

ISPCAN Working Group on Child Maltreatment Data Collection (CMDC)

Melbourne, Australia - 23 August 2026

Draft Agenda (Subject to final speaker confirmation)

08:45 – 09:00 Arrival and coffee

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome and opening remarks

- Overview of the CMDC Working Group
- Objectives and priorities for the day

09:15 – 10:45 Session 1: National linked data systems and administrative assets

This session will showcase leading examples of linked administrative data infrastructure and its application to child protection research and policy.

Indicative topics include:

- National child wellbeing data assets and integrated data systems
- Cross-sector linkage (health, education, child protection, justice)
- Predictive modelling and risk identification
- Lessons from Australia and other contexts

Format: Short presentations followed by moderated discussion

10:45 – 11:00 Morning tea

11:00 – 12:30 Session 2: Using administrative and population data to inform prevention and policy

This session will explore how large-scale datasets are being used to generate actionable insights for prevention, service design, and policy reform.

Indicative topics include:

- National prevalence studies and their policy impact
- Cross-jurisdictional linkage studies and complex needs populations
- International approaches to administrative data in child protection
- Translating data into policy and system change

Format: Presentations and group discussion

12:30 – 13:15 Lunch

13:15 – 14:30 Panel discussion: Child Maltreatment Data Futures

This panel will bring together diverse perspectives to examine emerging priorities, gaps, and ethical considerations in the field. Indicative themes include:

- Indigenous data sovereignty and governance
- Lived experience and participatory data approaches

- Use of administrative data to understand out-of-home care and system contact
- Data and emerging forms of harm (e.g., online abuse, trafficking)
- Innovations in analytics and decision-support tools

Format: Panel discussion followed by audience Q&A

14:30 – 15:45 Working group sessions and collaborative development

Participants will engage in small-group discussions to advance the CMDC Working Group's priority areas. Activities will include:

- Updates from existing sub-groups (self-report, administrative data, participatory approaches)
- Identification of key research and practice gaps
- Development of collaborative outputs (e.g., special issues, position papers, grant proposals)

This session will also include a brief introduction to a proposed new collaborative stream: "Brains, Bodies, and Places", focusing on integrating neurobiological, physiological, and ecological perspectives in child maltreatment research.

15:45 – 16:00 Closing reflections and next steps