



CAPS AU.ORG

Annual Report 2018 / 2019



Safe. Supported. Loved.



Our story began when nurse and mother Dorothy Ginn began volunteering at the Wayside Chapel in King's Cross.

About CAPS

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Founded in 1973, the Child Abuse Prevention Service is the oldest child abuse prevention organisation in Australia. Our story began when nurse and mother Dorothy Ginn began volunteering at the Wayside Chapel in King's Cross.

There she helped to care for runaway children and people struggling with addiction. Through this work she began to notice that childhood maltreatment and neglect were often the root cause of the trauma being experienced by the people in her care.

One day Dorothy encountered a distressed man in the chapel. His wife had killed their baby that morning. He asked her "Where do you go when something like this is happening, before it's too late?"

Dorothy would soon have the answer. She and a handful of other volunteers went on to found Prevention, the first-ever organisation in Australia dedicated to preventing all forms of child abuse.

Today, we are just known as CAPS. We are a non-government, non-religious charitable organisation. Our vision is simple but powerful, it is that "Every child is safe, supported and loved".

We provide evidence-based educational programs, counselling, bespoke solutions and consulting to build child well-being, emotional resiliency and forever break the cycle of abuse.



CEO's Message

It is with a great sense of privilege that I was appointed CEO of CAPS in April 2019. It is an exciting period of growth, rebirth and change for CAPS while holding on to the core values that we have held since 1973.

In partnership with the board and my skilled team we have enjoyed a year of consolidating our existing evidence-based program work, combined with strategising about the many opportunities ahead. We have never been more clear, or invigorated by our vision that 'every

child is safe, supported and loved'.

Being the oldest child abuse prevention organisation in Australia comes with a great deal of responsibility and with that in mind, the year ahead will be one where we will honour our past but look to a new chapter where we will grow our partnerships and voice in the child abuse sector.

The board also made a decision to prioritise the rights of children who experience childhood domestic violence by officially auspicing the campaign CDVA (Childhood Domestic Violence Australia).

And most importantly, CAPS is committed to all of our work being underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and the latest research at the national and international level.

We will also be measuring the impact of our own work in partnership with research colleagues such as the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research. We look forward to growing our partner base and foresee a big year ahead in the community movement to end all forms of violence and abuse against children everywhere.

Tracy McLeod Howe

Chair's Message



CAPS has always been an organisation which is nimble and innovative, ready to try new programs or form new partnerships, to ensure we can better serve children.

This year was no different, with our Safe Children, Safe Families program being delivered across NSW and the development of two exciting new programs - Child

Safe Leaders and Safe Arrival.

We also welcomed our inaugural CEO, Tracy McLeod Howe, whose passion for supporting children has had immediate impacts on the services offered by CAPS and the organisations with which we partner.

We have formed alliances with Childhood Domestic Violence Australia and the Ingham Institute and we expect more collaborations to evolve in the near future.

We cannot achieve this reach and outcomes without the support of our dedicated staff, generous volunteers and financial supporters. CAPS is blessed to receive the contributions of so many and we remain ever grateful for this support.

Thank you for being on this journey with us and we look forward to another year working together.

Andrew Grech



What we do

Child Safe Leaders

We work with organisations of all sizes to help them understand their child safety obligations and create the policies needed to ensure that all children under their care are safe, happy and engaged.

Utilising a positive, strength-based approach, we make it as easy as possible for staff to better understand the child protection system and learn how to comply with reportable conduct requirements.

