



Barnardos
Australia

Safe children Supported families Hopeful futures

Strategic Directions 2026-27



CEO Message



At Barnardos, every decision we make begins with the question:

‘What difference will this make for children and young people?’

As we developed our *Strategic Directions for 2026-27*, it became clear that a Children’s Rights approach had to be at the foundation of our strategy.

The children we work with are individuals with rights, voices, strengths and aspirations. Our responsibility is to ensure those rights are respected, upheld, protected and realised in everything we do.

This approach aligns deeply with who we are as an organisation. For more than 100 years, Barnardos has stood beside children and families, advocating for safety, opportunity and belonging.

A Children’s Rights approach strengthens this commitment by ensuring children remain at the centre of our decision-making, service design, advocacy and accountability.

Our Strategic Directions are built around three Child Rights priorities

- **Listen to children’s voices**
Ensuring children know and understand their rights; that their experiences, worries, ideas, and hopes are heard; and they have meaningful opportunities to influence the services and systems that affect them.
- **Protect children from harm**
Ensuring that children’s safety is at the centre of all help provided to families and children are supported to be safe and cherished in the care of family and community.
- **Strengthen connection and recovery**
Supporting children to feel a deep sense of belonging to family, culture and safe relationships and to recover and heal by accessing therapeutic supports.

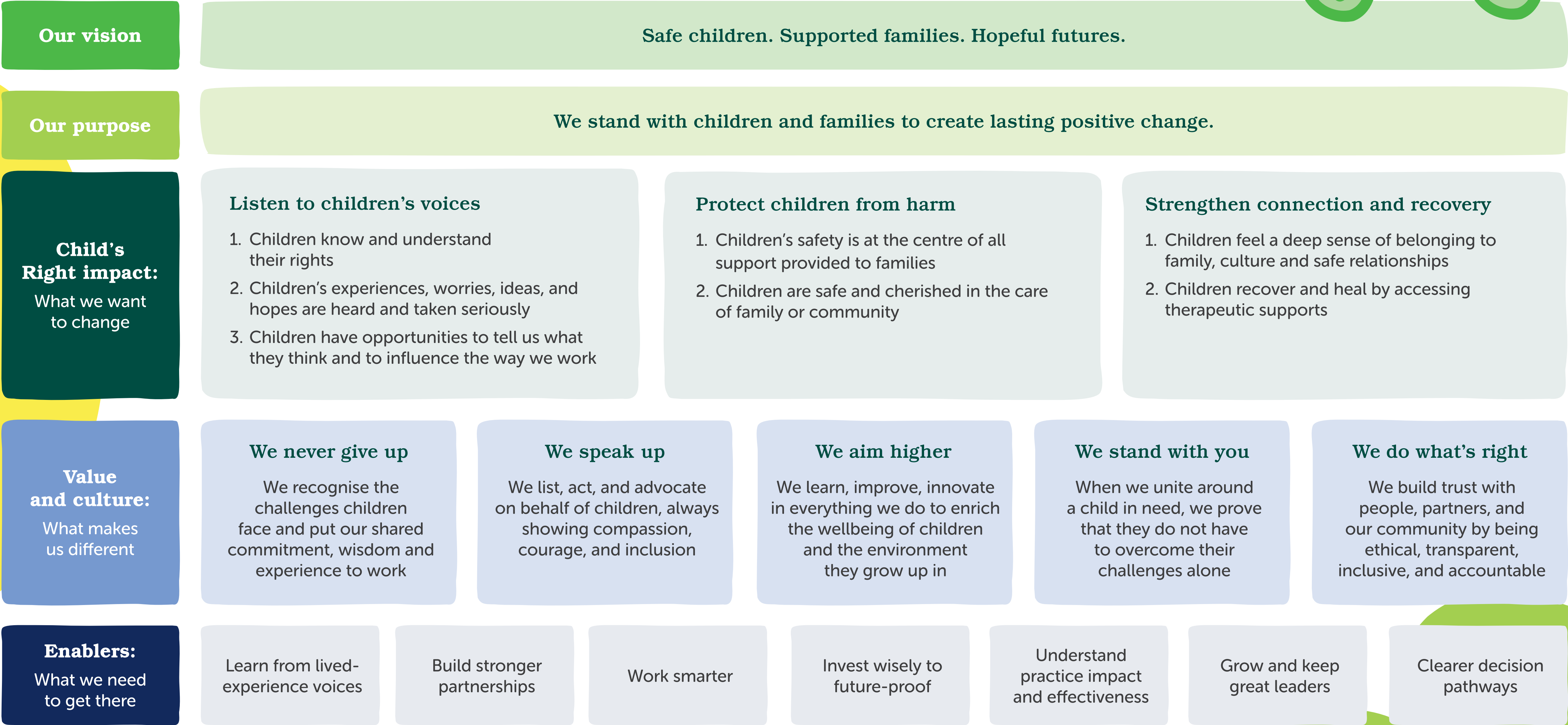
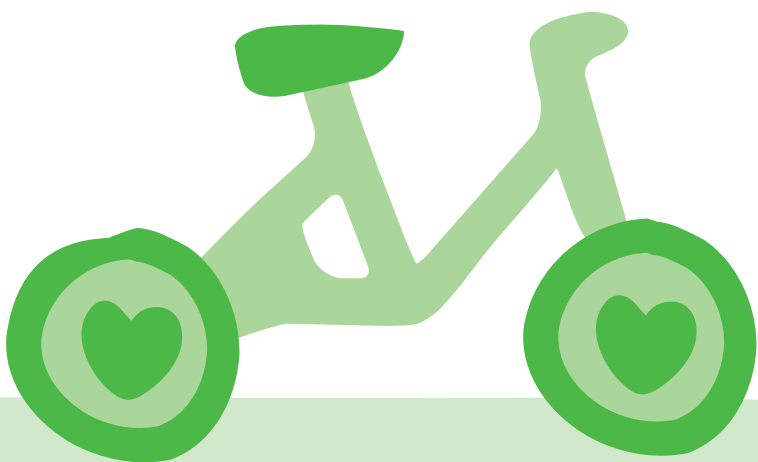
Our Children’s Rights approach gives us an even clearer pathway to achieving our vision: Safe children. Supported families. Hopeful futures.

Over the next year, this approach will guide how we listen to children, strengthen our response to violence, improve healing and recovery opportunities, and measure the difference we make.

This strategy reaffirms that children are not only at the heart of our work, but also our strategy, decisions and future.



Barnardos Australia | Strategic Directions 2026-27



Priorities | Strategic Directions 2026-27

**Child's
right impact:**
What we want
to change

Listen to children's voices

1. Children know and understand their rights
2. Children's experiences, worries, ideas, and hopes are heard and taken seriously
3. Children have opportunities to tell us what they think and to influence the way we work

Protect children from harm

1. Children's safety is at the centre of all support provided to families
2. Children are safe and cherished in the care of family or community

Strengthen connection and recovery

1. Children feel a deep sense of belonging to family, culture and safe relationships
2. Children recover and heal by accessing therapeutic supports

**Priority
initiatives:**
How we plan
on making the
change happen

- Campaign to lift practitioner knowledge and skills in enacting Children's Rights
- Pilot an approach to gather children's perspectives
- Establish a children's consult group

- Trial new child centred approaches to prevent and respond to family, domestic and sexualised violence
- Strengthen our Child and Family Hub model
- Embed Child Rights approach in all safeguarding functions

- Develop our model, evidence base and expertise in restoration
- Increase options of therapeutic supports for child, family and community healing
- Strengthen and report on our practice with Aboriginal children, families and carers



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