



# National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy

## Consultation Guide

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### Context

The Australian Government has committed to delivering a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy (the Strategy) this year.

A strong start in life is vital. Increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's opportunities to thrive in their early years is foundational to improving outcomes across their life course.

The Strategy will provide a long-term approach to inform future policy and investment, and to enable stronger collaboration and coordination across governments, and the systems and services that impact early childhood outcomes.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart recognises that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, *“have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.”*

This Strategy will recognise the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in caring for children and bringing them up strong in culture. It will aim to empower parents and kin as the first teachers and primary carers for their children, and to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their community-controlled services to lead the responses to children's needs.

It will be consistent with the aspirations, objectives and outcomes outlined in the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*.

More information can be found through the accompanying [Information Sheet](#) and [FAQs](#).



## Purpose

This consultation guide outlines the process for co-design of the Strategy and includes some key discussion questions.

To inform development of the Strategy, a Framework has been prepared in partnership between the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and SNAICC, and with the advice from an Advisory Group of early childhood experts. This Framework provides the evidence base as a starting point from which the Strategy can be developed.

Co-design with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is central to the development of the Strategy. SNAICC – National Voice for our Children, the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, is leading broad consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities.

We want to hear from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and welcome you sharing your diverse experiences on the ground. We also want to hear from service providers and non-government organisations, both community controlled and mainstream, to ensure practical application and tangible outcomes.

The NIAA and SNAICC seek your advice to develop a Strategy that will:

- provide every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child, no matter where children live, opportunity to succeed
- meaningfully embed the voices, experiences, and priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- be applied by governments to inform effective development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood policy and programs
- be effectively implemented by service providers and non-government organisations to realise early childhood progress.

## How to provide input

- **Written public submissions** for this co-design process are invited by **COB 19 May 2021**. Please send submissions to [submissions@snaicc.org.au](mailto:submissions@snaicc.org.au).
- Two online surveys are available and can be completed at [www.snaicc.org.au/early-childhood-strategy/early-childhood-strategy](http://www.snaicc.org.au/early-childhood-strategy/early-childhood-strategy). The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.
- A series of consultation meetings will be held by invitation.
- If you would like further information about the development of the Strategy, please contact Nicolette Solomon at SNAICC ([submissions@snaicc.org.au](mailto:submissions@snaicc.org.au)).



## Discussion questions

Please refer to the Framework and its high-level summary in responding to the below questions.

- What are the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families to ensure children thrive in their early years?
- How will Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families benefit from the Strategy?

### **Vision**

- What does success look like for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in their early years? Does the Framework's Vision describe this?

### **Goals**

- Do the current Goals of the Framework support the Vision?
- Could the Goals be improved? If yes, how? Are there gaps?

### **Outcomes**

- Do the current Outcomes of the Framework support the Goals and Vision?
- Could the Outcomes be improved? If yes, how? Are there gaps?

### **Focus areas**

- Do the Focus Areas support the outcomes?
- Could the Focus Areas be improved? Are there any gaps?

### **Action**

- What are three possible actions for each goal that will best support the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in their early years?

### **Success**

- If we could achieve one critical success through the National Strategy what would that be?
- What does success for the Strategy look like? How would you measure that success?
- How should information on the effectiveness of the Strategy be provided to families, communities, services and organisations?



## PRIVACY COLLECTION NOTICE

All survey data will be de-identified, collated and returned to SNAICC. We will ensure that your privacy is protected. Your information will be treated confidentially in line with the legal requirements of the Privacy Act 1988. You will not be named in any reports or publications. We will store your personal information securely at SNAICC, and only SNAICC staff will be able to access it. Your personal information will not be shared with any other organisation. Your information will only be used for the purposes of informing the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy.

This survey is designed for families to complete in-person with frontline staff of partnering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations. We recognise that families may not be able - or may prefer not – to complete the survey in the presence of a frontline service provider. To offer as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families the opportunity to have a direct voice into the development of this Strategy, we have also made this survey available online.

If you choose to undertake the survey without a partnering frontline service provider present, please be aware that the survey themes and questions may cause distress and/or trigger previous trauma. We strongly recommend before starting the survey that you have a plan of available emotional / mental health support if required during or after responding to the questions.