

Foreword

The staff of the National Child Protection Clearinghouse have led the movement in this country to close the gap between what we know and what we do in child protection. For this reason, the newly established Australian Centre for Child Protection was very pleased to be able to commission the Clearinghouse to undertake this Audit as its very first priority.

We hope that policy makers, practitioners, researchers and community members will make full use this most valuable document which pulls together the diverse research which has been done in Australia in relation to preventing, identifying and responding to child abuse and neglect.

We are delighted with the prospect that the Australian Institute of Family Studies will use the database created for this project as an ongoing resource for the research community and service sector. This will enable new research being undertaken to be identified and disseminated.

The time is now ripe for a new partnership between funders of research, researchers, policy makers, managers and practitioners. It will require resources such as money and skills, but the most important resource will be the best we can find within ourselves to work together. We all have our individual and institutional interests and imperatives, but working with one another is the only hope for the most vulnerable children and families in our society.

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