



Information Sheet

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy

SNAICC – National Voice for our Children and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations are currently talking to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities across Australia to create a strategy that will improve outcomes for our children in their early years.

The background

For years, we have called for a national approach where governments, systems and services that influence early childhood outcomes work together to make sure our children are happy, healthy and safe. Last year, the Australian Government committed to develop a **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy** to meet this call.

The development of the Strategy involves two steps:

- **Step 1:** a national framework to inform the Strategy was developed in early 2021
- **Step 2:** consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families, communities, service providers and other stakeholders are being held across Australia to help develop and refine the Strategy, identify key themes and questions, and inform priorities.

Local consultations

We are currently conducting **surveys**, holding online **workshops** and accepting **written submissions** to guarantee that this Strategy will be informed by the diverse voices, unique contexts, and lived experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children across Australia.

How you can contribute

You are being asked to participate through:

- **a survey for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families** and caregivers of children aged 0 to 5
- **an Activity Sheet for children aged 0 to 5:** Draw what makes you feel happy.

Note to carer helping child with drawing: *Guide your child with questions such as: what do you feel is most important for you. It might be people, a place, feelings. If it is an object, ask the child to also draw why that makes them feel happy.*

Why contribute?

By participating, you are helping to create a Strategy that reflects your lived experiences and views and puts the focus of the Strategy onto the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in their early years.

What will this Strategy do?

This Strategy will be a long-term tool that will be applied by governments to inform effective early childhood policies and programs that impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. It will place children at the centre of decision-making; support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control when responding to the needs of our children and families; address institutional racism; support all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to succeed; and create stronger cooperation between governments and the systems and services that influence early childhood outcomes. This is an important opportunity to ensure the goals of the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap* are reached and make sure that the Agreement leads to real long-term positive change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.