



# FAMILY MATTERS

Strong communities. Strong culture.  
Stronger children.

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN



**20K** CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

2013  
**53%**



2019  
**43%**

LESS THAN HALF ARE LIVING WITH ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CARERS

**37%**

OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE, BUT ONLY

**6%** OF ALL CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA



**9.7 x**

MORE LIKELY TO BE LIVING IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE THAN NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN



LESS LIKELY TO BE REUNIFIED WITH BIRTH PARENTS THAN NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

**81%** IN LONG-TERM 'PERMANENT' CARE

**19**

2018-19

ADOPTIONS OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

**95%**

2018-19

OF ADOPTIONS OF OUR CHILDREN TO NON-INDIGENOUS CARERS

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FAMILIES

A CYCLE OF POVERTY



**10 x**

MORE LIKELY TO LIVE IN SOCIAL HOUSING

FAMILIES EXPERIENCE INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA FROM THE STOLEN GENERATIONS



EXPERIENCE LOWER EMPLOYMENT RATES AND LOWER LEVELS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**2 x**

TWICE AS LIKELY TO HAVE A LOW BIRTHRATE THAN NON-INDIGENOUS BABIES



**28%**

0-5 YEARS

LESS LIKELY TO ATTEND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE THAN NON-INDIGENOUS

**2.5 x**

MORE LIKELY

TO BE DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE IN TWO OR MORE DOMAINS BY AGE 5

2020



FAMILY MATTERS

SNAPSHOT DATA

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE PROJECTED TO

**DOUBLE**  
BY **2029**

**REMOVAL**  
VS  
**FAMILY SUPPORT**

→ **84%** ON PROTECTION  
BUT  
→ **16%** ON SUPPORT

THE NATIONAL AGREEMENT

**CLOSING THE GAP**  
**NEW TARGET:**



BY **2031**  
**REDUCE** → **45%**

THE OVER-REPRESENTATION OF OUR CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

# ABORIGINAL-LED SOLUTIONS

FAMILY MATTERS CALLS FOR A **NATIONAL STRATEGY** AND **NATIONAL COMMISSIONER** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to **eliminate** over-representation of our **children in out-of-home care**

BLOCK	BUILDING BLOCK 1	BUILDING BLOCK 2	BUILDING BLOCK 3	BUILDING BLOCK 4
	Access to universal and targeted services	Participation and control in decision-making	Culturally safe and responsive policies and practice	Accountable governments and services
SOLUTION	Increase \$\$ in early intervention and prevention services, led by community-controlled organisations	Invest in Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to design and provide quality, culturally safe services	End adoption and establish national standards for implementing the five elements of the <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle</i>	Establish and resource commissioners and peak bodies for our children. Build partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to oversee data and outcomes for children
EXAMPLE	Aboriginal-led early intervention and prevention services. Aboriginal community-controlled integrated early years services such as MACS and ACFCs	Aboriginal family-led decision-making (state-wide ACCO-led programs in Qld and Vic.)	Delegation of child protection decision-making (Qld and Vic.) and Aboriginal-led out-of-home care and kinship programs (eg in NSW, Vic., NT and SA)	Aboriginal commissioners for children in each state and territory (SA, Vic., Qld)

2020 REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT	HEADLINE INDICATOR Over-representation in OOH (rate)	BUILDING BLOCK 1	BUILDING BLOCK 2	BUILDING BLOCK 3	BUILDING BLOCK 4
		Universal and targeted services	Participation, control in decision-making	Culturally safe and responsive systems	Accountability
ACT	12.7				
NSW	9.5				
NT	12.2				
QLD	8.8				
SA	10.8				
TAS	4.7				
VIC	16.1				
WA	16.7				

KEY ■ Very poor ■ Poor ■ Promising/improving ■ Stronger practice/outcomes