

**ACaFSA**

Australian Child and  
Family Supports Alliance

**ACaFSA**

**2025**

**IMPACT  
REPORT**



# ABOUT

## ACaFSA

The Australian Child and Family Supports Alliance (ACaFSA) is a national collaborative of leaders and subject matter experts working to strengthen outcomes for children aged 0–9 with developmental concerns, delays, disabilities and differences, and their families. ACaFSA provides strategic advice, sector leadership and system-level influence to support the design and implementation of an integrated child and family support system across Australia.

Our alliance brings together expertise from early childhood intervention, disability, peer support, child and family services, education, health, research and peak bodies to drive collaboration, evidence-informed policy and system reform.

# OUR

# MEMBERSHIP

ACaFSA represents a diverse and nationally connected network:

54

**MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

70

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Representation across all Australian states and territories.

Cross-sector expertise including:

- Early childhood intervention and disability
- Peer support and advocacy
- Child and family and education services
- Research and innovation
- Peak bodies
- Health services

This breadth enables AcaFSA to provide whole-system insights and act as a unifying voice across sectors working with children and families.

# GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

## ACaFSA operates through:

- A Steering Group providing strategic direction and oversight
- Co-Chairs leading representation and coordination
- Core Members contributing to workplan activities and collaboration
- Associate Members supporting consultation and sector alignment
- Secretariat support provided by The Front Project

This structure has enabled stronger coordination, improved decision-making and clearer pathways for member engagement.

# STRATEGIC

## OBJECTIVES

In 2025, ACaFSA focused on four core priorities:

**1**

Exchanging information and deepening collaboration

**2**

Influencing policy and driving systems reform

**3**

Facilitating collaborative work

**4**

Strengthening governance

# OUR

## IMPACT 2025

### 1

## Information Exchange and National Collaboration

ACaFSA continued to strengthen sector connectivity and shared learning across jurisdictions.

Key activities included:

- Fortnightly national member meetings
- ACaFSA National Online Forum (June 2025)
- Collaboration with state alliances including:
  - VCaFSA,
  - SAEFSA,
  - CAFSA NSW,
  - WA Collaborative
- Contribution to the Highlighting Difference, Inclusion and Foundational Supports report
- Ongoing national knowledge sharing and communication

### **IMPACT:**

**ACaFSA strengthened cross-jurisdiction collaboration, reduced fragmentation and improved sector alignment around inclusion and foundational supports.**



## OUR IMPACT 2025

### 2

## Policy Influence and Systems Reform

ACaFSA played a significant national role in shaping early childhood policy reform through bringing together children, families and ACaFSA members.

Key contributions included:

- Hosted the *Thriving Kids* Parliamentary Friends Forum (Canberra, October 2025)
- Led *Thriving Kids* workforce strategy discussions
- Provided deep-dive expertise through *Thriving Kids* advisory processes
- Direct engagement with the Office of Minister Butler
- Participation in an Early Years Alliance workshop convened by Minderoo that was a coming together of ACAFSA and Thrive by Five.
- Engagement with National Child and Family Hubs initiative
- National submissions including:
  - *Thriving Kids* inquiry submission
  - Insights and summary report from national forum
- Participation in Disability Support Ecosystem safeguarding reform consultation

### IMPACT:

ACaFSA strengthened its role as a national policy influencer, ensuring the voice of children, families and early childhood services informed major national reforms.

# OUR IMPACT 2025

## 3

### Enabling Collaborative Work

ACaFSA facilitated practical collaboration across members to address systemic issues.

Key initiatives included:

- NDIA Advocacy Working Group (ongoing)
- NDIS Travel Working Group (time-limited reform focus)
- Development of shared national insights paper
- Foundational Supports Theory of Change
- Inclusion and Foundational Supports papers.

#### **IMPACT:**

**These collaborations enabled coordinated advocacy, shared evidence and collective action to influence national disability and child support systems.**

## 4

### Strengthening Governance

ACaFSA established a stronger foundation for national collaboration and influence.

Key achievements included:

- Established a formal membership model
- Strengthened governance structure and decision-making
- Secured secretariat support through The Front Project
- Developed a draft Terms of Reference
- Hosted a national strategic planning session
- Developed shared key messaging framework for unified advocacy

#### **IMPACT:**

**These actions created a clearer, more sustainable alliance structure, enabling ACaFSA to operate with greater cohesion, transparency and strategic alignment.**

# WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

ACaFSA continues to build towards measurable national impact across four domains:

1. Policy Influence
2. Membership and Engagement
3. National Collaboration
4. Sector Leadership

## 1. POLICY INFLUENCE

- Regular parliamentary engagement
- National submissions annually
  - Representation on key national advisory groups

## 2. MEMBERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

- Strong national membership base
- High member participation
  - Regular alliance meetings

## 3. NATIONAL COLLABORATION

- Representation from every state and territory
  - Cross-jurisdiction collaboration forums
    - Joint national position statements

## 4. SECTOR LEADERSHIP

- Annual national policy briefing at Parliament House
- Recognised national voice influencing government consultation



# LOOKING AHEAD

**In 2026, ACaFSA will build on the progress of 2025 by:**

- Continuing to strengthen governance and national coordination
- Advancing systems reform through collaborative policy leadership
- Deepening cross-jurisdiction collaboration
- Expanding influence across early childhood, disability and family support systems
- Delivering a strategic action plan aligned to national priorities

# CONCLUSION

**In 2025, ACaFSA strengthened its foundations, expanded national collaboration and significantly increased its policy and systems influence.**

Through collective leadership and shared commitment, the alliance continues to play a critical role in shaping an integrated, inclusive and effective system for children and families across Australia.