

MEDIA RELEASE

25 March 2026

SNAICC welcomes landmark legislation empowering National Commissioner to hold governments to account

SNAICC – National Voice for our Children has welcomed the passage of legislation empowering the National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, calling it a critical step toward stronger accountability for outcomes affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

SNAICC CEO Catherine Liddle said the legislation delivers on decades of advocacy from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the community-controlled sector for a truly independent, legislated Commissioner.

“This is a moment we have fought for over many years,” Ms Liddle said.

“For decades, SNAICC and our partners have advocated for a National Commissioner with real powers. Someone who can stand independent of government and hold systems to account for the outcomes experienced by our children.

“By legislating this role, the National Commissioner now has the authority to safeguard commitments to our children and families, so they are delivered.”

Ms Liddle said the legislation enables the Commissioner to act independently, initiate inquiries into systemic issues and elevate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait

“With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children still ten times more likely to be in out-of-home care, and the links between child protection and youth justice continuing to grow, the need for strong, independent oversight has never been more urgent,” Ms Liddle said.

“This legislation backs in Commissioner Sue-Anne Hunter, strengthening her ability to be a fearless advocate and drive real change for our children.

“We look forward to working with Commissioner Hunter, who is already having a strong impact in elevating the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and driving attention to the issues that matter most.”

SNAICC said the legislation reflects a long-standing priority of the Family Matters campaign and aligns with key national reform efforts, including Safe and Supported: Australia’s ten-year national framework for child and family wellbeing.

END

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