



STRONG STRONG  
*services children*



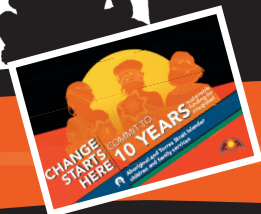
STRONG *future*

Dear Prime Minister... Know culture, know self. No culture, no self. Aboriginal specific services matter.  
Chrise Wanu

*What?* 1200 messages to the Prime Minister

*Who?* Sent from Indigenous families, children, educators, health workers, other professionals and community all around Australia

*Why?* To tell the Prime Minister why funding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood services is the best way to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children grow up culturally strong, proud, healthy and ready for school.



*strong* services *strong* children *strong* futures

# Dear Prime Minister...

Know culture, know self. No culture, no self. Aboriginal specific services matter.  
Chrise Wanu

## The *issue*

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood and family support services across Australia are community development engines that nurture and protect children, and support families to raise their children strong, healthy and proud of who they are.**

Despite their crucial role and proven track record, many of these services are grossly underfunded, requiring them to restrict numbers, programs, staff and infrastructure, and are facing an uncertain future, with Federal Government funding uncertain beyond June 2014.

As the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early child and family support services, SNAICC is supporting these services by calling for a 10-year Federally funded plan for integrated child and family services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

*Here's what a few of them had to say...*



*strong* services *strong* children *strong* futures

# Dear Prime Minister...

Know culture, know self. No culture, no self. Aboriginal specific services matter.  
Chrise Wanu

Dear Prime Minister

Having been a single father I struggle to find appropriate child care services for cultural & financial reasons.

It's important that my child gets the best child care service, for this will effect their future. I would like my child to be educated as well as strong in identity & culture...the families these services support are the..."hard to reach families"...families that are on low income and unable to afford child care.

Kind Regards

Felix Kerry  
CAIRNS, QLD



# Dear Prime Minister...

Know culture, know self. No culture, no self. Aboriginal specific services matter.  
Chrise Wanu

Dear Prime Minister

The centre needs to stay so that I don't become a statistic as an unemployed single Indigenous parent.

Helen Ockerby  
FITZROY CROSSING, WA



Dear Prime Minister

I think it is vital to have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services in our area. I have utilised this service for all three of my children and it has provided an excellent foundation and readiness for their schooling. They have thrived at school and this service definitely contributed to their success.

Kylie Dobson  
ST HELENS PARK, NSW



Dear Prime Minister

To whom it concerns, for the past 4 years my family has been making use of TACCA [Tasmanian Aboriginal Child Care Association]. This is so important for our people who were dispossessed of our culture in educating our next generation to be knowledgeable and proud of their heritage. TACCA is a wonderful, inclusive learning environment. Please continue to fund them so more children can benefit.

Andrews family  
LAUNCESTON, TAS



# Dear Prime Minister...

Know culture, know self. No culture, no self. Aboriginal specific services matter.  
Chrise Wanu

Dear Prime Minister

On behalf of my family I am writing about the importance of the daycare all my children attended. Without it my children would not know their identity!

The community would lose a lot of jobs, this daycare allows parents like myself to work to better our families.

Danielle

Dear Prime Minister

Please keep funding for our centre! My kids finally have a place they can grow strong and confident in!

Shona  
ADELAIDE, SA

Dear Prime

I like to see my Aunties (teachers), playing in the sandpit and the swings  
Nikiri (aged 3),  
SHEPPARTON, VIC

Dear Prime Minister

I am a mum of six. I do it all by myself, it's a hard job but having a playgroup teaches us parents to be better parents... Since attending playgroup I have done first aid classes and self-esteem courses.

I have gained so much knowledge that I wouldn't have been able to gain without playgroup. Plus I know the workers are all there to help me and my children... Thank you for the opportunity to have a voice. And we'd love anyone to come along and see how our playgroup helps our community. Thanks.

Michelle Hunter  
CABOOLTURE, QLD





# Dear Prime Minister...

Know culture, know self. No culture, no self. Aboriginal specific services matter.  
Chrise Wanu

Dear Prime Minister



I work closely with Indigenous families who access BBF services...Through the trusting relationships built with qualified staff in our services, we have been able to improve the health of not only the child but the family.

To do this we need staff who stay with programs to build relationships with communities. We can only offer one year contracts due to one year funding agreement.

Sustainable, secure, long term funding!

Help us support long term strategic planning and understand we won't change the world in a day!

Kate

NT

Dear Prime Minister



These services require the continued and assured support of our government in order to continue the work with the communities, families and children that they have started. Positive change and growth for generations only occurs with continued commitment. We have the educators, the inclusion support and the will; we now need the government to match this with the assurance of continued funding.

Penny Daniel

MIDVALE, WA  
(EAST METRO & MIDLANDS INCLUSION  
SUPPORT AGENCY, SHIRE OF  
MUNDARING CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

Dear Prime Minister

Aboriginal children are among the most marginalised in our country.

