



Department of
Human Services

Culture and self determination in Aboriginal child and family services

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Acknowledgement of Country

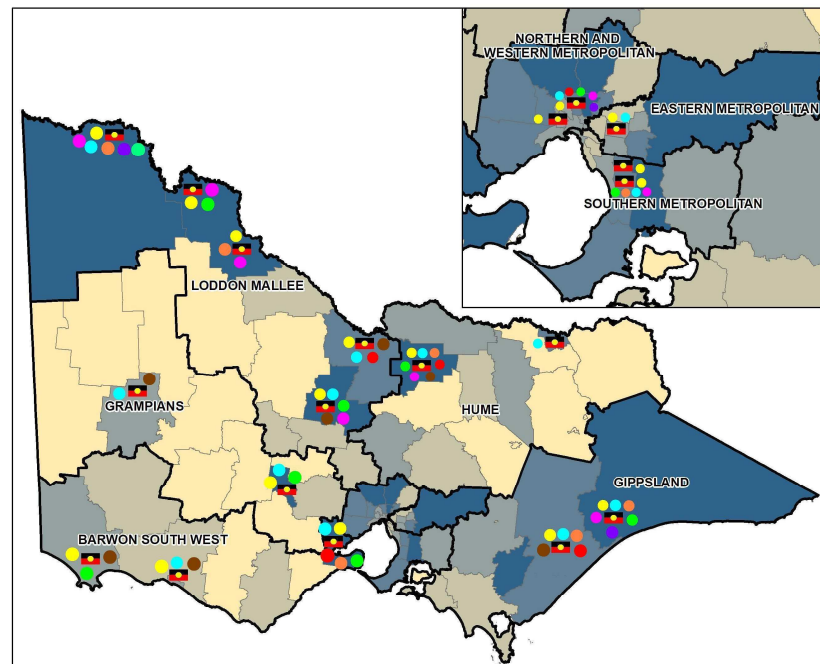
We would like to acknowledge the Central Arrernte people as the traditional owners and custodians for Mparntwe Alice Springs.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and also to all Elders and Aboriginal people here today.

Victorian Aboriginal child and family services

- Work with Aboriginal children and families that are vulnerable to child protection involvement
- Delivered through 16 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations across our state

Number of Indigenous Persons by LGA (2006) and CP, P & FS currently provided by ACCOs



Victorian Aboriginal child and family services

- Early intervention and prevention family services
- Intensive family services
- Aboriginal Family Decision Making
- Cultural Support Plans
- Kinship, foster and residential care
- ACSASS – an Aboriginal consultation service to child protection
- Aboriginal cultural competency in non-Aboriginal organisations



...and there's more to come

- Placement prevention
- Therapeutic residential care and therapeutic foster care
- Guardianship transfers



What helps to make it work...

- Strong Aboriginal community controlled sector
- Working in partnership
- Strong overarching policy frameworks
- Legislation
- Good data and research

The collage features several key documents and images:

- Aboriginal Affairs Victoria:** A document titled "Improving the lives of Indigenous Victorians" and "Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework". It includes three small photographs of Indigenous people and the text "A Victorian Government Initiative".
- Your right to rights:** A green document titled "The Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities".
- Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission:** The logo and name of the commission.
- a fairer victoria:** A poster with the slogan "Real support - real gains" and the date "May 2010". It features a photograph of a young woman and the text "a fairer victoria".

At the bottom of the collage, there is a list of human rights: recognition and equality before the law, right to protection from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, freedom from forced work, freedom of privacy and reputation, freedom of thought, religion and belief, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association, protection of families, taking part in public life, cultural rights, proper right to liberty and security, humane treatment, removal of liberty, children in the criminal proceeding, rights in criminal proceeding, right not to be punished more than once, retrospective criminal law, freedom of movement, right to life, peaceful assembly.

What's hard...

- Funding fragmentation and inflexibility
- Demand on ACCOs to consult, be involved in development
- Transferring an ideal into action
- Clash of cultures between the way that government likes to work and the way that ACCOs do
- Proving that it works



Overall...

We're happy!

But we've still got a lot more work to do, things to learn and things to share.

Can you tell us...

- About something great that is happening in your state or territory?
- Something that you've heard about today that you like the sound of?
- How we can keep sharing and learning from each other after this conference?



Contact details and links

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Department of Human Services, Victoria
www.cyf.vic.gov.au/indigenous-initiatives/home
mary.roberts@dhs.vic.gov.au
03 9096 7819
- Aboriginal Cultural Competence Framework
www.cyf.vic.gov.au/indigenous-initiatives/practice-guides/aboriginal-cultural-competence-framework
- A Fairer Victoria, Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework and Charter of Human Rights*
To see these documents online the easiest way is to google their titles.