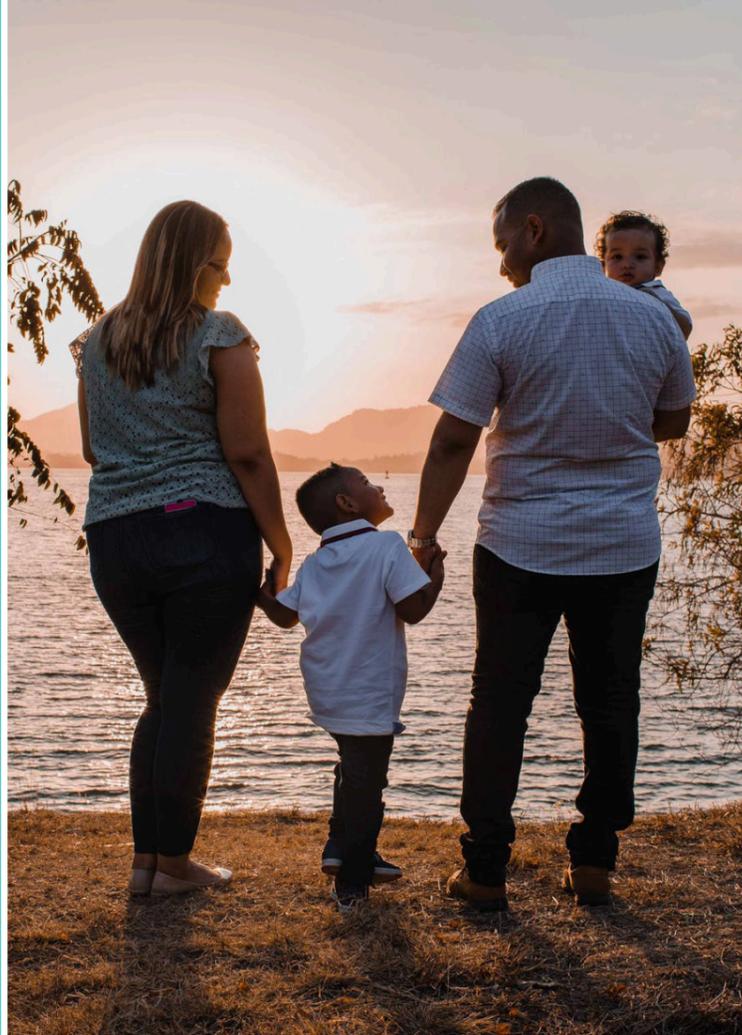
We also review all existing programs and processes that relate to children and provide expert guidance on what needs to be done to embed a child safe culture at the heart of the organisation.

Safe Children, Safe Families

Delivered in preschools, our expert staff provide young children with the knowledge, skills and capabilities to avoid potentially unsafe situations and to get help sooner if they do experience maltreatment.

Parents are taught to recognise the early signs of abuse and how they can build strong support networks around their children. Childcare staff learn about child safety strategies, reportable conduct, and how to apply risk-reducing practices at work.





Safe Arrival

Launched in 2019, the aim of Safe Arrival is to raise awareness of domestic and family violence and provide important harm prevention skills for refugee and recent immigrant women in local communities.

Through a supported playgroup setting, participants learn about the escalating nature of abuse and how to safely access the crisis services available to them.

By the end of the program this critically vulnerable cohort will be more likely to engage police at the first incidence of potential violence, therefore protecting themselves and their children from further harm.

Supported Playgroups

Delivered at early learning centres, the Supported Playgroups program has been designed to build children's social, emotional, and communication skills through educational play activities including singing, storytelling, and art and craft.

Safe Children Conference

Hosted in March 2018, the inaugural Safe Children Conference significantly elevated the profile of our organisation by providing the stage for a national discussion

about the implications of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The event brought together childcare and child protection leaders from around the country to examine the findings of the Royal Commission and help the sector to better understand what it means for their work over the years to come.

The conference attracted 240 people from 200 organisations to hear from Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald AM, along with other guest speakers including former Federal Minister for Social Services, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, NSW Children's Guardian Janet Schorer and former NSW Ombudsman Steve Kinmond.

The overwhelming success of the event saw CAPS committing to hosting the Safe Children Conference in 2019. This ensures that the issue of child protection is given the national attention that it deserves, and that the conversation around it will continue long after the conclusion of the Royal Commission.

The 2019 Safe Children Conference, hosted on 22 October, looks beyond the Royal Commission to examine the intersectionality of child maltreatment and explore how all areas of society can work together to end abuse forever.



