

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
CHILDREN



22,328 CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

42.8%

OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

BUT ONLY **5.98%** OF ALL CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA



10.5 x

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

2013

53.6%



2022

40.7%

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

MORE LIKELY TO BE REMOVED AS AN INFANT THAN NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN - CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEARS OLD ARE



13.1 x MORE LIKELY TO BE IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

CONTINUED TREND OF ADOPTION BY NON-INDIGENOUS PARENTS

66.3%

OF ADOPTIONS IN THE PAST 10 YEARS WERE TO NON-INDIGENOUS PARENTS



11.7 x

MORE LIKELY TO BE IN CARE FOR A PERIOD OVER 2 YEARS THAN NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN



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

80.9%

OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN ARE ON FINAL LONG-TERM 'PERMANENT' CARE ORDERS

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
FAMILIES

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FAMILIES:

EXPERIENCE INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA FROM THE STOLEN GENERATIONS

ARE 11 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO ACCESS SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

EXPERIENCE LOWER EMPLOYMENT RATES AND LOWER LEVELS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

OUR CHILDREN:

AGED 0-5 YEARS ATTEND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE AT 65% THE RATE OF NON-INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

2.6 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE IN TWO OR MORE CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT DOMAINS BY AGE 5

A CYCLE OF DISADVANTAGE

CLOSING THE GAP NEW TARGET



BY **2031**
REDUCE

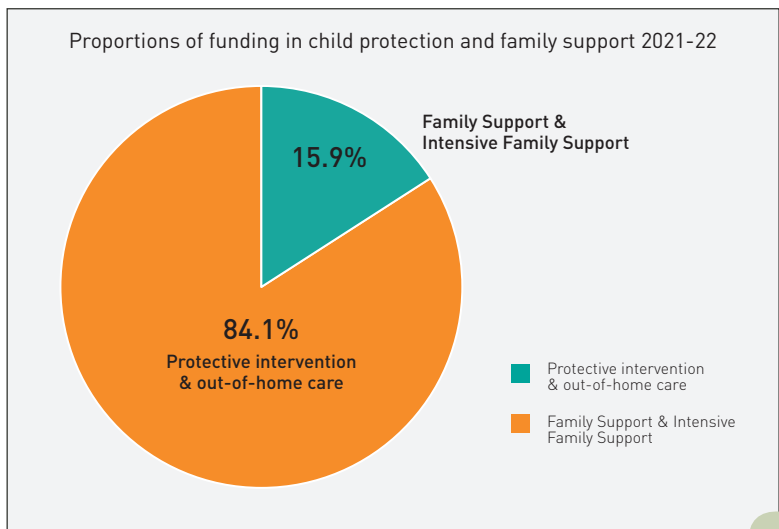
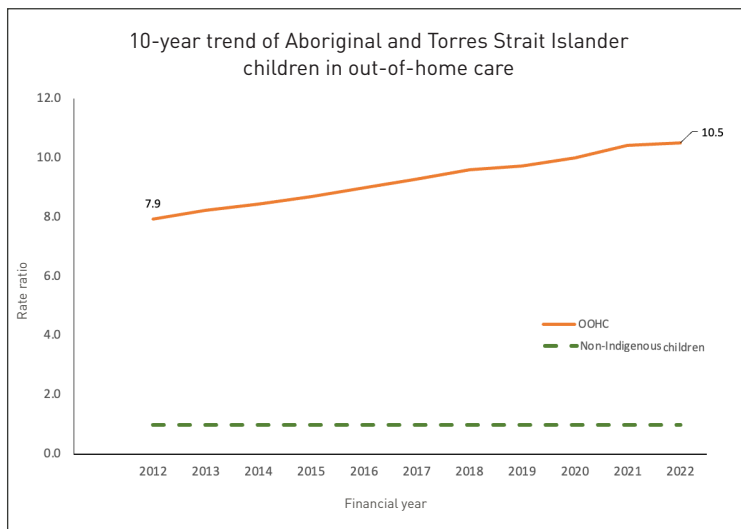


BY **45%**

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

TURN THE TIDE

PROJECTED TO INCREASE BY 39% BY 2033



ABORIGINAL-LED SOLUTIONS

Family Matters calls for investment in community-led solutions and a national commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to eliminate the 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	Invest in community-controlled organisations to provide culturally safe early intervention and prevention services	Establish resourced legislative roles for participation of community-controlled organisations in all child protection decisions	Permanency planning that supports Aboriginal child rights. Invest in Aboriginal-led family reunification programs	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 and holistic integrated early years services such as MACS and ACFCs	Delegation of child protection decision-making (Qld and Vic.) and Aboriginal-led out-of-home care and kinship programs (eg NSW, Vic., NT and SA)	Keeping families together sooner, more often, and for longer, through community-led family reunification programs (eg Qld and Vic.)	Aboriginal commissioners for children in each state and territory (SA, Vic., Qld) and deputy guardian (NSW)

2023 REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT	HEADLINE INDICATOR Over-representation in OoHC (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	14	Very poor	Poor	Promising/improving	Promising/improving
NSW	10.5	Poor	Poor	Promising/improving	Promising/improving
NT	14.8	Very poor	Poor	Promising/improving	Promising/improving
QLD	9.2	Promising/improving	Stronger practice/outcomes	Promising/improving	Promising/improving
SA	11.4	Poor	Poor	Promising/improving	Promising/improving
TAS	5.2	Promising/improving	Poor	Promising/improving	Promising/improving
VIC	17.3	Poor	Stronger practice/outcomes	Promising/improving	Promising/improving
WA	19.1	Very poor	Poor	Promising/improving	Promising/improving

KEY Very poor Poor Promising/improving Stronger practice/outcomes