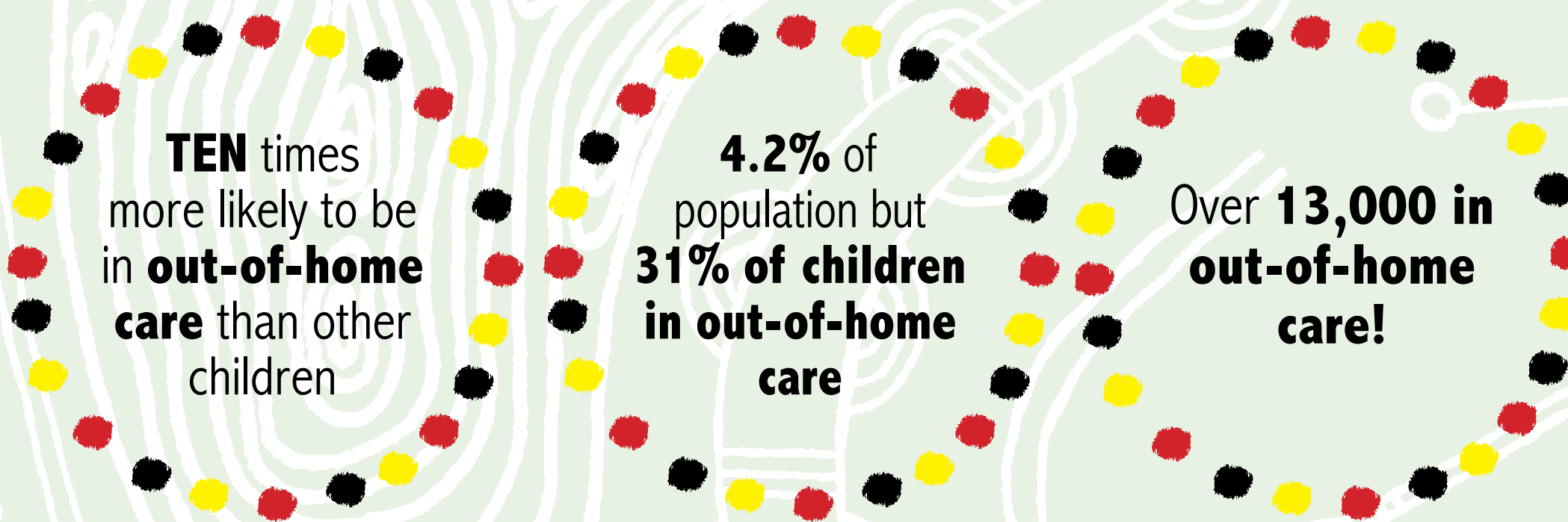


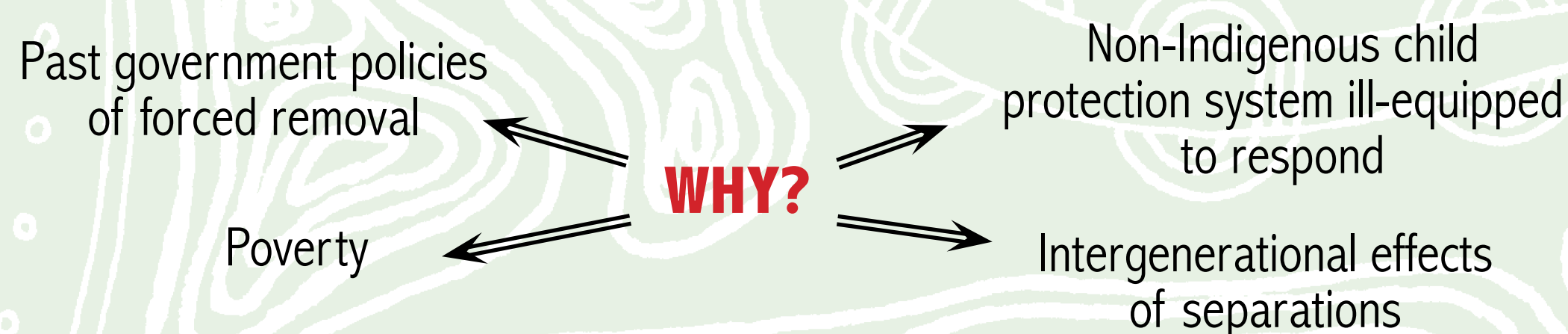
# Right Here, Right Now

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people have a right to grow up safe and cared for in family and culture.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are:**



**Too many of our children continue to be removed from their families and cultures. And the rates continue to rise.**



Between 1910 and 1970 it is understood that not one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander family escaped the effects of forcible removal of children. Multiple generations of our families have now experienced these effects, including profound grief and loss, physical and mental health issues, loss of a sense of belonging and identity, and gaps in parenting skills.

Until we redress the causes of trauma, discrimination and disadvantage contributing to over representation in the child protection system, sustainable change cannot happen.



## How can this right be realised?

### PRIORITISE PREVENTION

The child protection system continues to focus on responding to harm rather than preventing it. Increased resource allocation to prevention and early intervention services and programs are required to stop children coming within the child protection system and to help families to better cope with stressors that are impacting them.

### RESPECT CULTURE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to be subjected to a foreign system that has discriminated against them for generations and that still does not understand or accommodate their ways. Australian child protection systems must recognise and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their rights to exercise control over matters impacting their communities, and their different child rearing practices.

### ENABLE PARTICIPATION

All evidence indicates the need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation and decision-making through all parts of the system. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are best placed to be responsible for the care and protection of our children.

### ENGAGE PARTNERSHIPS

There is a role for government and mainstream service support. Genuine partnerships, which respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their right to self-determination, are necessary for effective child and family support services and a system for the care and protection of our children.

### EMPOWER

Allowing and enabling communities to care for their own and to develop solutions to ensure the well being of their children and young people is fundamental. Investing now in healing and community development processes will see more of our communities leading their own way.

### STEP UP

How can you - as an individual or as an organisation - support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's rights in your community?

**See [www.snaicc.org.au/children](http://www.snaicc.org.au/children)**

## STEP UP!

Visit [snaicc.org.au/children](http://snaicc.org.au/children) for fun activities and actions you can take to step up for our children's rights.



**SNAICC**  
Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care  
The national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and family services  
[www.snaicc.org.au](http://www.snaicc.org.au)

The time to step up is now. Child rights are everybody's business.

What are you doing to support children to grow up safe and cared for in family and culture?