VISION:

Every child is safe, supported and loved



MISSION:

To create innovative, evidence-based solutions that change the lives of children in our community



Create Transformative Solutions

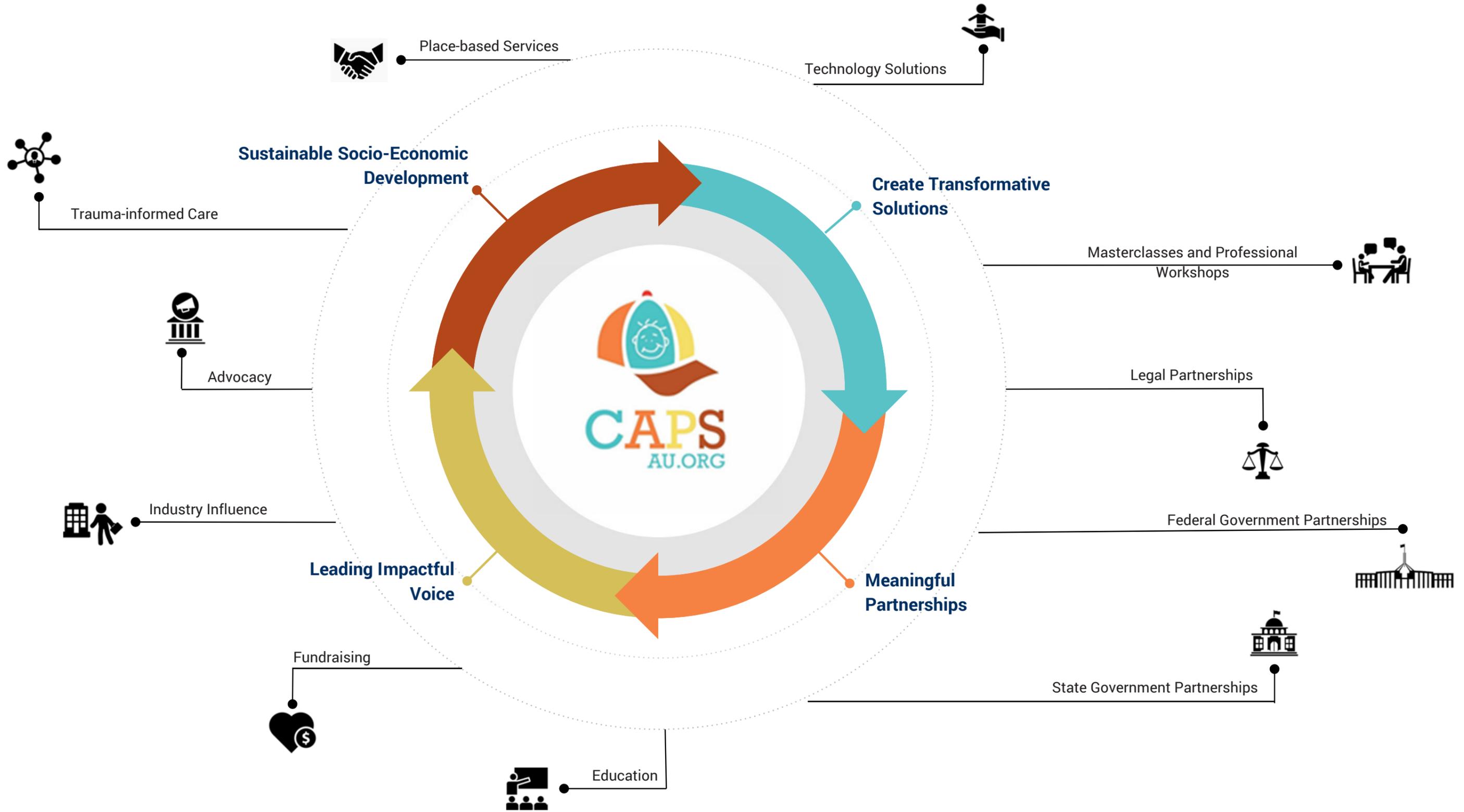
Meaningful Partnerships

Leading Impactful Voice

Sustainable Socio-Economic Development



We are informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child





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