

# PRESS RELEASE

FRIDAY, 6 MAR 2026

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## KCV CONGRATULATES MINISTER BLANDTHORN ON INITIATING TWO LANDMARK REFORMS

### VICTORIA PASSES NATION-LEADING LAWS TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE, FAMILIES STRONG



*“Every child deserves safety and every family deserves a fair chance – two nation-leading laws passed in Victoria promise to deliver both.”*

*“We’re giving families the time and support they need to reunite safely and making every part of government accountable for delivering it.”*

**Minister for Children and Minister for Disability Lizzie Blandthorn**  
Thursday 5 March 2026 at 3:27 pm

Labor is making sure children grow up in secure, stable homes and that families have the chance to reunite safely.

Two landmark pieces of legislation passed the Victorian Parliament this week which remove the strict time-limit for Family Reunification Orders, as well as creating a nation-leading shared responsibility across government to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

*The Children, Youth and Families Amendment (Stability) Bill 2025* removes strict time-limits for family reunification orders, acquitting Recommendation 25 of the Yoorrook for Justice report.

This means that parents have additional time to access support and make changes to have their children returned to their care, where it is safe to do so and in the best interests of the child.

The *Stability Bill* also removes adoption from child protection case-planning objectives, aligning legislation with the longstanding practice in Victoria that adoption is not proactively pursued by Child Protection.

In addition, the *Children, Youth and Families Amendment (Supporting Stable and Strong Families) Bill 2025* establishes – for the first time in Australia – a new model of shared responsibilities modelled on the Scottish ‘Corporate Parent’ model.

Government support for care leavers and at-risk children and families should not be the responsibility of Child Protection alone – this change will enable them to receive comprehensive support.

The *Supporting Stable and Strong Families Bill* establishes responsibilities for all Ministers and Departments to improve outcomes for at-risk children, young people, care leavers and families.

The scheme also requires the tabling of plans and progress reports in parliament to ensure accountability across the government. Together, these nation-leading changes mean that the safety and best interests of children and young people are enshrined in law as a priority.

#### KCV COMMENT:

These reforms have unwavering support from KCV and we acknowledge Minister Blandthorn’s resolve in bringing them about.

In the case of the *Children, Youth and Families Amendment (Stability) Bill 2025*, KCV has campaigned for years for a government to make the amendments Minister Blandthorn safely ushered through parliament this week.

The new *Children, Youth and Families Amendment (Supporting Stable and Strong Families) Bill 2025* is also applauded by KCV. This bill closely resembles a policy position crafted by KCV in 2018. At that time, we called for all government portfolios to undertake research into the impact their initiatives were likely to have on children. KCV called for Child Impact Statements in response to proposed construction of the East-West Link which would have obliterated large tracks of parkland and recreational facilities much used by families.

Reference: <https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/GPV-calls-for-Child-Impact-Statements-.pdf>