



IN 2016-17 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN WERE:

THE ISSUES

10x MORE LIKELY TO **grow up in OOHC** than non-Indigenous children. **Less than HALF** of these children were **living with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family members or carers.**

7x MORE LIKELY TO BE ON A **permanent care order until aged 18** and at **risk of permanent separation** from their families, cultures and communities.

THE CAUSES

POVERTY

25% of the clients **ACCESSING HOMELESSNESS** services were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and of those clients, **one in four** was a child under the age of 10 years.



FAMILY VIOLENCE

IN **2016-17** **EMOTIONAL ABUSE**, which can include exposure to family violence, was the **most common primary child protection concern** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

INTER-GENERATIONAL TRAUMA

1.3x MORE LIKELY TO HAVE **POOR MENTAL HEALTH**

The trauma associated with **CHILD REMOVAL** is intergenerational. Direct descendants of the **Stolen Generations** are **1.3 times more likely** to have **poor mental health** than other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

THE SOLUTIONS



5 YEAR OLDS ARE 2.5x MORE LIKELY TO BE DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 5 year olds are 2.5 times more likely to be developmentally delayed. And yet they are accessing early childhood education and care at half the rate of non-Indigenous children.

ENSURING THE BEST START IN LIFE

INVESTING IN CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

ONLY two states (Vic & Qld) have a statewide program to support Aboriginal families to participate in child protection decisions. Only the same two states have agreed on a comprehensive strategy to improve outcomes for children that is overseen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives.



THE BULK OF FUNDING IS USED TO REACT TO PROBLEMS RATHER THAN SOLVE THEM.

In 2016-17 only 17% of overall child protection funding was invested in support services for children and their families, while 83% was invested in child protection services.

PROGRESS TO TURN THE TIDE ON OVER-REPRESENTATION

2018 REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT

| | HEADLINE INDICATOR Over-representation in OOHc (rate) | BUILDING BLOCK 1 Universal and targeted services | BUILDING BLOCK 2 Participation, control and self-determination | BUILDING BLOCK 3 Culturally safe and responsive systems | BUILDING BLOCK 4 Accountability |
|-----|--|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| ACT | 13.9 | Poor | Poor | Very poor | Poor |
| NSW | 10.8 | Poor | Very poor | Very poor | Very poor |
| NT | 11.5 | Poor | Poor | Poor | Poor |
| QLD | 8.7 | Promising/improving | Stronger practice/outcomes | Poor | Promising/improving |
| SA | 10.8 | Very poor | Very poor | Very poor | Very poor |
| TAS | 3.4 | Promising/improving | Very poor | Very poor | Very poor |
| VIC | 15.8 | Poor | Stronger practice/outcomes | Promising/improving | Stronger practice/outcomes |
| WA | 17.8 | Very poor | Poor | Very poor | Poor |

KEY Very poor (Red) Poor (Orange) Promising/improving (Yellow) Stronger practice/outcomes (Green)

OUR CALL

WE CALL UPON the Council of Australian Governments to **work in partnership with SNAICC** and **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders** across the country, to **develop a generational Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Strategy** to eliminate over-representation in out-of-home care and address the causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child removal.