

EXPLAINING STANDARD 1

Young ones need to maintain their **cultural connections** in order to feel safe within their placement. They are more likely to relate and to feel safe with a carer from their extended family or community. It's important to identify and secure a placement of this kind.

EXPLAINING STANDARD 2

Our **young ones' involvement in decisions** concerning their placement and the development of their case plan is crucial. The Looking After Children, and Aboriginal Family Decision Making are some models that enable our young ones to be actively involved in decision-making about their lives.

EXPLAINING STANDARD 3

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a **right to make decisions** about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. Decisions about placement and care are undertaken in consultation with family, extended family and community. Aboriginal Family Decision Making is one such process. The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle ensures that an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child is stable and secure in placement within their extended family, within their Aboriginal community, or failing that, with other Aboriginal people.

EXPLAINING STANDARD 6

Our young ones in care have the opportunity to access Aboriginal early childhood, **education**, training and development services. They receive quality educational assistance from culturally competent service providers who understand the diverse needs of our young ones.

EXPLAINING STANDARD 5

Our young ones have **regular health assessments**, with services provided as required, and necessary supports followed up as a priority. Health assessments, treatment plans and referrals are written into records. All children and young people are entitled to access and attend their local Aboriginal community controlled health organisations and all services are culturally competent.

EXPLAINING STANDARD 4

All case plans focus on what is needed to ensure the young one's **wellbeing** while in care. Connecting learning, health and other needs to cultural needs can be achieved in cultural support plans, and within case plans. Looking After Children is a useful case management tool to identify and care for all needs.

INTERPRETATION OF THE NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR OUT-OF-HOME-CARE FOR ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- What do these mean for our young ones?

EXPLAINING STANDARD 13

Our young ones have a plan for **leaving care** that includes the practical support required to develop the skills they need. The plan builds on their cultural support plan and is regularly reviewed. It includes support for housing, health, education, training, employment, income support, identity, culture, and family and community connections. The young ones and their leaving care support workers have a copy.

EXPLAINING STANDARD 11

It is important that our young ones and their extended family identify **significant others** and actively involve them in our young ones' lives. Cultural support plans include this connection.

EXPLAINING STANDARD 7

To assist the young ones in **education, training and employment**, workers can refer to tools like Aboriginal Education Strategies, Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups, Education support workers, and access funding opportunities such as the Children in Residential Care funding. Care plans explore opportunities to apply for scholarships/traineeships, and to participate in Aboriginal TAFE and University units.

EXPLAINING STANDARD 8

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children grow, learn and excel when their cultural needs are met, valued and respected at home, school, child care and throughout all aspects of their lives. Support includes ensuring our young ones have a choice about their participation in **sporting, cultural and community activities**, and these choices are written in their cultural support plan.

EXPLAINING STANDARD 12

Foster carers, residential care workers, and extended family carers are supported to deliver the best care possible. Support builds on existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family strengths, and assists carers to develop healthy relationships, and to care for themselves, their children and the children placed in their care. Your local Aboriginal child care agency or Aboriginal controlled health organisation can provide advice on how to **support carers**.

EXPLAINING STANDARD 10

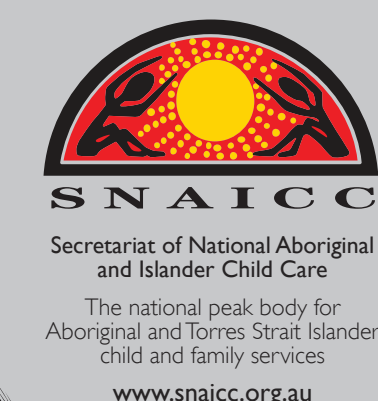
An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child who has the opportunity to develop their **spirituality** during childhood has a sense of strength, confidence, pride, belonging, peace and security that can guide and protect them throughout adolescence and adulthood. Cultural support plans can be important in this process. They include family and significant others in their life history.

EXPLAINING STANDARD 9

Supporting ongoing **safe connection to family** is important. Connections and cultural identity are at the heart of our families. They are central for the child's development of identity, well-being and feeling of belonging. Ongoing connection requires identification of family strengths when determining an appropriate placement for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child.

“Children living in caring, loving environments that nurture their cultural needs and family connections experience greater stability in out-of-home care.”

Desley Thompson, CEO, Cape York/Gulf Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Advisory Association Inc 2012



NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR OUT-OF-HOME CARE

STANDARD 1

Children and young people will be provided with stability and security during their time in care.

STANDARD 2

Children and young people participate in decisions that have an impact on their lives.

STANDARD 3

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities participate in decisions concerning the care and placement of their children and young people.

STANDARD 4

Each child and young person has an individualised plan that details their health, education and other needs.

STANDARD 5

Children and young people have their physical, developmental, psychosocial and mental health needs assessed and attended to in a timely way.

STANDARD 6

Children and young people in care access and participate in education and early childhood services to maximise their educational outcomes.

STANDARD 7

Children and young people up to at least 18 years are supported to be engaged in appropriate education, training and/or employment.

STANDARD 8

Children and young people in care are supported to participate in social and/or recreational activities of their choice, such as sporting, cultural or community activity.

STANDARD 9

Children and young people are supported to safely and appropriately maintain connection with family, be they birth parents, siblings or other family members.

STANDARD 10

Children and young people in care are supported to develop their identity, safely and appropriately, through contact with their families, friends, culture, spiritual sources and communities and have their life history recorded as they grow up.

STANDARD 11

Children and young people in care are supported to safely and appropriately identify and stay in touch, with at least one other person who cares about their future, who they can turn to for support and advice.

STANDARD 12

Carers are assessed and receive relevant ongoing training, development and support, in order to provide quality care.

STANDARD 13

Children and young people have a transition from care plan commencing at 15 years old which details support to be provided after leaving care.

The National Standards for out of home care seek to drive improvements in the quality of care so that our young ones in out-of-home care have the same opportunities as other children and young people to reach their potential in life no matter where they live in Australia.

These standards were developed by Commonwealth, state and territory governments, and non-government organisations under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020.

For further information on the National Standards for out-of-home care or the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children, please visit www.fahcsia.gov.au.

For further information on support for carers, see www.snaicc.org.au

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The children in the photos on this poster are purely illustrative. They do not imply in any way that these children are in care or of concern to child protection authorities.

This poster was designed by Mazart Design Studio, www.mazartdesignstudio.com