

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation

Fact sheet

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and Madeline
Foundation



Keeping children safe from violence

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The Alannah and Madeline Foundation is a national charity protecting children from violence and its devastating impact.

The Foundation was set up in memory of Alannah and Madeline Mikac, aged 6 and 3, who were tragically killed with their mother and 32 others at Port Arthur, Tasmania, on 28 April 1996.

In memory of his daughters, Walter Mikac and a small group of volunteers – including Gaye and John Fidler who survived Port Arthur – set up the Foundation, with the belief that all children should have a safe and happy childhood without being subjected to violence. The then Prime Minister launched the Foundation on 30 April 1997.

Now in its 14th year, The Alannah and Madeline Foundation runs innovative programs and initiatives, including:

Children Ahead – an intensive support program helping children to recover from serious violence and trauma.

Buddy Bags – provides essential items to thousands of children in emergency accommodation nationwide. The Foundation has delivered more than 20,000 Buddy Bags to children across the country.

Refuge Therapeutic Support Program – provides annual grants of \$5,000 for a range of group therapeutic programs for children in refuges who have experienced serious violence.

Children365 – an initiative that encourages the community to celebrate children every day of the year. The concept for Children365 was developed after the tragic death of Darcey Freeman, aged 4, in January 2009. Following the loss of their precious little girl, Darcey's mother and her family suggested an annual day to cherish all children. They asked The Alannah and Madeline Foundation to help make it a reality.

National Centre Against Bullying (NCAB) – a peak body working to advise and inform the Australian community on the issue of childhood bullying and the creation of safe schools and communities, including the issue of cybersafety. Established in 2002, NCAB's 22 members include some of Australia's leading experts in bullying and cyberbullying.

Better Buddies Framework – helps students entering their first year of primary school to feel safe, valued and connected to the school community. Launched in 2000, Better Buddies is now in more than 800 schools nationwide, and has also been adopted in Denmark, Singapore and Dubai.

eSmart – a world-leading system to help Australian schools manage cybersafety, and deal with bullying and cyberbullying. The Foundation is working closely with the Victorian and Queensland governments to roll out eSmart to schools over the next four years.

The Foundation also runs three major events:

Starry Starry Night – the Foundation's annual charity ball, the much-anticipated gala event features singing, dancing and entertainment from Australia's favourite celebrities and raises much-needed funds to support the Foundation's work.

NCAB Conference – a biennial conference in Melbourne, bringing together leading local and international experts to discuss the serious issue of bullying.

National Buddy Week – a joint initiative of NAB and the Foundation, National Buddy Week aims to celebrate friendships and highlight the important issue of bullying.