

# A better future for *all* our children: The Why and the How



**Showcasing new evidence on the Health, Social & Economic costs of failing our most vulnerable children Exploring the elements of an evidence-informed system response.**

**Date/time:** Monday August 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00am to 1:00pm

**Location:** SAHMRI Auditorium, Adelaide

*“Purpose Drives Strategy”*  
CE Dept of Premier & Cabinet 2021

## Forum Program

Chair first session: Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, UniSA

9:15 **Open Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington** DVC Research, University of South Australia

9:20 **Professor Leonie Segal: The Why**

*The theory (causal pathways) and empirical evidence* on the impact of child abuse and neglect on early death, ED presentations, intergenerational transmission, and child development. *The case* for a new approach that prioritises infants, children, and their families. Includes a short Q & A.

10:10 **Helen Connolly: SA Commissioner for Children and Young People**

The Why? What children say about their lives and the things that matter to them.

10:25 **Thrive by Five, CEO Jay Weatherill**

The How? A focus on early childhood education.

## Break 10:40 - 11:00

Chair second session: **Penny Wright**, Guardian for Children and Young People, SA

11:00 **Professor Leonie Segal – Elements of an evidence-based response – Needs-driven early child development and parent-infant services.**

Build on SA Children’s Centres as a universal platform- to offer a response proportionate to need, with cross portfolio governance including Education, Health, Human Services, DCP. *Stretch goal* - Early childhood (<6 years), needs-adjusted model with cross jurisdictional and cross-portfolio funding and delivery. Consider other universal platforms (maternal and child health services).

11:35 **Senior Government Panel – The way forward. A whole of government approach to a needs-driven response for our infants and young children**

Health – Catherine Turnbull, Chief Child Protection Officer

Child Protection – Fiona Ward, Deputy Chief Exec. Officer, Department for Child Protection

Education (Early Childhood) – Sarah Anstey, Director Student support services.

Human Services – Alisa Willis, Director Early Intervention Research Directorate

12:15 **Contributions / Questions from the floor**

12:30 **Minister for Child Protection, The Hon. Rachel Sanderson.**

12:45 **Summary and Close**, Penny Wright, Guardian for Children and Young People, SA.

1:00 **Networking and Free Discussion**

## Professor Leonie Segal, UniSA



Professor Segal holds the Foundation Chair in Health Economics and Social Policy at the University of South Australia. Her research on the causes and consequences of child maltreatment and options for prevention is part of a broad research agenda to give voice to the more vulnerable children and families. She completed the first needs-based study of infant, child, and adolescent community mental health services, identifying a huge gap between need and services.

Professor Segal set up the iCAN (impacts of child abuse and neglect) data-linkage study to inform this research –delivering world-first findings on the disturbing impacts of child abuse and neglect on mortality, Emergency Department use and other aspects of health and wellbeing; work that is being published in top international journals such as *Lancet Public Health*, *Paediatrics* and *JAMA Open*. Her research proceeds in collaboration with SA government agencies, the NGO

sector and international colleagues to inform policy and practice. She has >200 publications and led several NHMRC and ARC research grants.

## Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington, UniSA Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research & Education

Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington is the strategic and operational leader across research activities at the University of South Australia. Her role is to design and deliver approaches that help staff and research students alike to engage with industry, government and community to deliver novel and transformational solutions to problems, and to change the ways that we think about the world.

A philosopher and historian who seeks to explain why histories and historical thinking play an important role in making a good, fair and just world, she has seven books and \$18 million in grant to her name. Outside of the University of South Australia, she serves on the Rhodes Trust Scholarships Governance Committee—which looks after over 100 scholarships worldwide.



## Helen Connolly, Commissioner for Children and Young People

Helen Connolly is the inaugural Commissioner for Children and Young People for South Australia.

Helen advocates at a systemic level to improve the development and wellbeing of South Australian children and young people, directly engaging with them to seek their views on how to promote and protect their rights and interests and support their participation in decision making.

## The Hon. Jay Weatherill

The Honourable Jay Weatherill AO is the CEO of Thrive by Five at Minderoo Foundation. Jay was Premier of SA for over 6 years and Minister for 16 years in portfolios including Early Childhood.

Jay holds Law and Economics degrees from the University of Adelaide, is an Industry Professor at the University of South Australia and an Ambassador for Reggio Children. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 2021 Australia Day Honours list for his work in early childhood.



## Penny Wright, SA Guardian for Children and Young People

Penny Wright is Guardian for Children and Young People and Training Centre Visitor. She advocates for – and promotes the rights of – children and young people who are under the care of DCP, or detained in the Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice facility, or – sadly – both.

Penny is a lawyer and a former Senator. She welcomes the use of good evidence that would support families to keep their kids safe and well and living at home with them, where they should be.

## Fiona Ward, Deputy Chief Executive, Department for Child Protection (SA)

Fiona Ward is the Deputy Chief Executive, Department for Child Protection and was appointed in April 2017.

Fiona has a strong record in strategic policy at a senior executive level, driving organisational change, leading intergovernmental negotiations, embedding accountability frameworks and building key partnerships.

Fiona has been responsible for the successful delivery of major projects including in child protection and Aboriginal affairs and has experience in building successful collaborations across the health, early intervention and domestic violence sectors.





## Catherine Turnbull, Chief Child Protection Officer

Catherine Turnbull is the Chief Child Protection Officer, SA Department for Health and Wellbeing – a newly established role leading the governance, models of care and practice reforms recommended in the ZED Report (2021) on Child Protection Services across SA Health. Catherine liaises with consumers, clinicians, government and non-government agencies, consults with health professional associations/boards, key stakeholders including the Commissioner for Children and Young People, the Guardian for Children and Young People in Care, and Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People.

## The Hon. Rachel Sanderson MP

Rachel Sanderson was elected to the South Australian Parliament as the Member for Adelaide in 2010 and was appointed as the Minister for Child Protection in the Marshall Government, in March 2018.

Over the years, Rachel served as a Shadow Minister in the portfolios of Families and Child Protection; Social Housing; Volunteers; Youth; and Higher Education, Science and the Information Economy.

Rachel is passionate about helping people and is a member and volunteer of many community organisations in her electorate including Meals on Wheels, the Prospect Blair Athol Lions Club, Hutt Street Centre, the CWA, Rotary and Neighbourhood Watch.



## Dr Alisa Willis, Director Early Intervention Research Directorate

Alisa Willis is the Director of the Early Intervention Research Directorate and has had a 20-year career in social work, policy and senior management in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the Philippines. She holds a Master's in Social Work and a PhD in Public Policy in which she studied the resilience of street involved children in Manila, Philippines. When not working, Alisa can be found at home with her partner and 2 rambunctious but delightful children.

## Sarah Anstey, Director of Student Support Services, Department for Education

Sarah Anstey is an Occupational Therapist by background and has worked across health and education settings in leadership positions. Currently Sarah is working as the Director of Student Support Services, where she leads multi-disciplinary teams state-wide to support children and young people with additional needs. She is passionate about continuous quality improvement and committed to working collaboratively both within and across agencies to support the best outcomes for children and young people and their families

