



SNAICC
National Voice for our Children
(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation)
Melbourne Polytechnic
Level 7, 20 Otter Street
Collingwood VIC 3066

9 October 2019

UN report reinforces need for urgent action to prevent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being removed from families and communities

SNAICC, the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, says a United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child report shows Australian governments must take urgent action to prevent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from being removed from their families and placed in out-of-home care, including foster care.

“The UN Committee’s report clearly shows that Australia continues to violate the rights of our children and the solutions lie within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, communities and organisations,” says Ms Muriel Bamblett, Chairperson of SNAICC.

“Our call for a national comprehensive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children’s strategy that includes generational targets to eliminate over-representation and address the causes of child removal aligns with the UN Committee’s recommendations. A national strategy is what we have been calling for, along with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, for a very long time.

“We also need national and state-based commissioners for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who can hold governments to account by ensuring that they are implementing evidence-based, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led solutions,” says Ms Bamblett.

“It is imperative that Australian governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to implement the UN Committee’s recommendations and the recommendations put forward by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,” says Ms Bamblett.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are now 10.2 times more likely to be placed in out-of-home care than other children and are 2.6 times more likely to be developmentally vulnerable when they start school.

The UN Committee says that it remains seriously concerned about the continuing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in alternative care, often outside their communities. The Committee is also concerned that solutions to prevent children’s entry into care, such as positive educational outcomes for children in the early years, remain limited for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

To address these concerns, the UN Committee has urged governments across Australia to strongly invest in measures developed and implemented for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and communities to prevent their placement in out-of-home care, provide the

Phone 03 9419 1921
PO Box 1144, Collingwood VIC 3066
info@snaicc.org.au | www.snaicc.org.au
ABN 42 513 562 148



SNAICC
National Voice for our Children
(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation)
Melbourne Polytechnic
Level 7, 20 Otter Street
Collingwood VIC 3066

adequate support while in alternative care and facilitate their reintegration into their families and communities. The Committee called on governments to meaningfully involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their communities in the planning, implementation and evaluation of policies concerning them.

Currently, just 17% of child protection funding has been invested in support services for children and their families. A very limited percentage of funding is provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to provide the culturally safe supports needed for children and families.

For more information please visit www.snaicc.org.au or contact:

Mark Jeffery, Media Manager
media@snaicc.org.au 0419 732 583

About SNAICC – National Voice for our Children:

SNAICC – National Voice for our Children is the national non-government peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. It works for the fulfilment of the rights of children to ensure their safety, development and wellbeing.

Founded in 1981, SNAICC was called Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care until it was changed to SNAICC – National Voice for our Children. For over 30 years SNAICC has achieved key milestones in policy development at state, territory and federal levels and developed innovative and useful resources for the sector.

Over the past 30 years SNAICC's efforts has resulted in many key milestones and achievements both in policy developments at state, territory and federal levels and in developing innovative and useful resources for the sector.

SNAICC is governed by an influential Board of Directors made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled children and family services.

Phone 03 9419 1921
PO Box 1144, Collingwood VIC 3066
info@snaicc.org.au | www.snaicc.org.au
ABN 42 513 562 148