



**Government of South Australia**

Office of the Guardian  
for Children and Young People

# Strategic Plan 2011-2015

*promote*

*advocate*

*monitor*

*advise*

*inquire*

*investigate*

*organisational capability*

*promote*

*advocate*

*monitor*

*advise*

*inquire*

*investigate*

*organisational capability*

*function*

PROMOTE the interests of children under the guardianship, or in the custody, of the Minister, and in particular those in alternative care.

PROMOTE the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people through, among other things, sound information sharing about families' needs.

*intent*

We will start from the positive, the possible and strengths.

We will ensure the voice of children and young people informs our work.

We will be mindful of the responsibility, independence and reach of our office.

*goals*

Action is prompt on issues that impact on the safety and well being of children and young people.

Effective early intervention services for high need families ensure only those who need state care are taken into care.

Responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is shared.

*action*

Promote the rights of children in care as expressed in the Charter of Rights.

Promote and monitor good information sharing among agencies when children are at risk.

Engage children and young people in our work through whatever avenue we can.

Through a range of media, share the knowledge we have.

*promote*

*advocate*

*monitor*

*advise*

*inquire*

*investigate*

*organisational capability*

## *function*

Act as an ADVOCATE for the interests of children under the guardianship, or in the custody of the Minister, and, in particular, for any such child who has suffered, or is alleged to have suffered, sexual abuse.

## *intent*

The views of children and young people will be sought wherever possible and included in our advocacy work.

We will be caring, brave and tenacious in our advocacy and also respectful of the challenges others face.

## *goals*

More children and young people in care feel good, are safe and cared for, get help, understand and have a say.

Allegations of sexual abuse of children in care are investigated promptly.

## *action*

Through outreach activity we ensure that children and young people who need individual advocacy receive it.

Through the advice we provide we ensure that what we hear and see results in systemic change.

Work with the police, public prosecution and DFC investigators to ensure that children involved in investigations of sexual abuse in care have an advocate and that investigations are conducted in a timely manner.

promote  
advocate

**monitor**

advise

inquire

investigate

organisational capability

## *function*

MONITOR the circumstances of children under the guardianship, or in the custody of, the Minister.

## *intent*

Our monitoring will produce reliable evidence.

We will create confidential, safe space for honest and robust interactions.

## *goals*

Know what is happening for children and young people in care.

Identify and promote what is working well.

Identify weaknesses in the child protection system.

## *action*

With a range of strategies that give us direct knowledge of what is happening to children, we report on systemic issues based on what we hear and see.

We also discuss some systemic issues with the young people who work closely with our office as youth advisors or members of the advisory committee.

*promote  
advocate  
monitor*

*advise*

*inquire  
investigate  
organisational capability*

## *function*

Provide ADVICE to the Minister on the quality of the provision of care for children under the guardianship, or in the custody of, the Minister and on whether the children's needs are being met.

## *intent*

We will seek others' perspectives and then act decisively.

## *goals*

Advice results in action on critical issues for groups of children and young people.

The Minister and others have confidence in the advice provided.

## *action*

Report regularly to the Minister and others with advice on policy or practice issues.

Cooperate with others and respond to requests for advice, to pass on our knowledge and views.

*promote  
advocate  
monitor  
advise*

## ***inquire***

*investigate  
organisational capability*

### *function*

INQUIRE into, and provide advice to the Minister in relation to, systemic reform necessary to improve the quality of care provided for children in alternative care.

### *intent*

We will ensure that reform builds on the strengths in people and the system.

Inquiries will be independent, thorough and inclusive.

### *goals*

Inquiries result in systemic reform that is long-standing.

### *action*

Hold at least one major inquiry each year.

*promote  
advocate  
monitor  
advise  
inquire*

***investigate***

*organisational capability*

*function*

INVESTIGATE and report to the Minister on matters referred to the Guardian by the Minister.

*intent*

Investigations will be independent, thorough and inclusive.

*goals*

Investigations result in practical recommendations that are acted on.

*action*

Respond to requests for advice and investigate matters where we have the resources to do so thoroughly.

promote  
advocate  
monitor  
advise  
inquire  
investigate

## *organisational capability*

*function*

Organisational capability.

*intent*

We will look for opportunities to do even better.

We are playful and creative in our work and encourage innovation.

*goals*

The mechanics of the office are straightforward and efficient.

All staff are skilled, well managed and supported to achieve.

*action*

We regularly review office policies and procedures, and act on issues or gaps promptly.

Through a range of actions staff have opportunity to learn and to provide feedback.