

MEDIA RELEASE

4 August 2025

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children Celebrated as Leaders of Tomorrow

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children took centre stage today as communities across the country came together to honour their strength, voice and deep cultural identity on National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day.

Catherine Liddle, CEO of SNAICC - National Voice for our Children said Children's Day plays a vital role in recognising, uplifting and raising the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

"It's a day where our next-generation leaders get to share their culture and celebrate how special they are, how deeply they belong and how important their voice is, now and into the future," Ms Liddle said.

"Our children carry the world's oldest living culture. That's something all Australians should take pride in.

"Celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is how we protect and grow that legacy.

"We celebrate on August 4 as it has historically been used to communally celebrate the birthdays of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were taken from their families without knowing their birthday - the Stolen Generations."

Across the country, hundreds of communities, early years services, schools and families will hold events in recognition of Children's Day today and throughout the month of August.

SNAICC joined with the community to hold the official national celebration at Kulai Preschool Aboriginal Corporation on Gumbaynggirr Country in Coffs Harbour. More than 200 children, families and community members took part in celebration of this year's theme: *Little Footsteps, Big Future*.

"What we see at Kulai is what's possible when children are surrounded by culture and community from the very beginning," Ms Liddle said.

"Aboriginal Community-Controlled Services more than educate, they empower children to be

proud of their cultural identity which is foundational as our children head into big school and beyond.

“We know that when children grow up strong in who they are, their futures are stronger as well.

“Our 2025 Children’s Day Ambassador, Otis Hope Carey really exemplifies that story. As a renowned artist and former professional surfer, Otis attended Kulai Preschool where his mother, Aunty Julie Carey continues to lead as Director.

SNAICC continues to call on all Australians to stand with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children, not just on Children’s Day but every day.

“Our children are strong, visionary and full of potential. When we walk alongside them, guided by culture and community, their futures are limitless.”

END

For all media queries, please contact Charlie Bowcock on 0417 042 308 or media@snaicc.org.au.