

MEDIA RELEASE

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Peak Body Launches Youth Voice

SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children is establishing a Youth Voice to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people have a platform to inform the national policies and programs that impact their lives.

The Youth Voice will provide a mechanism for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to shape and contribute to SNAICC's work as the national peak in a safe, supported and reciprocal environment.

Catherine Liddle, CEO of SNAICC, said young people are experts in their own experiences and their voices must be heard by governments and decision makers.

“The decisions made by SNAICC, governments, and the sector today will shape the future for our children. The voices of our young people must be at the centre of that process,” Ms Liddle said.

“We want this platform to be reciprocal and equip participants with the tools, skills, and connections to be leaders and create meaningful change — both in their communities and at a national level.

“While the direction and priorities of the Youth Voice will be informed by its members, we anticipate its work will help identify key policy, advocacy, and program priorities. It will also provide feedback on projects and programs and guide SNAICC's advocacy to ensure it reflects what truly matters to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

“The Youth Voice is currently in the design phase. To ensure this initiative is created by young people, for young people, SNAICC is conducting youth-specific consultations and engaging with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) and other stakeholders to understand how it can best reflect the communities in which our young people live.

“SNAICC advocates for change at all levels of government to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people grow up healthy, strong, and connected to culture and community.

“Our incredible young people must be part of and guide that journey.”

Youth Voice reflects the fundamental right of all children and young people to be involved in the decisions and processes that impact their lives.

For more information - <https://www.snaicc.org.au/youth-voice/>

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