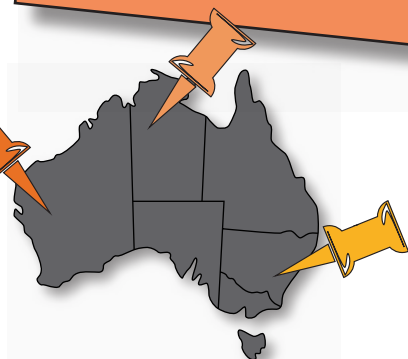
A financial contribution to Aboriginal children in the early years will improve outcomes for these children and families and cost the Australian public less in the long term.

Our children are worth investing in.

My two sons are worth investing in.

Emma Beckett

SYDNEY, NSW ABORIGINAL EARLY CHILDHOOD



# Dear Prime Minister...

Know culture, know self. No culture, no self. Aboriginal specific services matter.  
Chrise Wanu

Dear Prime Minister

My daughter attended an Indigenous based child care centre, there she learnt respect for her elders, the importance of culture and the strength of community.

Today she is a respected member of her community... Working as an Indigenous mental health worker, and engaging with families daily, I believe in the importance of culture based education.

Carly Warner  
NOWRA, NSW

Dear Prime Minister

Working on the frontline as a nurse for an AMS (Aboriginal medical service), I can see the vital need for the Early Years program to ensure our future generations get the support that they and their families need.

Some families rely on such programs and truly make a positive difference on their lives, so please pledge funds to continue the positive imprint Early Years programs are making.

Alison Greenhill  
MANOORA, QLD

Dear Prime Minister

Port Lincoln Children's Centre provides an educational facility which many families within our community would otherwise not be able to access due to financial situations.

The centre creates a safe and comfortable environment for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children to learn and prepare for their future. It holds in high regard our country's Indigenous history and ways and passes this onto the children - which goes a long way in securing reconciliation within our community.

Without the continued funding it would deprive and disadvantage many children within our community.

PORT LINCOLN, SA





# Dear Prime Minister...

Know culture, know self. No culture, no self. Aboriginal specific services matter.  
Chrise Wanu

Dear Prime Minister

I am a GP at Tharwal Aboriginal Corporation.  
I see the positive impact of our child  
preschool program at Oorunga Wandarrah.  
The children are healthy, outgoing, keen to  
learn in a very positive environment and  
this is what is needed to contribute to  
Close the Gap.

Annette Bemand  
AIRDS, NSW



Dear Prime Minister

I am writing as a friend of the Baya Gawiy Buga  
yani Jandu yani u Centre in Fitzroy Crossing.  
If you visited this centre and saw the commitment  
of the staff, community members and service  
providers as well as their genuine engagement,  
respect and collaboration with the Traditional  
Owners, you would see just how vital this  
centre is.

Please support this centre. It supports  
and has the capacity to support many  
others.

Kind regards  
Alison Hiscocks  
BROOME, WA



Dear Prime

Kids Club is vital to the health and wellbeing  
of the kids of this Indigenous community...

There is no other service for children who's parents  
want to work. School holidays otherwise create a  
vacuum with nothing to do. The program improves  
literacy, numeracy and physical skills through  
providing a creative, fun, largely self directed  
learning environment that the children attend  
voluntarily.

It provides much needed employment for  
Indigenous people.

Kids Club Out of School Hours Care  
LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL, QLD



# Dear Prime Minister...

Know culture, know self. No culture, no self. Aboriginal specific services matter.  
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Dear Prime Minister

As an educator at Oorunga Wandarrah I have seen that a MACS centre is essential for closing the gap as the centre allows for a strong sense of identity, knowledge of culture, integrated educational/support programs working with children and families. And a close relationship with training services providing exceptional care and low fees for the local community.

Rhiannon  
Woodbine, NSW

Delivery Address:  
PO Box 1445  
FITZROY NORTH VIC 3068



We learn at Wanyanyakem Taam  
Warmun Early Learning Centre.  
Prime Minister, will you stand with us?

SNAICC  
Reply Paid 1445  
FITZROY NORTH VIC 3068  
SUBURB  
Sender: NAME

We learn at Wanyantaken Taam,  
Warmun Early Learning Centre  
Zo, Warmun, WA

Dear Prime Minister

We want our kids to grow up STRONG, SMART, DEADLY AND PROUD! If families are assisted with health & education in the early years it would help our kids develop better and help close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

Indigenous Playgroups...in Alice Springs are giving our families the opportunities to come together and watch their children grow through playing.

Kahlia Preece  
ALICE SPRINGS, NT



# Dear Prime Minister...

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Dear Prime Minister

We have the beginnings of a new and innovative concept in early years care and education. Why drop the ball now? Support the programs as they find the appropriate pathways in supporting this next generation.

They are our future, give them a chance to be the next leaders and contributors to our country.

Sue Loughlin  
GLEN IRIS, VIC

