

Co-located Child Protection Practitioners

PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR FAMILY LAW INFORMATION SHARING

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. This Schedule has been developed in accordance with subclause 13(a) of the Project Agreement for Family Law Information Sharing (the Agreement) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement.
2. This Schedule will commence as soon as the Commonwealth and one other Party sign it and will expire on 30 June 2022, or on completion of the project, including final performance reporting and processing of final payments against the milestones.

PART 2 – PROJECT OUTPUTS

3. The outputs of this Schedule will be the establishment and operation of co-located child protection practitioners at, or around, agreed family law court locations.
 - i. Where the family law courts have office space to provide for the co-located practitioner, they will be primarily based at that agreed family law court location.
 - ii. If there is no office space available at the court, the practitioner will be primarily based at an office near to the agreed court location and be available to attend the court location in person, as required.
 - iii. For Queensland, practitioners will interact with the three regional court locations in Queensland (Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton), be based at an office near the regional court locations and, where necessary, travel to the other locations based on workload.
 - iv. The co-located child protection practitioners supported by the Agreement and the locations in which they will be based are listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Agreed locations for the co-location of child protection practitioners

Jurisdiction	Family law court locations
New South Wales	Sydney Family Law Courts
	Parramatta Family Law Courts
	Wollongong Family Law Courts
	Newcastle Family Law Courts
Victoria	Melbourne Family Law Courts
	Dandenong Family Law Courts
Queensland	Brisbane Family Law Courts
	Cairns Family Law Courts
	Rockhampton Family Law Courts
	Townsville Family Law Courts
Western Australia	Family Court of Western Australia, Perth
South Australia	Adelaide Family Law Courts
Tasmania	Hobart Family Law Courts

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	Launceston Family Law Courts
The Australian Capital Territory	Canberra Family Law Courts

4. The agreed locations may be varied bilaterally by written agreement between the Commonwealth and the relevant state. The bilateral variation of agreed locations may occur in writing between appropriately delegated senior officials of the Commonwealth and states.
5. The Parties acknowledge the functions performed by the co-located practitioners will be limited to the family law court registries stipulated in **Table 1**, unless the co-located practitioners identify capacity to expand support options to other registries.
6. The Parties acknowledge that the functions performed by the co-located child protection practitioners may change or expand over the course of the Agreement, subject to capacity and the agreement of the relevant agency (employing the child protection practitioners) and family law court officials.

Role of co-located practitioners

7. The role of the co-located child protection practitioners will be to:
 - (a) improve the flow of information between the family law courts and state and child protection agencies, and
 - (b) promote more collaborative working relationships between family law professionals and child protection practitioners.
8. The Parties acknowledge that the establishment of co-located child protection practitioners is not intended to replace the need for the family law courts, child welfare agencies and other stakeholders to otherwise contribute towards appropriate information sharing and cooperative practices for addressing family safety concerns.

Functions performed by co-located practitioners

9. To perform their role, the co-located child protection practitioners may undertake the following functions, where lawfully permitted, including (but not limited to):
 - (a) assisting in coordinating responses to notices of risk of abuse received from the family law courts;
 - (b) assisting with urgent applications to be heard by the family law courts on an *ex parte* basis (principally applications for recovery orders);
 - (c) facilitating information sharing between child protection departments and the family law court, particularly in high-risk cases;
 - (d) collaborating with family consultants and assisting independent children's lawyers to gather family safety information;
 - (e) supporting the seamless referral of matters by child protection departments to the family law courts;
 - (f) enhancing collaborative interagency working relationships and mutual cooperation; and
 - (g) sharing information to inform independent child and parenting assessments in both the child protection and family law jurisdictions.

10. The functions outlined in Clause 9 will be performed in line with relevant legislation and in accordance with any applicable agreements and memoranda concerning information sharing arrangements between state agencies and the family law courts.

PART 3 – PROJECT MILESTONES, REPORTING AND PAYMENTS

11. The project milestones relating to co-located child protection practitioners and their relationship to the outputs, expected completion dates, relevant reporting dates and expected payments are set out in **Table 2**.
12. The Commonwealth will make payments subject to the submission of an annual performance report demonstrating that the relevant milestone has been met.

Table 2: Performance Requirements, Reporting and Payment Summary

Output	Milestones	Report Due	Payment
The establishment and operation of co-located child protection practitioners at the agreed family law court locations.	Establishment of co-located child protection practitioners at agreed family law court locations.	January 2020	100% of the state’s 2019-20 child protection allocation
	Operation of co-located child protection practitioners from establishment to June 2020.	July 2020	Nil
	Operation of co-located child protection practitioners from July 2020 to April 2021.	May 2021	100% of the state’s 2020-21 child protection allocation
	Operation of co-located child protection practitioners from May 2021 to April 2022.	May 2022	100% of the state’s 2021-22 child protection allocation

13. A state must meet a milestone in the corresponding financial year for a payment to be made to that state. If a milestone is met in advance of the due date, where the relevant performance report demonstrates that the milestone has been met, the Commonwealth may make the associated payment earlier than scheduled, provided it falls within the same financial year as the original milestone date.

