



## Child Welfare

Australian Christians understand that children are the future hope for a robust and vibrant nation and families are the most natural environments for rearing and nurturing. However, as a vulnerable group in society children should be protected through cogent legalization and this is the foundation on which our child welfare policies have been developed.

Australian Christians value the important roles both a mother and a father serve in the development of a child and believe children have the right to have the natural diversity both male and female parent figures provide in their life. We therefore support an adoption policy that places children with parents who reflect this natural diversity.

Divorce and separation cause mental and emotional stress and social dislocation for individuals, children and extended family. Hence, Australian Christians believe that the government needs to promote healthy relationships that further the interests of the child and make every effort to honestly address the core issues facing marriages in crisis and where possible, reunite parents to provide the best opportunity for the child.

We believe the child is best served when major decisions about his/her life are made by both parents.

In order to halt the damaging effects of early sexualisation upon children, Australian Christians supports the introduction of an Online Safety Bill similar to the UK Bill introduced by Baroness Howe:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0008/16008.pdf>