

11<sup>th</sup> August 2017

The Hon. Jay Weatherill MP  
The Premier of South Australia

Dear Premier

**RE: THE PEOPLE'S POLICY ON CHILD WELLBEING**

We are writing to advise you of an exciting new non-partisan initiative in the lead up to next years' election – 'The People's Policy'.

The People's Policy will be a world first for democracy, bringing together a representative group of 50 South Australian citizens and key experts to develop election policy on child well-being. The Panel will be tasked with the following questions:

***What needs to happen to increase the number of children living safely at home and to avoid the need for them to be removed from their parents and family?***

- ***What different policies and or initiatives should governments implement?***
- ***What can communities and individuals do?***

All South Australians can also have their say by giving feedback on draft ideas which will be revised and finalised as election policy recommendations by the People's Panel to present to you, the leaders of the Greens, Australian Conservatives, Dignity for Disability, the Liberal Party and SA Best in November 2017.

We know that this issue is important to you. We also know that reforming this area can be difficult for governments. We trust that by sharing evidence and giving space for deliberation, our fellow citizens can help move the public conversation beyond the headlines, to what we can all do to keep children safe in their own homes.

We would therefore like you and the Minister for Education and Child Development to have every opportunity to be involved as the work of the Panel progresses and you are welcome to join the Partners and/or to participate in the work of the Panel. Most importantly, we invite you to meet with the Panel to receive their work in mid-November (further details to be provided).

We believe the People's Panel can galvanise community action and develop innovative policy recommendations to collectively address the tragedy of increased rates of children in out of home care, despite significantly increased investments in child protection over the past decade.

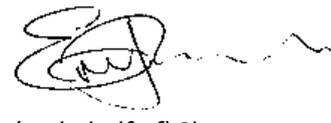
Regards



Simon Schrapel, AM, CEO  
Uniting Communities



Ross Womersley, CEO,  
SACOSS



(on behalf of) Sharron  
Williams, Aboriginal Family  
Support Services



Paul Madden, The Wyatt Trust



Gill McFadyen, CEO Community  
Centres SA