spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</li> <li>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</li> <li>Decrease in the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the OOHC system.</li> <li>Decrease in the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the Youth Justice system.</li> </ul>

## Principles underpinning this strategic plan



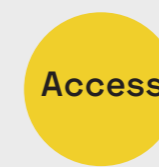
**Voice**

Children and young people must be able to meaningfully contribute to decisions made about them



**Rights**

Supports must exist to ensure our obligations to children and young people are met



**Access**

Supports must be delivered in a way that is accessible to those who need them

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Office of the Advocate for  
Children & Young People

# The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People

2022-2024

