

2026 Advocacy snapshot: Australia

Overview of findings:



(global average: 52.6/100)

Point of recognition: Australia received the top overall score in the Index globally.

Explore Australia's full results in the 2026 Out of the Shadows Index at: outoftheshadows.global/australia

“While Australia's top ranking reflects strong legal frameworks and support services, the index measures the minimum standard: the floor, not the ceiling.”

- Professor S. Caroline Taylor AM, Survivor leader

Calls to action

**brave
movement.**

- **Lead globally by advancing action on intrafamilial sexual violence**, including through a dedicated national inquiry, such as a Royal Commission.
- **Increase budget transparency**, to make public your budgetary commitments to prevention and response programs for children, adolescents, and survivors.
- **Improve legal protections for children**, by banning corporal punishment of children in all settings and eliminating exceptions to the established legal age of marriage of 18.

Governance and accountability

88.6/100 (1st in the region)

Area of progress: Australia is one of just two countries in the Index to have a government-supported **National Survivor Council**, in this case focused on broader lived experience of domestic, family and sexual violence.

Opportunity for change:

Australia has not yet ratified or acceded to all key **international instruments** protecting children and adolescents from sexual violence. Thirteen other countries in the Index, including the UK and Germany, have ratified more instruments than Australia.

Prevention

80/100 (1st in the region)

Area of progress: Australia is one of nine countries in the Index that include comprehensive **life-skills sexual education** in their national curricula.

Opportunity for change: There is no publicly available evidence that national legislation in Australia requires **pre-service or recurring training** on sexual violence against children for general medical doctors who provide primary care to children.

Tip: Your country did not make pledges at the First Global Ministerial to End Violence Against Children in 2024. Use the Index findings to show your government where to pledge greater action at the Second Ministerial in November. Explore pledges at endviolenceagainstchildrenconference.org

Healing

70/100 (4th in the region)

Area of progress: Australia has government-funded **compensation** mechanisms in place to support victims and survivors - something only one-third of countries in the Index have instituted.

Opportunity for change:

In Australia, survivors are not automatically entitled to **legal aid**, and there is no requirement that a support person be a formal or trained representative acting on the child's behalf. Five other countries in the region have implemented these items.

Justice

85.3/100 (1st in the region)

Area of progress: Australia's national legislation **requires internet service providers to report suspected child sexual abuse material** to law enforcement or another mandated agency - a step that the majority of countries in the Index (nearly two-thirds) have not yet taken.

Opportunity for change: The Criminal Code Act 1995 criminalizes **grooming**, but the definition generally does not capture the broader pattern of conduct intended to build trust or emotional connection with a child to encourage, facilitate, or exploit the child into sexual activity.

Explore our digital advocacy tools to support your advocacy efforts at outoftheshadows.global/en/advocacy-tools

About the Out of the Shadows Index:

The Out of the Shadows Index is the global benchmark of national governments' efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children and adolescents. The Index is researched and developed by Economist Enterprise, with advocacy and engagement efforts led by Together for Girls. Learn more at outoftheshadows.global.