



THE ISSUE

From June 2014 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander integrated early years and family support services – both Budget Based Funded and Children and Family Centres - face uncertain funding futures.

There is a serious risk that after June 2014 services under both of these programs will be mainstreamed to come within the Child Care Benefit (CCB) funding system. We know that this won't work for our services, and may lead to services closing, cutting back important programs or having to exclude our children most in need.

For those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Family centres who don't have an early childhood service, there is no confirmation of any funding to support their ongoing operation.

What we need is a culturally strong, sustainable and effective funding model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander integrated early years and family support services.

We are calling upon the federal Government to provide a 10-year commitment for a flexible and supported funding model, putting up \$150 million in the first year. This would properly support our services and start to address service gaps.

We all know that the early years are critical for positive outcomes later on in life. We also know that our services don't just grow up strong kids, but also help create stronger communities.

SNAICC is supporting services to advocate for action on this issue. Help us to make your voice heard by taking part in our postcard campaign!

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!!

Do you want to take action for strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander integrated early years and family support services?

If so, we've got an easy way you can take your voice straight to the top!!

Here's how:



Grab it

some postcards for yourself, kids, families, Elders and other service providers



Fill it in

– some ideas for what you could tell the Prime Minister include:

- Why your service is important and unique
- What makes your community proud about your service
- Why having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services supporting our children is so important
- What services or programs your service provides and why they are important
- What your service is achieving for children and what difference it makes to the community



Post it

back to SNAICC before the 20th August. The postage has already been paid.

Once the postcards have been returned to us, we'll organise a visit with service representatives to present the postcards - and the issues in person - to the Prime Minister and key Ministers.



If every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander integrated early years and family support service in Australia sends in 100 postcards we can have a big impact!!



For more information visit our website www.snaicc.org.au, call (03) 9489 8099 or email holly.mason-white@snaicc.org.au