Reporting Arrangements

14. The states will provide performance reports in accordance with **Table 2** during the operation of the Agreement. Each performance report is to contain a description of actual performance in the period to date against the project milestones.
15. The performance report relating to the establishment of the co-located child protection practitioners, is to contain the following information:
 - (a) confirmation of successful establishment of child protection practitioners at, or around, all agreed family law court locations in the relevant state; and

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- (b) information about the intended model for operation of the co-located child protection practitioner (or practitioners), including any unresolved issues or challenges encountered during establishment.
16. The performance reports relating to the operation of the co-located child protection practitioners for the prescribed reporting periods are to contain the following information:
- (a) confirmation of the ongoing operation of the co-located child protection practitioner (or practitioners) at, or around, the agreed family law court locations;
- (b) contextual information about how the role is operating, such as the functions being performed; issues encountered; and any areas for improvement identified;
- (c) any other collaborative activities which the co-located child protection practitioner (or practitioners) is engaged in; and
- (d) a de-identified case study from the reporting period, demonstrating outcomes achieved with the assistance of the co-located child protection practitioner (or practitioners).
17. States will provide a final performance report for 1 May 2022 to 30 June 2022 by no later than 31 July 2022.

PART 4 – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

18. The Commonwealth will provide an estimated financial contribution to the states of \$8.4 million in respect to this Agreement. All payments are GST exclusive.
19. The Commonwealth’s funding contribution will not be reduced where the states secure funding from other activity partners.
20. The Commonwealth’s and the states’ estimated financial contributions to the operation of this Schedule of the Agreement, including through National Partnership payments to the states are to be paid in accordance with *Schedule D – Payment Arrangements* of the IGA FFR, as shown in **Table 3** below.

Table 3: Estimated financial contributions to states for co-located child protection practitioners

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
Estimated total budget	2.078	2.112	2.144	6.334
New South Wales	0.472	0.479	0.486	1.437
Victoria	0.312	0.317	0.322	0.951
Queensland	0.568	0.577	0.586	1.731
Western Australia	0.296	0.301	0.305	0.902
South Australia	0.088	0.090	0.091	0.269
Tasmania	0.208	0.212	0.215	0.635
Australian Capital Territory	0.134	0.136	0.139	0.409

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Less estimated National Partnership Payments	2.078	2.112	2.144	6.334
Balance of non- Commonwealth contributions	0	0	0	0

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by

The Honourable Christian Porter MP

Commonwealth Attorney-General

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the state of New South Wales by

Signed for and on behalf of the state of Victoria by

The Honourable Gareth Ward MP

Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services

[Day] [Month] [Year]

The Honourable Luke Donnellan MP

Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the state of Queensland by

Signed for and on behalf of the state of Western Australia by

The Honourable Dianne (Di) Farmer MP

Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women

[Day] [Month] [Year]

The Honourable Simone McGurk MLA

Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the state of South Australia by

Signed for and on behalf of the state of Tasmania by

The Honourable Rachel Sanderson MP

Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

The Honourable Roger Jaensch MP

Minister for Human Services

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory by

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

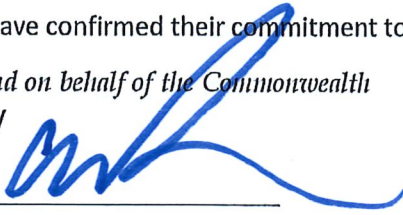
Minister for Children, Youth and Families

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Schedule A: Co-located Child Protection Practitioners

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by



The Honourable Christian Porter MP
Commonwealth Attorney-General

[Day] [Month] [Year]

11 . 01 . 2020

Signed for and on behalf of the
state of New South Wales by

Signed for and on behalf of the
state of Victoria by

The Honourable Gareth Ward MP
Minister for Families, Communities and Disability
Services

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the
state of Queensland by

The Honourable Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

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state of Western Australia by

The Honourable Dianne (Di) Farmer MP
Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the
state of South Australia by



The Honourable Rachel Sanderson MP
Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

7/1/2020

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by

The Honourable Simone McGurk MLA
Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the
state of Tasmania by

The Honourable Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Human Services

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Children, Youth and Families

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Schedule A: Co-located Child Protection Practitioners

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by*

The Honourable Christian Porter MP
Commonwealth Attorney-General

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
state of New South Wales by*

The Honourable Gareth Ward MP
Minister for Families, Communities and Disability
Services

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
state of Queensland by*



The Honourable Dianne (Di) Farmer MP
Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
state of South Australia by*

The Honourable Rachel Sanderson MP
Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by*

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Children, Youth and Families

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
state of Victoria by*

The Honourable Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
state of Western Australia by*

The Honourable Simone McGurk MLA
Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
state of Tasmania by*

The Honourable Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Human Services

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Schedule A: Co-located Child Protection Practitioners

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by

The Honourable Christian Porter MP
Commonwealth Attorney-General

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the state of New South Wales by

The Honourable Gareth Ward MP
Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the state of Queensland by

The Honourable Dianne (Di) Farmer MP
Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the state of South Australia by

The Honourable Rachel Sanderson MP
Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory by

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Children, Youth and Families

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the state of Victoria by

The Honourable Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

17/12/2019

Signed for and on behalf of the state of Western Australia by

The Honourable Simone McGurk MLA
Minister for Child Protection

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the state of Tasmania by

The Honourable Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Human Services

[Day] [Month] [Year]